

HM GREETES KING OF NORWAY
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Harald V of the Kingdom of Norway on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to King Harald V. His Majesty also wished the people of Norway further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



HIS MAJESTY SENDS CABLE TO SOMALIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President-elect Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia on being elected as his country's new president. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of success to President-elect Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in leading the people of Somalia towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries further development and growth. - **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 53 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)

Banking anywhere, anytime

This is my bank. Bank Muscat

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

[Know more](#)

SAYYID THEYAZIN ATTENDS WINDSOR HORSE SHOW

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said attended the closing day of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth. Full report **>A4**



AL HARTHY RACES TO HISTORY

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Al Harthy said that he hoped to serve as an example to other young racers in the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani racer Ahmad Al Harthy made history on Sunday by becoming the first Arab racer to finish in the first position at the Imola round of the prestigious European Le Mans (ELMS) race series.



The ELMS consists of a series of seven races, each four hours long that are considered a test of drivers' endurance and ability on the racetrack.

Al Harthy and his fellow drivers Sam De Haan and Marco Sorensen, all of whom race for Oman Racing with TF Sport, also finished in pole position on Saturday's qualifiers at Imola – one of the world's most famous race-

tracks – before repeating the feat on Sunday during the race proper. The result leaves Oman Racing

with TF Sport at joint top of the standings with Rinaldi Racing.

“To finish in pole position on Saturday and then win the race on Sunday only makes it an even more perfect weekend for us,” he said, speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*. “Of course, this is not just down to me: It is thanks to my teammates, the team itself because they made amazing strategy calls during the four hours of racing – a lot was changing throughout that time.

“We had to be on top of our game, and they made sure we chose the right strategies,” he added. “That was great for us, and it is a new achievement for Omani motorsport. To secure a first win as an Arab team at the ELMS is of course amazing. To hear the national anthem and see your flag fly on the podium, and that our sister car's team was also on the podium was

an added bonus for us as a team.”

Pre-race testing at Imola began on Thursday, with official testing on Friday. Saturday was qualifying, and the race itself occurred on Sunday. The ELMS consists of a series of races, each of which has points and ranking system for drivers.

Every leg has its own race winners and podium finishers, and there is an overall winner at the end as well. ELMS is very similar to Formula 1, except that each car has three drivers instead of just one, because each race is four hours' long, and there is a need to change drivers every one or two hours. Prototype vehicles are also often tested during these races.

The Italian circuit of Imola is the second leg of the ELMS, and Al Harthy's podium finish was all the more important, given the difficulties faced in round one at Le Castellet in France. **>A2**



Fire in Nizwa Industrial area extinguished, none injured

A2

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Oman discusses Schengen visa waiver for its citizens

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is discussing visa waivers for its citizens who intend to visit European countries.

In an effort to address this issue, Khalifa Al Harthy, the Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, met with Dimitri Giotakos, head of the Visa Policy Unit at the Directorate General of Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the delegation underscored the significance the European Commission attached to the issue of waiving Oman citizens from applying for Schengen visas. The meeting was also attended by Khalid Sulaiman Ba Omar, head of the European Union Department at the Foreign Ministry, as well as several officials in Oman who are involved with these matters.

Europe remains a popular destination for many Omanis who visit for leisure, as well as for business and education purposes. In an attempt to woo more tourists from Europe to Oman, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is also going to set up mobile promotional workshops in France and Italy, for three days starting from today, to promote the country as a global tourist destination.

Oman News Agency reported that the aim of these workshops was to promote Oman as a year-



A Schengen visa is a travel document that allows its holder to visit 26 countries in Europe, together called the Schengen area

long tourist destination as part of its national efforts to accelerate the recovery of tourism sector in accordance with plans set up by the ministry.

Participants from Oman who are present at the workshop are 27 of the most prominent part-

ners in the tourism, hotel and aviation sectors in the country, with the participation of more than 200 tourism establishments from Oman, France and Italy.

A Schengen visa is a travel document that allows its holder to visit 26 countries in Europe, together called the Schengen area, without the need to undergo border controls while moving among them. Schengen visas allow visitors to spend up to 90 days in these countries during a 180-day period.

The Schengen zone includes 23 EU countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. It also includes three non-EU countries: Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

38°
MUSCAT

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Omani ministers offer condolences

1 A number of Omani ministers yesterday offered condolences on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Muscat. **>A5**

WORLD No heatwave for next four days in Delhi: IMD

2 Indian Meteorological Department said that the heatwave in New Delhi and north Indian states will abate from tomorrow for the next 4 days. **>A7**

MARKET



ODB sees 29% rise in approved loan value

3 Oman Development Bank (ODB) achieved positive lending indicators during the first quarter of 2022. The value of loans recorded an increase of 29 per cent compared to the same period in 2021. **>B1**



OMAN



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:08pm
Asr.....	3:31pm
Maghrib.....	6:47pm
Isha.....	8:06pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:00am

Fire in Nizwa Industrial area extinguished, none injured

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) in Nizwa managed to douse a fire that broke out in Nizwa Industrial area. There were no injuries or human losses.

The Authority's Operations

Center in the wilayat of Nizwa received on Monday the report about a fire in one of the industrial workshops in the industrial area of Karsha in the Wilayat of Nizwa, and the fire was dealt with and doused.

An official from the CDAA in the Wilayat of Nizwa confirmed exclusively to *Times of Oman* that

the operations centre received a report of a fire in Nizwa Industrial at 3:55 am. The civil defence and ambulance teams in the Wilayat of Nizwa and other centers affiliated with it in the nearby wilayats responded, and it became clear that the fire broke out in a carpentry workshop and moved to a

scrapyard selling used car spare parts."

He continued: "The fire was contained and extinguished at about 10 am with great efforts made by the fire teams."

He added: "As a result of the fire, the contents of the carpentry workshop and the used spare parts

store and a number of vehicles located on the site were gutted. There were, however, no reports of any injury or human losses."

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority called on institutions and companies to adhere to safety requirements in industrial workshops to avoid risks.



0% Interest
with Mitsubishi

LAUNCH OF
All-New
Outlander

PRE-BOOK* NOW



0% INTEREST RATE
UP TO 2 YEARS*

CASH BACK FROM
RO 1,438 TO RO 3,762*

2 Years / 30,000 KM Free Service*
1 Year Free Insurance* and Registration*
Free Llumar Window Tint*
6 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty
6 Years Roadside Assistance

For more information call **24 500 500** or
WhatsApp/SMS **93800925**

Muscat | Sohar | Nizwa | Ibri
Barka | Sur | Jalan Bu Ali | Salalah



MITSUBISHI
MOTORS
Drive your Ambition



@mitsubishiMotorsOman
mitsubishi-motors.com.om



الشركة العامة للسيارات
General Automotive Company
(A part of The Subaru Automotive Group)
CR. No. 1100147972

TOURISM

France, Italy workshops to promote Oman as global tourist destination

MUSCAT: Mobile workshops to promote the Sultanate of Oman as a tourist destination suitable for travel all-year round will be held in France and Italy from 17-19 May 2022.

The workshops, organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, will see the participation of ambassadors and a delegation

from the ministry.

The delegation comprises the 27 most prominent partners in the tourism, hotel and aviation sectors in Oman.

As many as 200 tourism establishments in Oman, France and Italy will participate in the workshops.

-ONA

RACING

< FROM A1 Preparing for next round: Al Harthy

"Round one didn't go as planned – we were unfortunately unable to complete the race because of faults with another car that affected us. We are so happy to have bounced back because this puts us in a good position. Al Harthy and co. are now busy preparing for the upcoming races on the ELMS: Their next showdown is in Monza on 3 July, followed by Barcelona (28 August), Spa-Francorchamps (25 September) and Portimao (16 October). A seasoned racer in his 14th year of pro-racing, Al Harthy knows the importance of not letting early success go to his head.

"It is about having a proper schedule, pre-planning everything," he admitted. "This is of course not something that applies to just me. There are hundreds of international drivers travelling to take part in races, so in terms

of readiness, it is important that we are always ready. This is professionally what we do. We know that we are there to achieve a certain target and to achieve the best for our teams and countries.

"We physically train throughout the year for these events: During my two hours spent driving the car, I felt great while out there on the track," he added. "In terms of racetracks, each circuit has its own characteristics. There are other factors to consider: The weather, for example, while some tracks may suit some cars over others. Imola is a very technical circuit. There is little room for error, and the track can be very demanding. However, there are others that are wider and do not punish you as much for mistakes made."

Through his success on the

track, Ahmad Al Harthy hopes to improve Oman's profile on the international stage and serve as an example to other young motorsport enthusiasts in the country.

"Being the first circuit racer in the country has been an important part of my career, and I want the next generation of racers – today's youngsters – to follow the right path to motorsport," he said. "Motorsport is a complex sport, and it needs to be analysed correctly.

"You need to have realistic targets for yourself, and I hope that what we are doing in the world of endurance racing highlights the importance of being really grounded in what we do," he added. "I hope this will give us the opportunity to raise the profile of Oman as a country and its ability to produce racers who can compete in motorsports."



شركة تأجير المركبات ش.م.م
Vehicle Leasing Company (LLC)



Price starting
From OMR **4** per day

EXPLORE
OMAN
WITH VLC

Price starting
From OMR **9** per day

Price starting
From OMR **8** per day

Price starting
From OMR **7** per day

Price starting
From OMR **6** per day

Price starting
From OMR **5** per day

Price starting
From OMR **4** per day



SANTA FE

TUCSON

CRETA

ELANTRA

ACCENT

i10

* Terms & Conditions apply . Price excludes VAT



OTEGROUP
THE POWER OF CARE

Branches:
Ghala : 95500295, Sohar : 95345334
Duqm: 95332895, Salalah: 97124671, Wattayah : 95421249

For more details, contact:
94394301 / 95692420



Trending
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

47,166 REACH

He is the first Omani photographer to work for National Geographic.



THE TIMES OF OMAN.COM
Omani photographer joins National Geographic | Times of

A story about an Omani photographer joining National Geographic reached 47,166 people and had 787 link clicks on Facebook.



Omani
photographer
joining National
Geographic



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

2,100 VIEWS



THE MAGHRIB MINUTE
The Maghrib Minute news wrap in Hindi 2,100 views and reached 9,300 people on Facebook.

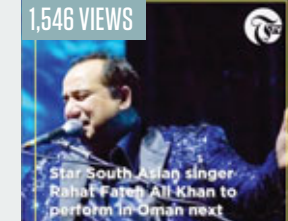


Maghrib
Minute
news wrap



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,546 VIEWS



Star South Asian singer
Rahat Fateh Ali Khan to perform in Oman had 1,546 views and 111 likes on Instagram.



The
Morning
Minute
video

THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL

FOR THE
LOVE OF IT



Call Center Number
24 596 999



THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL THRILL



OMINVEST

Transforming Businesses to Enrich Societies

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the Three-Month Period Ended 31 March 2022

Dear Shareholders

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the unaudited financial results of Oman International Development and Investment Company SAOG (OMINVEST) Group for the three-month period ended 31 March 2022. Below, I would like to present our macroeconomic overview and the financial performance of OMINVEST Group and our major portfolio companies for the period ended 31 March 2022:

Macroeconomic Overview

With the massive rebound in oil prices from around USD 50 per barrel at the start of 2021 to over USD 100 at the end of March 2022, the Sultanate of Oman is expected to record its first fiscal and current account surplus in eight years in 2022. This will significantly alleviate fiscal pressures on Sultanate of Oman's economy and reduce its reliance on continued international borrowing over the short to medium term. We expect business conditions to improve in the backdrop of higher oil prices.

Regionally, GCC economies have also benefited from the surge in oil prices, increased oil production, and robust momentum in non-oil economic activity. This has been reflected in the expected rise of GDP growth from 2.1% in 2021 to 4.7% in 2022; the strongest since 2012.

From a global perspective, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major disruptive impact on global supply chains over the last 2 years, which has resulted in inflation reaching multi-decade highs in the developed world. Global central banks are combatting inflation by raising interest rates at a torrid pace. The rise in interest rates coupled with geopolitical issues such as the Russia-Ukraine war is causing global economic growth to decelerate. Recent events have caused IMF to reduce its 2022 global growth forecast from 4.4% to 3.6%.

Given the current macroeconomic developments, we would proceed with our business and investment initiatives more confidently regionally and cautiously globally.

Group Consolidated Performance

During the three-month period ended 31 March 2022, total Group revenues increased by 7.1% to RO 56.6m and the net profit attributable to OMINVEST's shareholders decreased by 6.2% to RO 8.8m from RO 9.4m, over the same period in 2021.

Parent Company Performance

During the three-month period ended 31 March 2022, total Parent Company revenues decreased by 22.6% to RO 14.3m and the net profit decreased by 32.5% to RO 8.9m from RO 13.2m, over the same period in 2021. The decline in the profits of the Parent company is due to reduced contribution from Jabreen Capital, our fully owned investment subsidiary, as explained in a later part of this report.

Parent Company's total liabilities stand at RO 315m with a healthy leverage ratio of 1.00. During the period, the Company paid increased cash dividend of 30bz per share aggregating to RO 20.05 million compared to 25bz per share aggregating to RO 20.19 million during the previous year, after shareholders' approval in the Annual Ordinary General Meeting.

Performance of Key Subsidiaries & Associates:

Jabreen International Development Company SAOC (Jabreen), our subsidiary, is focused on making private equity investments in diverse sectors and expanding into new growth markets in Asia. Jabreen reported a net profit of RO 6.67m for the three-month period ended 31 March 2022 compared to RO 9.57m for the previous period, a decrease of 30%. The decrease in profit is primarily due to absence of dividend income on treasury shares, which were exchanged with perpetual sukuks last year. Post issuance of perpetual sukuks, Jabreen sold a substantial portion of perpetual sukuks in the market and created new funds for investment purposes. As per IFRS, absence of dividend income on treasury shares impacts the share of results accounted in Parent Company but it has no impact on Consolidated results. Jabreen's contribution to consolidated results have increased by 12% during the period. On 31 March 2022, Jabreen's total assets stood at RO 335m compared to RO 350m on 31 December 2021. We expect Jabreen to further enhance and diversify its investment income by investing the proceeds from the sale of perpetual sukuks.

National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG (NLGIC), our subsidiary in the insurance sector, has entered into two agreements to fully acquire Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Middle East) BSC, subject to regulatory and shareholders approvals. RSA Middle East has more than 50 years of history and is a leading provider of property and casualty insurance in the Middle East, offering solutions for commercial and retail clients, across a range of product lines that include motor, property, medical, SME as well as tailored solutions for large corporates.

The transaction will be executed as follows:

- Purchasing 50.00002% shareholding in RSA Middle East from Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas LTD (SAIO), a fully owned entity of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Limited; and
- Exchanging the remaining shares of RSA Middle East, owned by reputable Saudi shareholders, with new issued NLGIC's shares.

The transaction will create a diversified insurance brand across the GCC, supported by a diverse set of shareholders, wider scale, and best-in-class service standards. It will add significant value to all stakeholders and result in key benefits, such as robust regional presence, use of top-notch technologies and complimentary offerings to fuel growth. The transaction will also result in bringing new reputable Saudi shareholders to Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).

For the period ended 31 March 2022, NLGIC reported a Gross Written Premium (GWP) of RO 62.1m, an increase of 10% compared to RO 56.5m for the previous period and a net profit of RO 2.06m for the period ended 31 March 2022 compared to RO 2.71m for the previous period; a decrease of 24%. The decline in profitability was primarily attributable to lower investment income as there was one-time investment gains of RO 0.4 million during Q1-2021 and reduced profitability in the motor insurance segment. The increase in GWP is due to strategic actions implemented by management to diversify the revenues across GCC, where we saw overall increase in top line and bottom line. In terms of geographical distribution of GWP, the Sultanate of Oman contributed 45%, UAE 52%, and Kuwait 3% during the period. We believe that NLGIC's growth prospects are strong; its recurring revenues from insurance business are stable and on a clear growth trend.

Oman Arab Bank SAOG (OAB), our associate in the banking sector, reported a consolidated profit of RO 3.5m for the three-month period ended 31 March 2022 compared to RO 3.3m for the previous period; an increase of 5%. The increase in profitability is primarily attributable to increase in net interest income and non-interest income. During the period, OAB increased its loans and advances by 3.3% to RO 2.84bn compared to RO 2.75bn, as of 31 December 2021. Customers' deposits increased by 1.3% to RO 2.85bn compared to RO 2.81bn, as of 31 December 2021. The shareholders' funds were RO 358m compared to RO 356m, as of 31 December 2021. During the period, OAB exercised the call option and redeemed perpetual subordinated bonds amounting to OMR 30 million.

National Finance Company SAOG (NFC), our associate in the leasing sector, reported a net profit of RO 2.51m for the three-month period ended 31 March 2022 compared to RO 1.70m for the previous period; an increase of 47.6%. NFC's finance income increased by 9.3% to RO 10.5m this period compared to RO 9.6m in the previous period. NFC will continue to focus on strengthening its efficiencies,

customer experience, product offerings and quality of service delivery. NFC continues to remain market leader amongst finance and leasing companies in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of asset size, branch network, revenues, and profit. We expect NFC to further grow and consolidate its position in the medium term.

Corporate Citizenship

We started this period with launching significant initiatives for developing our people and internal talents at OMINVEST. As part of our people empowerment initiatives, we nominated 9 of our employees to partake and present the company in the 'National Leadership Programme to Upskill and Empower the Potential Omanis' (etimad). OMINVEST's participation in the programme reaffirms the company's commitment to upskill its Omani team members and make them future ready for competitive roles within the Group.

As part of our thought leadership efforts and in line with our strategy to raise awareness around Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) best practices, OMINVEST actively participated as Strategic Sponsor at the 2nd Governance Conference by the Oman Centre for Governance and Sustainability. On behalf of OMINVEST, I personally gave a keynote speech on the raising importance of ESG practices globally and regionally, and the need to integrate ESG at operational and investment levels.

Acknowledgements

We are profoundly grateful to our beloved leader His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his great vision and initiatives as he continues to lead the Sultanate of Oman on the path of development, peace, and enduring prosperity.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Capital Market Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange, Central Bank of Oman and Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for their continued support and guidance. I also take this opportunity to thank the management teams and employees at OMINVEST and across our Group companies for their dedication and hard work.

Khalid Muhammad AlZubair
Chairman

UNAUDITED INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Consolidated		Parent Company	
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	31-Mar-22	31-Dec-21	31-Mar-22	31-Dec-21
	(RO'000)	(RO'000)	(RO'000)	(RO'000)
Assets				
Balances with banks and money at call	47,105	46,493	18,700	23,846
Deposits with banks	52,533	52,643	5,000	5,000
Premium and insurance balance receivable	77,637	49,383	-	-
Re-insurance share in insurance funds	22,426	17,515	-	-
Investment securities	260,136	208,246	5,176	5,227
Investment in associates	335,499	341,363	147,616	147,138
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	333,026	338,144
Due from subsidiaries	-	-	114,376	119,733
Other assets	25,908	30,715	3,739	3,604
Investment properties	9,600	8,587	2,100	2,100
Property and equipment	23,013	22,883	798	830
Intangible assets	20,542	20,737	-	-
Total assets	874,399	798,565	630,531	645,622
Equity and liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	66,837	66,837	66,837	66,837
Share premium	5,778	5,778	5,778	5,778
Legal reserve	22,279	22,279	22,279	22,279
Other non-distributable reserves	9,282	7,801	9,282	7,801
Cumulative changes in fair value reserve	(13,746)	(14,090)	(11,383)	(11,684)
Retained earnings	111,617	124,080	109,870	122,420
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company	202,047	212,685	202,663	213,431
Perpetual bonds / sukuks	98,682	81,188	112,638	112,638
	300,729	293,873	315,301	326,069
Non-controlling interests	21,477	20,968	-	-
Total equity	322,206	314,841	315,301	326,069
Liabilities				
Due to banks	375,752	349,556	267,811	280,160
Insurance funds	120,851	85,969	-	-
Other liabilities	53,850	46,777	46,980	38,954
Taxation	1,740	1,422	439	439
Total liabilities	552,193	483,724	315,230	319,553
Total equity and liabilities	874,399	798,565	630,531	645,622
Net assets per share (Rial Omani)	0.302	0.318	0.303	0.319

UNAUDITED INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPERHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Consolidated		Parent Company	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21
	(RO'000)	(RO'000)	(RO'000)	(RO'000)
Gross premium earned	39,811	35,745	-	-
Interest income	1,257	1,393	1,578	1,923
Investment income	4,735	6,058	426	2,958
Fee and commission income	2,253	2,176	-	-
Other operating income	1,315	386	925	-
Share of results from subsidiaries	-	-	9,401	11,959
Share of results from associates	7,277	7,110	1,976	1,639
Total revenue	56,648	52,868	14,306	18,479
Premium ceded to re-insurers	(6,001)	(5,541)	-	-
Net claims	(26,197)	(22,710)	-	-
Fee and commission expenses	(4,286)	(3,926)	-	-
Interest expense	(3,986)	(3,769)	(3,844)	(3,768)
Operating expenses	(6,587)	(6,414)	(1,539)	(1,489)
Total expenses	(47,057)	(42,360)	(5,383)	(5,257)
Profit before tax	9,591	10,508	8,923	13,222
Income tax expense	(363)	(576)	-	-
Profit for the period	9,228	9,932	8,923	13,222
Profit for the period attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	8,819	9,400	8,923	13,222
Non-controlling interests	409	532	-	-
	9,228	9,932	8,923	13,222
Basic earnings per share attributable to the equity holders of the Parent Company (RO)	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.016
Other comprehensive income / (expense):				
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>				
Movement in cash flow hedge	911	259	911	259
Foreign currency translation reserve	(3)	-	(3)	-
Changes in fair value of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	(131)	(463)	(123)	(434)
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>				
Changes in fair value of equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income and share of OCI from equity accounted investee- net of tax	768	(2,768)	613	(3,751)
Other comprehensive income / (expense) for the period	1,545	(2,972)	1,398	(3,926)
Total comprehensive income for the period	10,773	6,960	10,321	9,296
Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	10,264	6,495	10,321	9,296
Non-controlling interests	509	465	-	-
	10,773	6,960	10,321	9,296

Note: The unaudited interim consolidated Financial Statements of the Company would be made available to any Shareholder or interested Party on request in Arabic or in English within 7 days from the date of request.
PO Box 3886, PC 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: +968 24769500 Fax: +968 24951620

JABREEN CAPITAL





OMAN




SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om

SAYYID THEYAZIN TAKES PART IN ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW



LONDON: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said attended the closing day of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth.

The show was held on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth.

HH Sayyid Theyazin watched Oman's performances in the event through the participation of the Royal Cavalry (Royal Court Affairs), which included a variety of traditional Omani cavalry shows to the accompaniment of Omani and international musical performances highlighting Oman's cultural legacy over the ages.

Oman's participation showcased its expertise in horsemanship, as well as its tourism repertoire featuring key destinations alongside a display of products of small and medium enterprises.

Oman's participation in the Royal Windsor Horse Show came within the context of invitations sent out to friendly countries. -ONA



New innovative Omani app launched to teach science

MUSCAT: A research team from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) managed to design a phone application named 'Dr.Electron' that seeks to provide scientific concepts and to correct misperceptions for students in various scientific fields, particularly physics, chemistry, biology, environmental sciences, geosciences, astronomy and space sciences in a fun and engaging way for learners.

The application was funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. It obtained intellectual



property from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The research team consisted of Prof. Sulaiman Muhammad Al Balushi, Professor of Curriculums

and Science Education at the College of Education, and Huda Ali Al Hosani, a PhD student at SQU.

The application comes in response to the recommendations of many international studies that suggest the need for a phone application based on the concept of gamification in teaching scientific concepts for students.

The researchers hope that the application will contribute to raising the level of educational attainment of learners and increase their motivation to learn.

-ONA

105 fish processing factories by 2021 end



MUSCAT: A report by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources indicates that the total number of fish processing factories in Oman reached 105 by the end of 2021 compared to 97 factories by the end of 2020.

The number of factories which received quality certificates and

are eligible to export their products reached 64.

Fish processing activities vary between projects of processing, packaging and freezing fish fillets, canning fish, and manufacturing various food products from aquatic resources such as fish burgers and fish fingers, among others. -ONA



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

NEW

HELLO OMAN!

Presented By:

TANUF

salsabeel

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR

GO JUICY

ORANGE

GO JUICY

RED MIX DRINK

GO JUICY

MANGO DRINK

GO FRESH
GO TASTY

GO JUICY

only 100 baiza

Omani

SHEIKH KHALIFA

Omani ministers offer condolences at the UAE Embassy in Muscat

MUSCAT: A number of Omani ministers on Monday offered their condolences on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. They were received at the embassy of the UAE in Muscat by Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and members of the embassy. The ministers expressed their heartfelt sympathies in the Condolence Book at the embassy, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in Paradise. -ONA



ICT EXPERT

Comex partners with Tariq Al Barwani for Tariq Clinic

Times News Service

MUSCAT : Comex, Oman's official technology event, in partnership with Oman's popular ICT expert, Tariq Hilal Al Barwani, is set to launch 'Tariq Clinic', an exclusive and engaging technology workshop run daily at the Oman Exhibition and Convention Centre (OCEC) starting from 23 May to 25 May.

The exclusive clinic is aimed at educating and supporting the



participants on opportunities, prospects and growth pertaining to their personal and professional

technology development. "Technology is a powerful tool that improves, supports, and transforms our lives on a daily basis. I am honored to work closely with the organizers at Comex to bring technology education closer to the society", said the multi-award winning technology expert and motivational speaker, Tariq Al Barwani, who will be running the engaging sessions at the clinic.

The event aims to highlight

the digital transformation in Oman through hosting ministries, authorities, and companies to participate and showcase their achievements and opportunities for innovation in technology and their steps towards Oman Vision 2040. Tariq Clinic is an exclusive Comex initiative that will be launched this year to educate the society on what it takes to become an IT expert, learn and develop oneself in IT, as well as make use of IT in running a business.

NCSI DATA

Over 1.5mn vehicles registered

MUSCAT: The total number of registered vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman reached 1.51 million at the end of March 2022, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Information and Statistics (NCSI).

Vehicles with private registration stood at 1,239,755, comprising 79.4 per cent of the total

number of registered vehicles in Oman. Meanwhile, vehicles with commercial registration reached 233,834, constituting 15 per cent. Taxi vehicles stood at (28,351), comprising 1.8 per cent, while rental vehicles stood at (24,658), comprising 1.6 per cent. - ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

FACULTY REQUIRED
(Session 2022-23)

Qualified and Experienced Principals & Teaching staff is required for the following subjects:

Montessori	Mathematics	Physics	Biology	Computer Science	Quran
Chemistry	Science	Islamiat	Business Studies	Physical Edu.	
Special Education	Accountant	Career Advisor	Urdu	English	
Admin Officer	Accounts	Principals	Arts		

Basic Qualification: M.A / M. Sc, IELTS (6 Bands)
Experience: Minimum 5 years in any recognized/reputed Institution.

Note: You can apply for above mentioned posts irrespective of Gender & Nationality. O & A Level teaching experience shall be preferred. No TA/DA will be provided.

Applications with complete CV along with scanned copies of educational documents & experience certificate with a latest passport size photograph need to be sent to the email: hr_psm@pakistanschool.edu.om, chairmanbods@pakistanschool.edu.om latest by May 26, 2022.



PRESENTS

Ustad

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan

LIVE IN MUSCAT

3RD JUNE - 2022



OMAN CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
مركز عُمان للمؤتمرات والمعارض

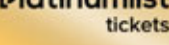
SILVER OMR 10, GOLD OMR 20, DIAMOND OMR 30
PLATINUM OMR 50, ROYAL OMR 75,
ROYAL PLUS OMR 100 (SOFAS)

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON AT

muscat.platinumlist.net

REAL ESTATE PARTNER


DESTINATION PARTNER


TICKETING PARTNER


PRINT PARTNER




SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



LAGUNA WOODS

One dead, five wounded at church shooting in Southern California

CALIFORNIA: Multiple people were shot, including one fatally, at a church in Laguna Woods in Southern California, authorities said on Sunday.

A suspect has been detained in connection with the shooting at the Geneva Presbyterian Church, authorities said.

Police said that a group of parishioners detained the gunman and hog-tied his legs with an extension cord. The churchgoers also confiscated at least two weapons from him.

“That group of churchgoers displayed ... exceptional heroism and bravery in intervening to stop the suspect. They undoubtedly prevented additional injuries and fatalities,” Orange County Under-sheriff Jeff Hallock said at a news conference.

One person detained

Authorities said that the suspect is an Asian man believed to be in his



60s. The motive behind the shooting was not immediately known.

Investigators don't believe the gunman lives in the community, Hallock said.

The majority of those inside the church at the time were believed to be of Taiwanese descent, Carrie Braun, a sheriff's spokesperson, told the media.

One person died at the scene.

The injured are currently receiving treatment at a hospital, police said, adding that their status is not yet known.

“Deputies are responding to reports of a shooting at a church,” the Orange County Sheriff's Department had tweeted earlier. “Multiple victims have been shot,” the sheriff's office said, before adding the incident occurred around 1.30 pm local time (20:30 GMT).

Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were responding to the scene. The FBI was also sending agents to the scene to assist the sheriff. Investigators were looking at many factors, including whether

the bloodshed could be a hate crime and whether the gunman was known to the church community, said sheriff's spokesperson Braun.

Governor Gavin Newsom's office said on Twitter that he was closely monitoring the situation. “No one should have to fear going to their place of worship. Our thoughts are with the victims, community, and all those impacted by this tragic event,” the governor posted.

Elderly community

Laguna Woods was built as a senior living community and later became a city. Over 80% of residents in the city of 18,000 people about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles are at least 65.

The shooting occurred in an area with a cluster of houses of worship, including Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist churches as well as a Jewish synagogue. **DW**



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



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

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

BUS CRASH

14 killed as tour bus hits billboard in Indonesia

JAKARTA: At least fourteen people were killed in Indonesia's East Java province when a bus carrying domestic tourists crashed into an advertising billboard.

Nineteen people were also injured in the crash, including the bus driver.

East Java traffic police chief Latief Usman said that police

were still investigating the cause of the accident, but added that the driver reportedly appeared sleepy before the collision.

The 31 passengers come from Surabaya, the capital of East Java province. They were returning from a trip to a popular mountain resort in Central Java when the crash occurred. **ANI**



100% Vegan and Safe Range of Skin and Hair Care Products for Men, Women and Kids

10% OFF for all TOO Viewers
Use code **MMG10** at Checkout

www.omanbasket.com

WhatsApp us on 72330999

@omanbasket @Omanbasket.organicstore





الكامل AL KAMIL

BUNDLE Grocery Offer

OMR 9.700

GROCERY BUNDLE BUMPER OFFER

NET WGT. 18.550 KG

CONTENT OF THE PACK	
Ataya Atta Flour	5 KG
Basmati Rice Extra Long XXXL	5 KG
Fine Granulated Refined Sugar	2 KG
Masoor Dal	1 KG
Olive Oil Fragata	1 LTR
Happy Nick Cornflakes	1 KG
Tiffany Biscuits Digestive	450 GM 2 Packets
Jam Orange Rondella	450 GM
Nescafe Instant Coffee Matinal	200 GM
Table Salt Iodized	1 KG
Dish Washing Liquid	1 Litre

OMR 8.300

GROCERY BUNDLE BUMPER OFFER

NET WGT. 19.400 KG

CONTENT OF THE PACK	
Ataya Atta Flour	5 KG
Biryani Rice	5 KG
Fine Granulated Refined Sugar	2 KG
Cooking Oil	1.8 LTR
Masoor Dal	1 KG
Happy Nick Cornflakes	1 KG
Tiffany Biscuits Digestive	450 GM 2 Packets
Jam Orange Rondella	450 GM
Tea Loose	250 GM
Table Salt Iodized	1 KG
Dish Washing Liquid	1 Litre

TO ORDER
72330999

alkamil.om
alkamil.fb

توصيل مجاني
FREE DELIVERY

Fresh, Natural Omani Chicken

A name you can trust اسم يمكنك الوثوق به



1
No.1 CHOICE
OF OMAN



الصفا A'SAFFA

asaffa.com



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER
Download the app

No heatwave for next four days in New Delhi

May 13, 14, and 15 recorded a peak in the national capital, with a few stations in Delhi witnessing more than 45 degrees temperature



NEW DELHI: Indian Meteorological Department Senior Scientist RK Jenamani on Monday said that the heatwave prevailing in the national capital and other north Indian states will abate from tomorrow for the next four days.

Speaking to ANI, Jenamani said, "Yesterday's heatwave was the most severe. The peak is over. Today we are having a trend of 3 to 4 degrees fall over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh." "In Delhi, Safdarjung may record a max temperature of 43 degrees Celsius. As the western disturbance further

comes, the heatwave will be abated by tomorrow over a large area," he added. Calling the temperature in March "unusual" this year, the scientist said that the month recorded the highest all-India temperature in 122 years.

"In April, the 3rd-highest temperature was recorded but NW India continues to be the warmest in 122 years. In May, the first 10 days were good. So, I don't think it'll be very unusual this month," he said.

The scientist, however, predicted, "If the climate record of Safdarjung-Palam is seen, the highest temperature recorded in May is more than 48 de-

grees Celsius and the highest in Safdarjung is 47.2 degrees Celsius. So, I don't think anything extreme has come."

"Up to the next 4 days from May 17 onwards, there will be no heatwave over any area. UP to May 11, there was no significant heatwave except in West Rajasthan. This was mainly because of Asani Cyclone that the heatwave was suppressed, but from 12th onwards, it intensified," he added.

Noting that May 13, 14, and 15 recorded a peak in the national capital, he said that a few stations in Delhi witnessed more than 45 degrees temperature also.

"We all know that on 13, 14,

and 15 Delhi was having a peak of more than 45 degrees temperature. One of the two stations of Delhi also recorded a max temperature of 49 degrees like Najafgarh and Mungeshpur. They are urban stations and can not be compared with other stations and records also," he said.

The scientist also informed the Monsoon has arrived in Andaman sea and adjoining the southeast Bay of Bengal today.

"We have given Kerala predictions. It will be around 27 May. So, as per the progress, it is all monitoring. The very significantly east coast is not having any high temperatures," he said. **ANI**

UN Mission discusses meaningful peace with Afghan reform council

KABUL: The UN Mission in Afghanistan met with Afghanistan Reform and Consultative Council on Sunday and discussed proposals to promote tolerance and secure meaningful peace in the country.

"UNAMA's acting Political Head Scott Smith grateful to members of the Afghanistan Reform and Consultative Council for meeting today. No shortage of thoughtful proposals nor goodwill to promote tolerance and secure a meaningful peace," said United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a tweet. This meeting comes in the backdrop of a range of issues affecting Afghanistan. In the past few weeks, dozens of countries have expressed deep disappointment about escalating restrictions on the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Last week, the G7 Foreign Ministers had deplored the Taliban's recent decree enforcing hijab on Afghan women and new punishments for family members to enforce compliance with these restrictions.

They had condemned the imposition of increasingly restrictive measures that severely limit half the population's ability to fully,



equally, and meaningfully participate in society, including the recent announcement on women's appearance in public along with new punishments for family members to enforce compliance with these restrictions.

"We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union express our strongest opposition and deplore the increasing restrictions imposed on the rights and freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban," the G7 Foreign Ministers' said on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan. They also reiterated strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. **ANI**

COVID OUTBREAK

WHO reiterates its support to North Korea's response to COVID-19 pandemic

PYONGYANG: Expressing concern over the COVID-19 outbreak in North Korea, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday reiterated its commitment to support the country's response to the pandemic.

"WHO is concerned and ready to support the government and the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to respond to the pandemic and save lives," Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia said, taking reference from KCNA, official DPRK news agency, about deaths and a large number of people with fever.

WHO is awaiting information from the national focal person for International Health Regulations (IHR) about the outbreak.

"We stand committed to assist our Member country, as needed, by providing technical support



to scale up testing, strengthen case management, implement situation-specific public health and social measures, and provide essential medical supplies and medicines," the Regional Director Singh said.

WHO has supported the country to develop its national strategic preparedness and response plan for COVID-19.

"With the country yet to initi-

ate COVID-19 vaccination, there is a risk that the virus may spread rapidly among the masses unless curtailed with immediate and appropriate measures," Dr Khetrapal Singh said.

It is important for all countries, irrespective of their COVID-19 transmission status, to roll out COVID-19 vaccination, which protects against severe disease and death, she added. **ANI**

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE

Astronomers capture image of black hole at centre of the Milky Way

DAEJEON: Astronomers snapped an image of a supermassive black hole for the first time in history. This is the second result of the research team since 2019, when it presented a picture of the M87 black hole. The Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI) also participated in the research.

Scientists said the result is a milestone in the history of astronomy. Humans have taken one more step closer to the secret of the birth of the universe. According to the KASI on May 12, Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration, the global joint research team formed by more than 300 researchers from 80 institutions, captured the image of the supermassive black hole "Sgr A" at the center of the Milky Way galaxy.

This is the result made in three years since the team succeeded in observing the shadow of the black hole in the core of the galaxy M-87.

The black hole Sgr A is located at the heart of the Milky Way galaxy, 27,000 light years from Earth. It is roughly 4 million times the mass of the sun.

Dr. Sohn Bong-won at the KASI said, "The Sgr A is the closest supermassive black hole to Earth

that humans have ever observed."

As the Sgr A is 2,000 times closer to Earth than the black hole in M87, it is a strong target for black hole research. However, the Sgr A is 1,500 times more compact than M87 black hole, which means that drawing out Sgr A was far more difficult as the gas flow moves faster and change rapidly.

The EHT used for the research is a virtual super ultra-telescope coordinated by eight radio observatories around the world. The team captured a clear image of the black hole by analyzing the black hole's radio signal data observed by the eight telescopes and translating the signals into a representative image of the black hole.

An official from the KASI explained the telescope's performance, "It is able to read newspapers in New York while sitting at a cafe in Paris."

To process massive black hole observation data, the team analyzed data by using supercomputers and conducted simulations for five years. After calibrating data and making the image, the team succeeded in observing the shadow and ring-like structure of the Sgr A. **ANI**



Sultanate of Oman
MINISTRY CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects

TENDR. No.	PROJECT CATEGORY	LOCATION	FEES R.O	GRADE IN TENDER BOARD REGISTRATION
Re-tender 5/2022	SERVICES	BOOK PRINTING BAYYAN ALMOSHKEKEL	25/-	EXCELLENT & FIRST GRADE

Companies, which are registered with the Tender Board and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Tender Board E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) until 23/05/2022.

The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site at 09:00am 30/05/2022

A Tender Bond equivalent to 1% of the tender sum issued from a registered bank, in the prescribed form, in Sultanate of Oman and valid for 90 days should enclosed with the tender.

Any tender without the bond will be reject and the tender committee is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender received.

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24402200 or through email etenderhd@ita.gov.om

TO SERVE
YOU BETTER

WE HAVE
BRANCHES
ALL ACROSS
OMAN

Darsait	71799930
Al Qurum	71799931
Barka	71799934
Buraimi	71799937
Ibra	71799940
Ibri	71799938
Nizwa	71799939
Salalah	71799942
Seeb	71799932
Sohar	71799936
Sur	71799941
Al Suwaiq	71799935

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US
CALL US TODAY ON 24477300

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com





SPORTS



SHOP
NOW
rafeeq.com



FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
PALETTE
FURNITURE
SOLUTIONS

Call us on
99614066



HAVE A
DESIGN
IN MIND?
WE CAN
MAKE IT
FOR YOU!

Contact us on **99614066** to make
customized pallet furniture

MERC

Oman's Abdullah Al-Rawahi gears up for Jordan Rally

Times News Service

DEAD SEA: Oman's Abdullah Al-Rawahi is in Jordan preparing for this weekend's fourth round of the 2022 FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC).

The talented youngster has endured mixed fortunes at the start of this season's regional rally series and heads to a dozen demanding gravel special stages in the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley areas lying in third place in the Drivers' Championship, a mere five points behind Jordan's second-placed Issa Abu Jamous.

Qatar's Nasser Saleh Al-Attiyah is the defending champion and leads the series at the halfway point.

Al-Rawahi secured points for fourth place in the season opener in his native Oman, finished a superb second overall in Qatar and then failed to add to his points tally in Kuwait after a heavy landing caused radiator issues and a subsequent engine failure.

Al-Rawahi will team up with



Jordanian co-driver Ata Al-Hmoud again in Jordan and will drive his customary Oman Rally Team Skoda Fabia R2 evo. The Omani said: "I am very excited for the Jordan Rally after a long wait for the fourth round of the championship. The last rally in Kuwait was really tough for us because we lost the engine. Hopefully, this time, we will have better luck with that."

Jordan stages are quite familiar to me. That is where I actually started, so we are hoping to come back stronger and finish in the top three or even on the top spot!" Friday's (May 20) three timed tests

will be used in the morning and the afternoon and are centred around the Jordan Valley area to the north of the Dead Sea.

The first of two passes through the Bahath stage gets the action underway on Saturday (May 21). Competitors then tackle a stage at Suwayma and the 1700km of Ma'in 1, before returning to the service park before midday. The three specials will then be repeated in the afternoon.

Competitors will tackle 205.22 competitive kilometres in a route of 588.62km.

TENNEX BALL TOURNAMENT

First set of OC's Tennex ball tournament fixtures conclude

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 19 fixtures of Oman Cricket's 10-over Tennex Ball tournament were successfully conducted at the Municipality Grounds on May 13, 2022.

Muscat Super Kings registered Week 1's highest total in their game against WCC. Batting first after winning the toss, they finished on a colossal 121/6. Vishal Parshomttambhai Desai led the scoring with 36 runs off just 15 deliveries. The Kings were excellent in the second innings too. They restricted WCC to 70 runs and wrapped up a dominant 51-



a modest tally of 59/4. Powered by an explosive 47-run knock from Tenarangam Yeduru, the Panthers made light work of that target and chased it down in just 4 overs with all 10 wickets intact.

The game between Max XI and the Bombay Blues was on the opposite end of that spectrum. Put to bat first, Max XI lost wickets at regular intervals but a late 32 run blitz from Sultan Ali propelled them to a first innings score of 95. The run chase went down to the wire and by collecting 2 runs off the game's final ball, the Blues reached the finish line but did not cross it.

run victory. The clash between Deccan Challengers and Muscat Panthers was the most one sided of the competition thus far. In the first phase of play, none of the Challengers were able to reach double figures and posted



FESTIVAL of WINNING

BUY ANY OF MG'S STUNNING 2022 MODELS AND WIN BIG

WIN
YOUR CAR BACK
EVERY WEEK

SCRATCH & WIN
MOBILE PHONE BUNDLE OR FUEL CARD
AND
30K UP TO 200K SERVICE PACKAGES

FREE
INSURANCE
REGISTRATION



Offer valid from 22/3/2022 to 20/5/2022 only for customers buying MG 2022 vehicles from MHD dealership, Free Insurance 1st year (Oman & UAE), Free 1st year Registration. Scratch & Win Service – Customer entitled to win from 30,000 KM up to 200,000 KM Service, Scratch & Win Gift – Customer entitled to win Huawei mobile phone including, Huawei Freebuds 4, and GT3 Watch or Fuel card worth RO. 100. Win your car back is for the vehicle purchased by the customer. There will be a total of 8 draws (1 vehicle each) on 28/3, 4/4, 11/4, 18/4, 25/4, 2/5, 9/5, & 23/5. Images used for illustrative purposes only.

CR No. 1001990

* T&C Apply



Azaiba | Wattayah | Sohar | Sur | Salalah
Al Manuma | Ibri | Bidayah | Nizwa | Ibra | Sinaw

WhatsApp : 71557334



OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2022 reaching \$106.52, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.37 from the price of Friday, which was \$105.15. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,154.49 points, up by 0.25 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.24 per cent at 469.62 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 9.7 per cent, was the top gainer while, Taageer Finance, down 3.09 per cent, was the top loser.

For the first time in the Sultanate, BankDhofar introduces the PaySticker

Now you do not have to worry about forgetting your debit card. Place the sticker on your mobile phone and use it to pay by tapping your mobile phone on the POS machine.*

*The maximum payment via the PaySticker is OMR 40 per transaction, OMR 100 per day.

For more information
<https://www.bankdhofar.com/en-GB/PaySticker.aspx>

بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

*Terms & conditions apply

the best bank for you

2479111 | www.bankdhofar.com

ODB records 29% increase in value of approved loans

QMS LEAD AUDITOR

Madayn organises key training programme

Micro-loans constituted the largest proportion in the first quarter of 2022, comprising 33 per cent of the total loans

MUSCAT: Oman Development Bank (ODB) achieved positive lending indicators during the first quarter of 2022.

The value of loans recorded an increase of 29 per cent compared to the same period in 2021 to stand at OMR18,887,544, divided into OMR15,127,544 as development loans in various promising economic sectors in all the governorates of Oman and OMR3,760 million for agricultural projects for areas damaged by Tropical Cyclone Shaheen.

These indicators come in the



framework of ODB's efforts to keep pace with the government's approach to stimulating the national economy, especially in the recovery from the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In terms of sectors, converting industries had the largest share of ODB's lending during the first

quarter of 2022 as the total value of loans approved for this sector reached OMR5,358,839, divided into 299 projects that comprise 35 per cent of the total loaned value. The fisheries sector came second by receiving OMR3,935,713, divided into 588 projects, followed by the professional services sector

with OMR1,834,471 divided into 136 projects, and the livestock and education sectors with OMR1.4 million each.

The ODB also funded loans in various other sectors, including tourism, health and logistics.

The Governorate of North Al Batinah received OMR4 million,

comprising the highest share of approved loans during the first quarter of 2022. It was followed by the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah (OMR3,269,915), the Governorate of Muscat (OMR2.5 million), the Governorate of Al Wusta (OMR1,191,700), the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah (OMR1,087,200), the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah (OMR867,560), the Governorate of Dhofar (OMR795,600) and the Governorate of South Al Batinah (OMR700,800).

They were followed by the governorates of Musandam, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi, which received various sums.

Micro-loans constituted the largest proportion in the first quarter of 2022, comprising 33 per cent of the total loans.

The value of Micro-loans reached OMR4,964,301, followed by large companies whose lending range reaches OMR1 million, comprising a total value of OMR3,867,000. Operating Capital loans reached OMR3,661,143, followed by loans of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which reached OMR2,581,500 and seasonal loans allocated for agricultural projects, which reached OMR53,600. -OMA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) held a training programme on 'ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) Lead Auditor' to strengthen Madayn's commitment to institutional excellence and continuous improvement, as well as qualifying its cadres to supervise the effective application of ISO 9001 requirements.

The programme highlighted several aspects including audit components, developing an audit plan, formulating questions, and documenting non-conformity cases. By organising a lineup of quality training programmes and events that address trending topics and challenges locally and globally, Madayn aims at developing the skills of human cadres and enhancing the value-added services offered to investors in industrial cities. Madayn also aims at delivering administrative, financial, and technical consultancy to companies and factories in the industrial cities, and implement training-for-employment in cooperation with the bodies concerned in this area.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AT DUQM



EU ambassadors briefed on investment opportunities in Sezad

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) received a delegation of 13 ambassadors and representatives of the European Union member states, who were on a 2-day visit to the zone on May 15 and 16.

The delegation met with Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, and CEOs of companies operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

They were briefed on the investment opportunities in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and the package of incentives, advantages and facilities offered to investors and businesspersons. The delegation was also familiarised with the already developed and under-construction projects in the zone.

Further, the visit included a tour of various infrastructure projects and other key facilities in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), such as the Port

of Duqm, Duqm Refinery, multi-purpose Fishing Port, the Fisheries and Food Industries Zone, Duqm Hong Tong Piping Factory, the dry dock and Karwa Motors.

Commenting on this visit, Veronique Aulagnon, Ambassador of France and President of the European Union Member States delegation, pointed out that the visit aims to familiarise the delegation with the various investment opportunities in Duqm and explore what and how European countries can invest. She expressed that by visiting the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, they can encourage companies from their countries to invest in this cone. Duqm is very promising and bringing different developments in various sectors including green energy, fisheries, oil and gas, tourism and others where companies from Europe can form further joint ventures. This could be built on the already developed projects and businesses of many European companies from Belgium and France to name a few."

SUPPLY CHAIN

Local sourcing by Renaissance touches 79%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Local sourcing of food and non-food items at Renaissance Services has risen to 79 per cent compared to 63 per cent until a year ago, further delivering on the company's commitment to Oman's economic diversification and in-country value (ICV) goals.

Renaissance shares a symbiotic relationship with its Omani suppliers, gaining from competitive pricing and timely delivery and in turn boosting ICV by giving them significant business.

With this approach, Renaissance has continued to demonstrate resilience amid past and present global challenges that have materially affected fuel, freight, commodity prices and availability.

Service delivery to its 100+ operational sites throughout the country remained unaffected during the pandemic, thanks to its



strong local supplier base, which includes SMEs.

Furthermore, the Renaissance 2.0 direction has redefined the strategic and value-based supply chain approach. It has set renewed OKRs (Objectives and Key Result areas) that deliver increased ICV, including more jobs for Omanis



and opportunities for SMEs.

"Challenges from the pandemic and the current geopolitical tensions notwithstanding, the company has always put Omani companies and SMEs first. The Renaissance supply chain boasts of a strong local vendor platform, reflecting our focus on Oman's

economic diversification goals. It is this commitment that has stood us in good stead in the face of unforeseen global challenges and allowed us to maintain good buffer stocks to ensure efficient service delivery across our sites of operations," said Pankaj Chugh, Director, Supply Chain, Renaissance.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

Health insurance team reviews digital transformation project and medical coding

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The health insurance scheme for the employees of the private sector and visitors to Oman (Dhamani) is preparing for readying all the requirements to implement all the phases of the project for the targeted categories.

Ahmed Ali Al Maamari, Vice President for Insurance Sector at the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and Chairman of the health insurance team said that the preparations are in advanced stages with regard to legal requirements, digital systems and medical coding aspects of the project.



He said that at the sidelines of the team's meeting with the participation of the representatives of the concerned entities such as

the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Public Authority for Social Security, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the

Omani Insurance Association to discuss the achievements during the past period and review the execution of the preparatory projects accompanying the implementation of Dhamani.

Al Maamari said the compulsory insurance for the employees of the private sector will contribute to creating great changes on the level of the health and insurance economy with regard to the types of practices and attracting new specialisations and investments in the economy. He added that the expansion of health insurance would direct the health sector toward enhancing the quality of services.

MARKET



MSX index ends higher

A'Saffa Foods, up 9.7 per cent, was the top gainer while, Taageer Finance, down 3.09 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,154.49 points, up by 0.25 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.24 per cent at 469.62 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 9.7 per cent, was the top gainer while, Taageer Finance, down 3.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 330 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.71 million, with more than 6.45 million shares changing hands. Out of 40 traded securities, 8 advanced, 13 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR116,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR98,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,608.82 points, up 0.37 per cent. Prices of HSBC Bank Oman, Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman and

Bank Muscat were up by 1.85 per cent, 1.05 per cent, 0.51 per cent and 0.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Taageer Finance, Muscat Finance and Oman & Emirates Investment were down by 3.09 per cent, 1.35 per cent, and 1.15 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,085 points, down 0.22 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Dhofar Cattle Feed and Raysut Cement were up by 9.7 per cent, 2.67 per cent and 0.59 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Gulf Mushroom Products, Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 1.8 per cent, 0.99 per cent, 0.89 per cent, 0.76 per cent and 0.54 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.15 per cent before closing at 1,616.88 points. Oman Telecom was the only gainer up by 0.93 per cent. Prices of Barka Desalination, OIFC, Ooredoo and Al Jazeera Services were down by 1.41 per cent, 1.36 per cent, 1.21 per cent and 0.37 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,155.42	4,143.71	4,154.49	4,144.00	10.49	0.25
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,608.82	6,582.74	6,608.82	6,584.14	24.68	0.37
Industry Index	6,098.70	6,082.54	6,084.99	6,098.70	-13.70	-0.22
Services Index	1,620.92	1,616.88	1,616.88	1,619.30	-2.43	-0.15
MSX Shariah Index	470.73	469.48	469.62	470.73	-1.11	-0.24
MSX TR INDEX	5,234.52	5,219.76	5,233.34	5,220.12	13.21	0.25
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,909.54	6,882.28	6,909.54	6,883.74	25.80	0.37
SERVICES TR IDX	1,670.30	1,666.14	1,666.14	1,668.64	-2.50	-0.15
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,329.42	6,312.66	6,315.20	6,329.42	-14.22	-0.22

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
6,454,693	1,713,117	330	22,416,253,321	8	13	19	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MAY 16

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

OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	520,930	451,403	22	0.864	0.868	0.864	0.868	0.860	0.008	0.930	0.868	0.868	0.864	0.100	651,000,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	977,900	194,721	29	0.198	0.200	0.198	0.199	0.198	0.001	0.505	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.100	323,563,325
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	955,808	502,833	33	0.526	0.530	0.522	0.526	0.524	0.002	0.382	0.522	0.522	0.526	0.100	1,974,195,427
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	23,243	2,474	6	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	14,840,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	3,000	948	1	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.316	0.290	0.316	0.100	211,203,475
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,500	385	2	0.258	0.258	0.256	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.256	0.256	0.260	0.100	86,026,905
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	76,000	32,832	2	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.000	0.000	0.432	0.424	0.442	0.100	95,040,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	27,542	18,879	5	0.688	0.688	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.000	0.000	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.100	47,196,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	5,000	360	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.070	0.072	0.100	14,600,000
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SER.	76,000	33,288	2	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.420	0.444	0.100	103,547,580
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	515,000	56,650	6	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.112	0.100	328,908,852
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	1,000	63	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	14,445,600
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	92,473	24,971	8	0.270	0.271	0.270	0.270	0.271	-0.001	-0.369	0.271	0.270	0.278	0.100	16,525,154
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	105,048	39,020	6	0.372	0.372	0.370	0.372	0.374	-0.002	-0.535	0.370	0.370	0.372	0.100	46,462,041
OM0000006505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	80,524	41,972	10	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.524	-0.004	-0.763	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.100	28,800,000
OM0000003969	OOREDOO	105,265	34,316	12	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.330	-0.004	-1.213	0.326	0.326	0.330	0.100	212,207,819
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	38,520	5,595	3	0.147	0.147	0.145	0.145	0.147	-0.002	-1.361	0.145	0.145	0.148	0.100	34,385,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	10,000	940	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.097	-0.003	-3.093	0.094	0.093	0.095	0.100	24,314,209
Total	18	3,614,853	1,441,550	150												

Parallel Market

OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	52,622	7,735	8	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.134	0.013	9.701	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.100	17,640,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	15,085	1,168	3	0.075	0.078	0.075	0.077	0.075	0.002	2.667	0.078	0.075	0.080	0.100	6,225,450
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	207,378	22,812	6	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.852	0.110	0.110	0.112	0.100	220,034,407
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	278,082	26,591	18	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.095	0.097	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	22,168	3,760	6	0.168	0.170	0.168	0.170	0.169	0.001	0.592	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	23,500	3,370	3	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.136	0.140	0.100	11,900,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,695	256	2	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	28,000	2,447	5	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.089	0.100	2,920,716
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	132,362	8,868	13	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.065	0.067	0.100	4,187,500
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	99,904	8,050	13	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	1,710	190	2	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.121	0.100	10,758,238
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	163,120	15,279	16	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	500	25	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	33,069,484
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,000	51	1	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	35,720,716
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,136,143	126,627	47	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.893	0.111	0.111	0.113	0.100	22,531,497
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P.	21,000	4,206	2	0.201	0.201	0.200	0.200	0.202	-0.002	-0.990	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	8,321,054
OM0000001281	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	31,446	2,704	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.140	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	230,000	16,790	4	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	20,000	2,810	3	0.141	0.141	0.140	0.140	0.142	-0.002	-1.408	0.140	0.140	0.143	0.100	10,573,080
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	104,050	11,367	16	0.110	0.112	0.108	0.109	0.111	-0.002	-1.802	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	19,846,545
Total	20	2,571,775	265,306	171												

INCREASING EFFICIENCY

Mazoon Electricity energises Saih Al Nama grid substation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To increase efficiency and expand serving capability, Mazoon Electricity, the leading electricity provider in Oman, has energised the Saih Al Nama 2X20 MVA Primary Substation located in Al Mudhaibi in North Al Sharqiyah governorate.

The Saih Al Nama 2X20 MVA Primary substation was constructed to relieve the load from Mudhaibi Primary substation and accommodate normal growth in Mudhaibi and Saih Nama areas.

All primary substations in the area exceed their firm capacity and are expected load growth and propose reinforcement proposals to meet the growth of the area to the north of Mudhaibi in the years to come.

Saih Al Nama 2X20 MVA Primary substation was constructed to redistribute load from Mudhaibi Primary substation and accom-



modate normal growth in Mudhaibi and Saih Al Nama areas.

The energised primary substation will serve Mudhaibi, Saih Al Nama and nearby areas and will increase the efficiency of the network and reduce supply interruptions.

Mazoon Electricity's substation represents a broader effort to modernise the company's infrastructure and make it more robust

and sustainable. The opening and energising of the substations come as a part of Mazoon Electricity's constant efforts to improve the performance level of the electrical networks in the various governorates that it provides services.

These developments will add value to the services the company extends and will contribute to boosting its overall capacity.

STOCK MARKET



Saudi share index ends lower

RIYADH: Saudi Stock Exchange's main index ended trading lower on Monday, losing 234.40 points to close at 12,914.89 points.

The total value of the trading reported was SAR 9 billion, while the toll of shares traded was over 174 million, divided into over 405,000 deals.

The Saudi Parallel Equity Market Index (NOMU) ended the day losing 304.60 points, to close at 22,540.87 points, with a valuation of SAR 38 million and an overall tally of more than 717,000 stocks traded and divided into as many as 2,302 deals. — **SPA**

SKYROCKETING PRICES

Surging natural gas prices squeeze US industrial sector

HOUSTON: Skyrocketing natural gas prices have raised manufacturing and transportation costs across many US industries, and the situation should persist as the United States exports more gas to Europe.

US natural gas futures have doubled this year, far more than the increases in retail gasoline and diesel that have made Americans angry at the US energy industry and the government, Reuters reported.

Many industrial company executives believe the United States, once a large importer of natural gas, should stop exporting gas and prioritize its own needs. But gas producers are pushing for more export capacity along with more permits for drilling.

Gas output in key locales in the United States has slowed this year, partly due to insufficient pipeline capacity. Bad weather also cut production and boosted demand.

Higher gas prices are driving up costs for specialty chemical maker Huntsman Corp, which produces polyurethanes used to make electronics, building materials and furniture, Chief Executive Peter Huntsman told Reuters.

"Consumers are going to see (price) shocks," he said. The company has passed through more than \$1.5 billion in raw material cost increases in the last year, he said, most due to energy.

Westlake Chemical, which makes plastics and building siding, calculates for every \$1 per million British thermal units



(mmBtu) increase in natural gas, its annual costs rise by about \$100 million.

"Inflation coming from energy is just the next insult to injury," adds Chip McElroy, chief executive of McElroy Manufacturing, which makes giant machines that fuse thermoplastic pipes.

US natural gas futures have surged to \$7.854 per mmBtu on Friday from \$3.730 at the start of 2022 but remain far lower than Europe's benchmark of \$31 and Asia's of \$24 per mmBtu.

Surging demand from Europe has analysts expecting prices will remain elevated.

"The manufacturing sector cannot invest and create jobs without assurances that our natural gas and electricity prices will not be imperilled by excessive LNG exports," Paul Cicio, president of the Industrial Energy Consumers

of America (IECA), a trade group whose members include smelters, plastics and paper-goods makers, said last month in a letter to US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm. The group wants Washington to stop approving LNG export permits until low US gas stockpiles are rebuilt.

Some businesses are worried that heating bills could skyrocket next winter, noting that this year has not had the usual ebb at prices in the spring as heating demand dips. Last winter's heating bills were unsustainable, said John Schneider, CEO of the Western Equipment Dealers Association, a trade group. "When you look at shop sizes of 30,000 to 40,000 square feet, that's a big natural gas bill."

Some companies have weathered the cost increases. Nucor, the largest US steelmaker, has partially offset natural gas costs

at its steel mills by selling some of the gas it produces for its use, a spokesperson said.

LNG industry executives said high prices should spur new production. They want the Biden administration to approve new projects.

"There is a need not only for additional pipeline development but also for additional export facility development," said Dan Brouillette, president of Semptra Infrastructure, which develops LNG plants. Most new projects would not come online until at least late next year or 2024, however.

Right now, US gas futures would have to reach \$20 per mmBtu to cool demand for US LNG, said analyst Paul Sankey of Sankey Research.

"There is no upper bound on US natural gas until we break the arbitrage for LNG exports," he said. — **BNA**



LIFESTYLE HACKS TO HELP EASE DEPRESSION

Break the mundane pattern; introduce something new to your routine

Lack of motivation and fatigue are some of the early signs of depression. Routine can enhance the sense of doldrums, and hence, it is important to break it and try something new.

Gratitude journaling

Gratitude journaling is different from journaling; herein, the only things that you write down are the ones you are thankful for,

Re-write and re-wire

If there is a part in your life that you are unhappy with, re-write it! Change the narrative, and write down the story the way you would like it to be.

Sleep!

Sleep is more than just taking a physical rest. It works as an auto-clean of the mind and is hence crucial to every aspect of health, especially mental health. Researchers believe that it is best to sleep by 10 pm, midnight at max.

Switch to a healthier diet; incorporate anti-inflammatory foods

A diet deficient in B12 and omega 3 fatty acids cause increased inflammation in the parts of the brain responsible for mood.

Exercise

According to the Journal of clinical psychiatry, exercise improves mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, and negative mood and by improving self-esteem and cognitive function. It has also been found to alleviate symptoms such as low self-esteem and social withdrawal.

Do not stop; one step at a time, is also progress

Seeing the future or the bigger picture can feel overwhelming at times. So it is best to deal with what's immediately in hand and then gradually over on to the other step. Every step of the journey counts! (ANI)

As a large number of people today deal with depression, it is essential to understand how lifestyle affects mental health, besides aspects that can be worked upon to help ease the struggle.



ROUND-UP



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om



Make every drive fun in Toyota Corolla

The Corolla is designed to be a combination of style, space and comfort

MUSCAT: The most popular vehicle in the Toyota range – the Corolla, offers thoroughly exciting experiences with its engaging driving dynamics.

The Corolla is designed to be a combination of style, space and comfort. This aspect is evident throughout the Corolla.

The interior design adopts a simple yet appealing style, with



comfortable spaciousness and integrated functional parts combining to create a refined elegance. The ergonomically designed seats feature new cushion material, while the armrest and ample leg-room offer superior comfort for the rear-seat passengers.

The Corolla's interior is planned keeping the convenience of passengers in mind. Depending on the trim level, occupants also benefit from AC vents for the rear seat, a moon-roof, 4.2 or 7-inch color multi-information display (MID), 7-inch touch-

screen multimedia infotainment display, rear view camera, cruise control, six-speaker sound system, and 60:40 split-folding rear seats.

Exemplifying Toyota's continuous commitment to providing environmentally friendly vehicles is the addition of a hybrid electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and electric motor with a combined power of 121 hp. It is also mated to an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission, which provides an outstanding fuel consumption value of 27.6km/L (Fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions) while improving the driving experience. The Corolla hybrid contributes to a greener future while allowing customers to enjoy increased driving satisfaction provided by its advanced technologies which offers exceptional cabin quietness and smooth acceleration, especially when accelerating from a stand-still.

The Corolla is also available as a 2.0-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine which produces 168 hp and 20.39 kg-m of torque and is mated to a new Direct Shift CVT transmission; and a 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine that produces 121 hp and 15.7 kg-m of torque, which is paired with a CVT transmission.

As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the Corolla, which includes a comprehensive array of features to protect its occupants, such as four SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Brake Assist, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), among many others.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

Ominvest builds ESG knowledge across group

MUSCAT: In line with its strong belief in the important role business plays in society, Ominvest successfully concluded a capacity-building programme covering Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices across its group companies.

Ominvest's participating group companies included National Life & General Insurance Co., National Finance, Oman Arab Bank, Alizz Islamic Bank, Jabreen Capital, and Uhhar Capital.

The programme was attended by Ominvest's board members as well as top and middle management executives at the Parent Company and Group companies through various focused training sessions. It also included a comprehensive online course specially designed for all staff.

The series of training sessions were concluded with a 32-hour ESG Champions Training Course for 10 ESG leads who were nominated by the CEOs of Ominvest's Group companies. This is a Certified Training Course for ESG Champions by the Accredited Academic Institution of the European Public Law Organisation (EEPLO), and the European Law and Governance School (ELGS). The champions will lead the effort of integrating ESG across their respective companies and will act as the core unit for synchronising ESG efforts and initiatives across the group.

The aim of the ESG capacity building initiative by Ominvest is to raise awareness and provide the needed knowledge and skills to help create a strategic social impact and to integrate ESG at operational and investment levels across the group whilst aligning with global best practices.

The training sessions highlighted the important role of business in achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the role of the Financial Sector and Investors in integrating ESG in business operations and investment decision-making processes; the different forms of ESG and Impact Investing; and the difference between ESG and social impact initiatives. Global and regional trends, legal and regulatory aspects, in addition to ESG reporting and rating were discussed in detail, introducing the most common frameworks and rating agencies. The training sessions also focused on how to build strategies for scalable and sustainable social impact that aligns with the UN's SDGs.

Commenting on the importance of the programme, Abdul Aziz Al Balushi, Group CEO, Ominvest said, "Ominvest is a purpose-driven organisation that has embedded social impact and good corporate citizenship at the heart of its corporate vision, mission, culture and values. Our purpose is 'transforming businesses to enrich societies'; to make sure we are creating the desired impact that aligns with our purpose, we believe integrating ESG best practices on both the operational and investment levels in our Group companies is the right way forward. Such practices, when properly and effectively implemented, provide important and essential tools for true and verifiable assessment of business performance in terms of environment, social and governance aspects. ESG practices will also enable us to create measurable and scalable impact, and will help benchmark our performance year on year, with an aim to enhance our resulting impact."



He added, "I am glad to have witnessed the dedication and commitment showcased by Ominvest Group's companies throughout the ESG training programme. Top management representatives were engaged in the sessions they attended and followed that up with the nomination of suitable and capable candidates to attend an intensive 32-hour training that would equip them to be the ESG champions in their respective companies. This multiple-month initiative was merely the initial building block for the actual work to come in building our solid ESG strategy and commencing the needed integration work and implementation of key initiatives."

Reputable consultancy firms across Oman and the region conducted various training sessions. 'Sustainable Investments', a local Omani consultancy firm that works with 'Venture' consultancy that is based in Greece, provided the ESG training and awareness sessions for Ominvest's Chairman and C-Level Executives; the ESG Online Training Course for all staff; and the 32-hour ESG Champions training. 'Sustainable Square', a consultancy firm based in Dubai-UAE provided the ESG awareness session for Ominvest's Board of Directors and an intensive ESG training course for Middle Management Executives from Group companies.

Dr Mohab Ali Al Hinai, Co-Founder of 'Sustainable Invest-

ments' commented on the delivered training sessions saying, "Over the past decade, companies with good ESG practices have shown that they are better equipped to ensure the long-term sustainability of the firm. In turn, this makes the business more attractive to investors that see it as less risky in today's highly competitive business landscape. Ominvest's commitment to raising awareness about the importance of ESG within the group's companies shows that they are committed to becoming a leader in this field. ESG training not only enhances a company's reputation with investors but also plays a critical role in attracting talent to the organisation as well as boosting employee productivity."

Spyros Kouvelis, the Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development of the European Public Law Organisation, a Permanent Observer at the UN General Assembly and main tutor for the Institute's Verimarket method on ESG throughout the initiative, said: "The strong belief of Ominvest and its subsidiaries about the need to integrate Sustainability and ESG across the spectrum of the group's work was a solid foundation on which to build this complete learning experience. I am convinced that through the participatory process followed by all trainees and the steep learning curve they have followed, Ominvest Group is on its way to becoming a beacon of sustainability transformation in the region."

Monaem Ben Lellahom, Founding Partner and Group CEO of Sustainable Square said, "It is a pleasure to engage with Ominvest's board members and executives on an ESG strategic capacity building programme. The company is taking ESG integration across its operation and portfolio companies seriously while making sure that knowledge is properly disseminated across the group to ensure a smooth understanding of the impact of ESG and its business case."

ANNUAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION



Khedmah extends cooperation agreement with Oman Charitable Organisation

MUSCAT: To enhance its contribution to areas which are related to community service and charitable support, Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC), 'Khedmah', has provided its annual financial contribution to the Omani Charity Organisation (OCO). This comes under Khedmah's cooperation agreement with OCO to support local charitable work. The agreement aims to provide financial support for a number of initiatives implemented by the OCO in the Sultanate.

The collaboration also serves Khedmah's social responsibility initiatives (CSR) commitment that it provides to the community to advance social and economic development. This initiative reflects its efforts to expand cooperation with charities which are seeking to assist insolvent individuals and families.

Under the terms of the MoU, the OCO shall disburse this contribution to its support programmes, in accordance with its determined conditions. These include providing support for a number of insolvent families in Oman and selecting emergency cases that require financial aid.

Said bin Ahmed Saifur, Chief Executive Officer, OIFC, said, "We are committed to renewing and expanding our cooperation with various entities to provide diverse initiatives to support eligible segments, believing in the important role that charities and organizations play in evolving sustainable development within communities and their active participation in empowering individuals and families to balance the community. This is a well-established aspect of our corporate social responsibility goals, which the board of directors and staff endorse. As a result, we are deeply rooted in our values of giving and working together to overcome challenges. This agreement also highlights Khedmah's acknowledgement of the Omani Charity Organization's important role in promoting charitable efforts and assisting those in need."

For the last four decades, OIFC has been one of the leading Investment and services companies and specialises in billing, collection and debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services across its 68 branch network in the Sultanate. It serves as a central point for customers to pay all electricity, water and communications bills, and payment of the benefits of the Public Authority for Social Insurance. The company also provides prepaid recharge of telephone and electricity connections, as well as renewing subscriptions of recreational and entertainment digital platforms.

OFFER

Mercedes-Benz launches vehicle selling service



MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman has introduced a new opportunity to help owners sell their Mercedes-Benz vehicles back to the dealership promptly and at market value. The service allows customers to have their Mercedes-Benz cars professionally assessed and appraised with the assistance of a trusted dealer.

The service is available to all Mercedes-Benz models originally sold by ZTC Mercedes-Benz Oman

with GCC specification, under five years old and with a full service history. This offer is available and initiated from the Mercedes-Benz Oman website.

Scott Shears, General Manager of Passenger Cars at Mercedes-Benz Oman, said, "When it comes to selling a car, it can be a challenging experience for some, especially when trying to sell it independently. Now, with our new selling service, our goal is to make

the process as simple as possible. Mercedes-Benz Oman is offering an impartial and confidential evaluation with no obligation to agree to a sale.

"Our dedicated team of Mercedes-Benz expert evaluators will thoroughly review the vehicle and provide a value based on the local market. We aim to provide a simple process that gives peace of mind to our customers to sell their vehicle promptly."



MANCHESTER مناشستر

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

حان الوقت لنلتقي مجددا

TIME TO MEET AGAIN



TURKISH AIRLINES



BARCELONA برشلونة



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

ROUND-UP



All-new Changan CS35 Plus Crossover, 2023 MY Launched in Oman



MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, has launched All-new 2023 Changan CS35 Plus Crossover which comes with a heavily revised exterior making it feel youthful, interactive, safe, and powerful. The front facade is now bolder with muscular fender flanges with roof rails and LED Headlamps.

The All-new CS35 Plus Limited variant comes with amazing features including 18"Alloy wheels, Leather Seats, Panoramic Sunroof, 10-inch touch info screen, 7" LCD Digital Instrument Cluster and LED headlamps Plus it's equipped with all the advanced safety attributes like Adaptive Cruise Control, Hill Descent Control, 360° View Camera, Forward Collision Warning, Automatic Emergency Brake, Front Side Airbag and Curtain Airbag and additionally Comfort feature like electric tailgate and Wireless Charging.

Energetic like new generation youth, Changan CS35 Plus is packed with a 1.4 litre Turbo charged engine which produces 156 hp and 260 nm of torque and fitted with a 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) to always keep owners ahead of the segment competition.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, "We are confident that this new design and stylish Changan CS35 Plus will prove to be yet another reason for car-buyers to upgrade their cars. The sporty new-gen crossover equipped with state-of-the-art technologies offers an unparalleled driving experience, fashionable appearance, strong power and good entertaining features. Developed by the global research and development team of Changan Automobile, it integrates all comprehensive functions: high-quality performance, comfortable driving experience, large internal space and abundant configurations of entertainments."

He added, "We are pleased to offer great Ramadan benefits on Changan CS35 Plus which is energetic in style and sprightly in design."

Changan CS35 which is energetic in style and sprightly in design. The CS35 Plus offers a robust look on the outside while the beautifully crafted interior gives a first-class feel inside. It is a youthful SUV for younger generation who are spirited, passion-

ate, social and want to become the influencers of their time.

Changan CS35 Plus 1.4L Trend

The exterior of Changan CS35 Plus 1.4L Trend has Roof Rack, Door Handles in Body Colour, 17" Alloy Wheels, LED Headlamps, Front & Rear Fog Light, LED DRLs, Rear Defogger, Electrically Adjustable, ORVMS with Heating and Shark Fin Antenna. Interior features includes Multifunction Steering Wheel, Rear AC Outlet, Adjustable Steering Column, Storage Bag Behind Front Seats, Rear Seat 60:40 Foldable, Leather Seats and Front Centre Armrest. As for safety, this SUV is equipped with features like Cruise Control, ABS +EBD +BA+HHC +DBF, Electronic Parking Brake, Front Airbags, Speed Sensing Auto Lock, Rear Parking Sensors, TPMS, Central Locking, Rain Sensor, Rearview Camera.

Infotainment attributes includes Digital Instrument Cluster, 10" Infotainment Touch Screen, Bluetooth, Radio, Mirror Link, Front & Rear USB, six Speakers, Navigation. Comfort elements include Intelligent Key, Remote Engine Start, Keyless Entry and Push Start Button.

Changan CS35 Plus 1.4L Limited

The Changan CS35 Plus 1.4L Limited includes Changan CS35 Plus 1.4L Trend features and some additional elements.

The extra exterior attributes include Side Window Trim in Chrome, Door Handles in Chrome, 18"Alloy Wheels, Auto Headlamps, Panoramic Sunroof with Remote Control, Electrically Folding ORVMS.

The additional interior features are 2-way Electrically Adjustable Driver Seat, Automatic AC Control and Rear Reading Light. Safety attributes are Adaptive Cruise Control, Hill Descent Control, Rear Armrest with Cup Holder, 360° View Camera, FCW, Automatic Emergency Brake, Front Side Airbag and Curtain Airbag. Infotainment features include 7" LCD Instrument Cluster and Wireless Charging and additional Comfort feature has electric tailgate.

With cutting edge technology and advanced features, the CS35 Plus will not only surprise you but also enhance your driving experience. Its Blue Core Powertrain



Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides owners a highly efficient and energy saving performance.

High Safety

Safety and security features include airbags, Hill Descent Control (HDC), Brake Assist, Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Electronic Parking Brake, and Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)

with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD). Other complementary equipment includes parking sensors, a reversing camera and speed-sensing door locks.

Vehicle specifications

CS35 Plus's vehicle specifications include length x width x height of 4335mm x 1825mm x 1660mm, 1.4L Turbo GDI Turbocharged Gasoline Direct Injection engine,

Energetic like new generation youth, Changan CS35 Plus is packed with a 1.4 litre Turbo charged engine which produces 156 hp and 260 nm of torque and fitted with a 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) to always keep owners ahead of the segment competition.

fuel card. All customers purchasing Changan CS35 Plus till May 20, 2022, will be eligible to participate in the campaign scheme.

Free service

Customers of Changan CS35 Plus can avail Periodic Maintenance Service of three years/55,000 kms and includes only 10,000 kms service Intervals.

Free assured fuel card

Customers of Changan CS35 Plus can avail free fuel card ranging from OMR 50.

Manufacturer's Warranty

Customers of Changan CS35 Plus can enjoy manufacturer's warranty for 6 years/250,000 kms which ever is earlier.

Free insurance,

Patrons of Changan CS35 Plus can enjoy benefits such as free first year insurance (Oman and UAE).

Free registration

Customers will be offered free first year registration on purchase of Changan CS35 Plus.

The premium automotive brand Changan has received overwhelming response among the Oman customers. Changan Automobile boasts of a comprehensive portfolio of range of products including Sedan, Crossovers and SUVs like Changan Alsvin – Entry level sedan, EADO Plus – Family Sedan, CS35 PLUS Crossover, CS75 Plus Crossover, CS85 Coupe, CS95 7 Seater 4WD and Changan Hunter Double Cabin Pickups (Gasoline and Diesel variants available)

About AGAE

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment which is part of Bahwan International Group has set up a spacious and state-of-the-art Showroom in Al Qurum and Service centre in Ghala, Muscat. AGAE has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in many cities including Salalah, Sohar, Sur, Nizwa, Ibra and Barka etc. CHANGAN OMAN offers 6 years or 250,000 kms manufacturer warranty on all passenger vehicles in Oman.

For more information, call CHANGAN OMAN Toll free number 80050800, WhatsApp on 94641010 or visit our showroom in Al Qurum. You can visit and register at www.changanoman.com to book test drives and call back.



ROUND-UP



JCDECAUX CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF ITS OPERATIONS

MUSCAT: This year 2022 marks the 10th Anniversary for JCDecaux Oman since the launch of its business in 2012 with its strategic project in cooperation with the Muscat Municipality through the Street Furniture and City Beautification Programme, in addition to managing and operating commercial advertisements on the roads in the Governorate of Muscat.

It is worth mentioning that the partnership and cooperation with the Muscat Municipality date to the 80s of the last century when JCDecaux supplied some street signs to the municipality at the time. In 2014, JCDecaux expanded its presence in Oman by signing an exclusive contract with Oman Airports for the management and sales of advertising at the airports, Muscat, Salalah, Duqm and Suhar.

Bechir Chehab, Managing Director of JCDecaux Oman, explained that the company is distinguished in supplying services that suit the requirements of cities and airports by providing unique and innovative advertising solutions that enhance community experience as well as providing street furniture assets that contribute to serving the city's residents.

Innovative advertising
"Our services in Muscat include providing bus shelters for users of



public transport, benches, and self-cleaning toilets. JCDecaux is as well delighted to provide advanced, digital, and innovative advertising and marketing solutions that enable customers to reach all travellers and give the airport a unique experience. In particular, I am profoundly proud of the Omani employees who are the majority working in the company. During these years, these young and passionate Omani youth were able to develop and benefit from accumulated know-how, knowledge, and experience."

On this occasion, Sayyid Shabib Harib Al Busaidi, Director General of the Directorate General of Investment and Economic Development in Muscat Municipality, congratulated JCDecaux on the passage of 10 years since its launch in the Omani market, pointing out that it is one of the leading companies in the field of street furniture and beautification of cities by providing quality services and street furniture assets with designs that suit the requirements of cities and serve the residents of the governorate. In addition, the company provides integrated solutions for managing and operating advertisements in the city in cooperation with the Municipality through a distinguished business model that enhances revenues and contributes to advertisements as a

part of the city's beauty thanks to various panels of a unique format.



Distinguished partnership
Sheikh Samer Ahmed Al Nabhani, Chief Commercial Officer at Oman Airports Company, stated that he welcomed the distinguished partnership with JCDecaux, which is considered number one worldwide as an operator of out-of-home advertising and is also well-known for providing its services in the largest airports around the world, and we are proud that the airports in Oman are among the airports that the company serves. Our partnership with JCDecaux comes as part of Oman Airports' strategy in investing in the airport infrastructure in Oman through partnerships with global players, which contributes to the government's desired goals in making airports a gateway to the Sultanate as an attractive destination for foreign investments, and it allows us to partner with JCDecaux to reach international advertisers that will include Oman Airports in their marketing plans, which would provide a tangible addition to the passengers' experience through our airports.

Bechir Chehab further elaborates that since the establishment of JCDecaux operations in France in 1964, its presence has been expanding to reach today over 80 countries around the world, more than 3,000 cities, and manages outdoor advertisements in more than 150 airports around the world, including the largest airports known for high passenger traffic. In addition, JCDecaux is making tangible efforts towards an optimised environmental footprint, contributing to the planet's carbon neutrality and curbing other environmental impacts thanks to the application of best practices, by working on developing several ways to reduce energy, water and fuel consumption and to manage waste in a sound manner that focuses on reuse and recycling as well as in the selection of raw material resources to produce various environmentally friendly products. These initiatives are integrated with the pillars of Oman Vision 2040 in developing cities and improving the quality of life for the community while maintaining a sustainable environment, which allows JCDecaux to play an important role in this regard through its local presence.

JCDecaux extends its thanks and appreciation to Muscat Municipality and Oman Airports for their support of the company's journey in Oman and all clients and advertisers for their confidence in us.

E-PAYMENT OPTION

Bank Muscat assists merchants in offering convenient and secure QR code e-payments

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, has affirmed its readiness and alignment to promote financial inclusion and digital payments across the Sultanate by providing various e-payment options to the general public at merchant partners across the Sultanate.

The bank continues to expand e-payment options available including Debit, Prepaid and Credit Cards, wearables, Mobile wallets and the Mobile Banking app as well as the latest QR-code based payments that help retail outlets easily accept digital payments from the Mobile Banking app or Wallet of any bank in Oman. Bank Muscat pointed out that businesses across the country including micro and small enterprises can easily implement QR-code based payments to meet the latest regulations on the need for businesses to provide e-payment options to their customers.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Hamood Al Jufaili, Assistant General Manager, Digital Banking, Bank Muscat, said: "Bank Muscat is encouraged by the rapid shift to digital payments and in-



vites today's tech-savvy customers to use different e-payments options according to their convenience. E-payments benefit our merchant partners, customers and the general public by improving financial inclusion and offering convenient and highly secure payment options hence, it is important that businesses offer various e-payment options that will boost economic growth and development. QR-code based payments are particularly helpful to small businesses in this regard. We are confident that the ongoing digital transformation will help our nation and its people achieve the ambitious goals

of Oman Vision 2040."

The QR code scanning option allows merchant partners to accept e-payments from customers quickly and securely, irrespective of their bank or wallet. It has been seeing exponential growth since its recent launch with over 440 merchants already implementing the e-payment facility. The security of transactions is enhanced by ensuring that payments are credited into the business' account, without the need to handle physical cash and the inconvenience of maintaining small changes for customers. Payments can be easily initiated from a customer's Mobile Banking application or Wallet application to the merchant's account by scanning a QR code. A merchant can also request money from a customer using the Mobile Payments System registered mobile number / Alias / QR code.

It must be noted that customers of local banks can easily make payments, transfer money or request funds from others using the Central Bank of Oman's Mobile Payment Clearing and Switching System (MPCSS). Funds can be transferred instantaneously using

one of the following modes. For a person to person transfers, money can be sent or collected from the recipient's default account or wallet. 'Send money' can be initiated by using a mobile number, Alias or by QR code scanning and 'collect money' can be initiated using recipient Alias/Mobile Number if both the sender and recipient are registered on MPCSS. Bank Muscat customers have the facility to register on the MPCSS via both its BM Wallet and the mBanking app. Funds can be transferred instantly and at zero cost to both Bank Muscat and non-Bank Muscat accounts or wallets by using their MPCSS -registered mobile number/alias/QR code. There is no need to enter an account number. Beneficiaries can be instead selected from one's phone contact list to initiate a payment.

Bank Muscat is keen to provide banking services to all customers to meet their needs and is the largest financial services provider in Oman with 174 branches, over 800 ATMs and CDMs, and a large number of secure and convenient digital payment options for the benefit of its customers.

'ALMARAM MUSIC BAND'



Grab your tickets to witness magical music night on May 26

MUSCAT: 'Almaram Music Band' is a music group that has reached the hearts of music lovers by singing the song 'Poomaram Poothulanje' on the table in the hostel room. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that they provide a different musical experience in a world of bands full of rhythms and sounds.

The face of the tree is the touching music. Eleven alumni of Chembai Music College, Palakkad, perform to the tune of sweet songs that have touched the hearts of music lovers without losing their originality and sweetness. Ajay, Rohin, Akshay, Pranav, Pratyush, Sarang, Vaishnav, Anshad, Shankar, Sreehari and Liju are the heroes of the tree.

This wonderful band is coming to Muscat to light up the hearts of all music lovers and bring out the nostalgia in you on May 26. Rush now to grab your tickets for the most awaited event of 2022 which will be held at Sheraton, a magical night awaits you.

"The hostel was the start to everything, the hostel life brought us together and our love for music bonded us stronger than ever, we found brotherhood in our friendship. We began singing together when we used to be in our rooms and then we got more serious with it because each of us was able to complement the music in our own ways but it made us feel we made it extremely unique," according to the band.

"We started posting on social media just as a fun thing but it grew from there and now our Instagram is constantly growing and currently at 180,000 followers from all across the world. And we also kept posting on YouTube and now we have a huge following on the platform with 331,000 followers," the music group added.

When asked about the meaning of the band's name and how the group was formed, the band said, "We originally did not have a name but as one would say destiny at a college that we were set to perform asked us what our band's name was. The spot we were playing at was right below the tree and our friend suggested the name everyone loved it and we got the name Aalmaram."

"We never knew the impact this band would have or whether we would be able to pursue our dreams in the scope that we are at now as the band was formed during the Covid pandemic period. It was really difficult to see this move becoming popular. We never performed at shows but our social media video went viral being reposted by some of the most renowned stars like Vijay Sethupathi and Hariharan. This really made us think that what we are doing is important."

"And now that we are finally out of the Covid pandemic period we are getting invites for the show and the response we are getting is truly satisfying." "We welcome you all to relive your college days and have an energetic and fun night with the guarantee of music that touches your soul," the band said in a statement.

NEW SUPER SPORTS CAR

Alfardan delivers first batch of Maserati MC20 in Oman

MUSCAT: Alfardan Motors, the official importer of Maserati in the Sultanate, has announced the delivery of the first Maserati MC20 units.

Charly Dagher, General Manager for Alfardan Sports Motors said, "We are very delighted to deliver the first MC20 units to our customers in Oman. Customers who ordered our new super sports car are among the first in the Middle East to receive their cars. With refined aerodynamics, spectacular performance, and luxurious amenities, the MC20 is built to impress and we are certain that our customers will enjoy their cars."

Its superb looks don't conceal an uncompromisingly sporty soul, with the powerful 3-litre 630 horsepower V6 Nettuno engine that delivers 0-100 km/h acceleration in 2.88 seconds and a top



speed over 326 km an hour. A patented, 100% Maserati engine, benefiting from the MTC (Maserati Twin Combustion) technology; the innovative combustion system developed by the Brand, evolved

from the pre-chamber technology used on Formula 1 powertrains. Conceived, designed and built entirely in-house.

MC20 is a Maserati built to stun, a Maserati that can storm round the

track but also perform superlatively on the road, with excellent drivability, comfort and safety, in an interior where efficiency combines with the luxury and exclusiveness integral to all the brand's models.



Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing



Toll-free **800 71 222** or
9275 5522





**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
PALETTE
FURNITURE
SOLUTIONS**

Call us on

99614066

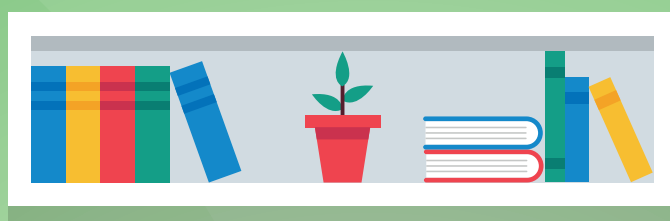


**HAVE A
DESIGN
IN MIND?
WE CAN
MAKE IT
FOR YOU!**

**Contact us on 99614066 to make
customized pallet furniture**



Business Owner?



Would you like to provide safe & simple e-payment solution for your customers?



www.thawani.om

Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to Download



WHATSAPP THE WORD
'SUBSCRIBE' TO
+968 92421421
TO GET DAILY NEWS
DELIVERED TO
YOUR PHONE

BREAKING
NEWS
DAILY NEWS
UPDATES

timesofoman.com