

HIS MAJESTY RETURNS

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Saturday evening after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he offered condolences on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. **>A2**



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HM CONGRATULATES UAE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE on the occasion of electing him as a President of the UAE. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health and wellbeing to Sheikh Mohammed. His Majesty prayed to the Almighty Allah to grant Sheikh Mohammed success in leading the UAE people towards further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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HM OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO UAE PRESIDENT



His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in Paradise

ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Saturday offered his condolences to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), sheikhs, Al Nahy-

an Family and the Emirati people on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

During their meeting at Abu Dhabi Airport this afternoon, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in Paradise and grant Sheikh Mohammed, his family and the UAE people fortitude to bear the loss.

Thanks and appreciation

In his turn, the UAE President expressed his utmost thanks and appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's sincere condolences and prayers. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to grant His Majesty good health and wellbeing and protect him and the Omani people against all harm.

>A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Pakistan Navy ship on goodwill visit

1 Pakistan Navy's ship Shamsheer visited Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat. **>A5**

SPORTS

Al Rawahi eyes podium in Jordan

2 Abdullah Al Rawahi eyes top finish for himself at the Jordan rally. **>A8**

MARKET

Oman-India trade ties on the upswing

3 Oman-India investment and trade are up despite the pandemic. **>B1**

WORKING HOURS

Flexible timings to increase productivity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Businessmen and working professionals have welcomed the decision to introduce flexible working hours for government employees in Oman as they feel it will lead to efficiency and better work-life balance.

Starting from today, Sunday, 15 May, employees in the state's administrative set-up must work for seven hours from the time they sign in, anytime between 7:30am and 4:30 pm. Each government

body can decide the schedule of its departments and calculate its employees' attendance from the time they sign in until they sign out.

The flexible duty system was announced in a decision by the Ministry of Labour pursuant to the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and is applicable to those government agencies to which the Civil Service Law is applicable.

"There are times when I need certain documents signed, but am not able to go to the ministry in the

mornings," said Saeed, an Omani businessman. "Afternoons work better, but at that time, the ministries are normally shut. With this new flexi time, it makes it easier and more convenient for us to get work done, especially when it comes to urgent situations."

"Often times, there are long queues and crowds of people at the ministries, because they are open only during certain hours, and there are many people who need to get their work done," added Ahmed, an HR manager for a firm. **>A3**



The Honourable Lady offers condolences on demise of Sheikh Khalifa

A2



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PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:08pm
Asr.....	3:31pm
Maghrib.....	6:46pm
Isha.....	8:05pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:01am

<FROM A1

His Majesty offers his sympathies

Delegation

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by an official delegation comprising His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan, His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Oufi, Head of the Private Office, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, Dr. Abdullah bin Nassir Al Har-rasi, Minister of Information and Dr. Sayyid Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the UAE.

-ONA



UAE VISIT

His Majesty the Sultan returns after UAE's visit

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Saturday evening after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he offered condolences on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Official delegation

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by an official delegation comprising His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister

for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan, His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al

Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Oufi, Head of the Private Office, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, Dr. Abdullah bin Nassir Al Har-rasi, Minister of Information and Dr. Sayyid Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Arab Emirates. -ONA

CONDOLENCES

The Honourable Lady offers tributes on passing away of Sheikh Khalifa

ABU DHABI: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman paid a visit today to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to offer condolences to the spouse of UAE President, spouse of the deceased, Al Nahyan family and the UAE people on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

While offering the condolences at Al Bateen Palace in Abu Dhabi, the Honourable Lady expressed her heartfelt sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in Paradise and grant his family fortitude to bear the loss. -ONA





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بنك الوطن عمان

Football fever grips Oman as FIFA World Cup trophy comes to town

Summer heat fails to deter fans of the beautiful game with many taking long drives to see the World Cup trophy first-hand

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Football fans in Oman spent a good part of Friday evening queuing up outside Royal Opera House Muscat for a sneak peek at the FIFA World Cup trophy, which came to the country as part of a promotional tour ahead of the 2022 version of the tournament.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup, which will be held in Qatar in November and December this year, is the first tournament in the Arab region, and the promotional tro-



RARE GLIMPSE: The FIFA World Cup trophy came to Oman on Friday afternoon, accompanied by former World Cup winner Gilberto Silva, who was part of the victorious Brazil team of 2002. He was met by ex-Oman goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi, as well as Oman Football Association President Salim Al Wahaihi and Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat. -Shahin Eriyengal

phy tour includes stopovers in a number of Arab countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, before reaching the host nation.

The trophy was available for

public viewing from 5pm to 9pm, but Hasan and his two football-mad sons were in the queue at 4pm, having driven all the way from Sohar.

"For a tournament as iconic

as this to come to the Gulf is just amazing – we are used to the World Cup being held in Europe, so now we understand how football fever grips them," said Hasan, who is a Brazil supporter, just like his boys.

The hot weather, with temperatures rising to 40 degrees during the daytime and remaining in the thirties as the sun sets, did little to deter fans of the beautiful game from seeing the World Cup trophy first-hand.

"I have been watching the World Cup ever since I was a child," said Yasser, who supports Spain. "To be able to see such an iconic piece of sporting culture that has inspired millions around the world, is just amazing. In a way, I am a bit sad that the World Cup is not being held this summer, because that would mean it is just a month away. Nevertheless, I am sure that when the tournament does begin, it will be spectacular."

Although there were many who got a chance to check out the World Cup, as well as the opportunity for innumerable poses, others sadly could not make their ambitions a reality owing to misunderstandings over reserving a spot to see the trophy: An online booking system had been set up for people to buy tickets for the showpiece event at ROHM, but many claimed they did not know such a facility even existed.

"Like myself, many of those

who turned up were confused by the presence of the ticketing system, as we were not even aware of the same," said Manoj, an expatriate who came with his wife and child. "There was no mention of it online, and no way to buy tickets at the venue. There were many others – locals and foreign nationals alike – who were unable to enter the venue because of this situation."

Fortunately, a kind Omani gave an extra ticket to Manoj's son – a Germany supporter – while the organisers were able to arrange for his wife and himself to check out the trophy.

"Truly, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I am glad my family and I were able to experience it," he said.

The FIFA World Cup trophy came to Oman on Friday afternoon, accompanied by former World Cup winner Gilberto Silva, who was part of the victorious Brazil team of 2002.

He was met by ex-Oman goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi, as well as Oman Football Association President Salim Al Wahaihi and Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat.

FLEXIBLE DUTY SYSTEM

< FROM A1 Units to provide assessment reports to Ministry of Labour

"With the ministries now open a bit longer, it gives us a bit more breathing room when it comes to approaching them when needed."

Direct services

The units that provide direct services to the public have to announce the time designated for their services, provided the time allocated is not less than 7 hours a day.

Each unit must coordinate with its employees to regulate the work flow.

Duty schedules should ensure the quality of services and factor in existing commitments such as workshops, meetings and training programmes.

"I am required to drop my children to school in the morning, which sometimes makes it difficult for me to be at work by 7:30,"

said an employee working in the government sector.

"Now, however, there is a bit more peace of mind, thanks to the flexible timings."

Duty schedules

Daily duty schedules should cover the official duty hours suitable for tasks of a special nature at the Units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, in accordance with de-

cisions issued under Article 61 of the Civil Service Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 120/2004.

The above units have to provide regular assessment reports to the Ministry of Labour about the application of the flexible duty system after the first six months of its implementation, citing its general effects and its economic, administrative and procedural impact on the employees.



MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING

Real estate trading in Oman touched OMR600mn in 2022 first quarter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Real estate worth nearly OMR600 million was traded in the first quarter of 2022, according to a report issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MOHUP).

Furthermore, more than 60,000 title deeds were also issued during this timeframe. Of the OMR587.5 million worth of real estate traded, OMR284.5 million were mortgages, OMR99.1 million accounted for sales contracts, and OMR3.9 million worth of swap contracts were executed.

The value of real estate traded decreased by 15 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, when OMR691.2 million worth of transactions were recorded. Much of the real estate activity was concentrated in Muscat, which accounted for 45 percent of the total trading volume, followed by South Batinah (15.3 percent). The remaining trades were distributed among the rest of the governorates.

At wilayat level, it was Wilayat Seeb that accounted for most real estate mortgages at OMR44.4 million, while Wilayat Bousher

led in terms of sales, at OMR75.6 million. The real estate bulletin released by MOHUP and published by Oman News Agency added that the value of the average real estate contract rose to reach OMR15,500 in this quarter, compared to OMR14,300 in the previous quarter. However, the average value of a mortgage contract declined from OMR60,300, down from OMR93,400.

More than 60,000 title deeds were issued in the first four months of 2022. At more than 12,000 deeds issued, the highest number of title deeds were in both Muscat and South Al Batinah. More than 10,000 deeds were issued in North Al Batinah, and more than 4,000 apiece in Ad Dhahirah and North Al Sharqiyah.

Nearly 2,800 deeds were sold in Dhofar, and more than 1,200 in Buraimi. Al Dakhiliyah accounted for more than 7,600 deeds, and South Al Sharqiyah for more than 3,500. Nearly 600 property deeds were issued in Musandam, and nearly 700 in Al Wusta. Furthermore, 212 properties were issued in the names of citizens from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.



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INAUGURATION OF THE LATE SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID'S CORNER AT NATIONAL MUSEUM



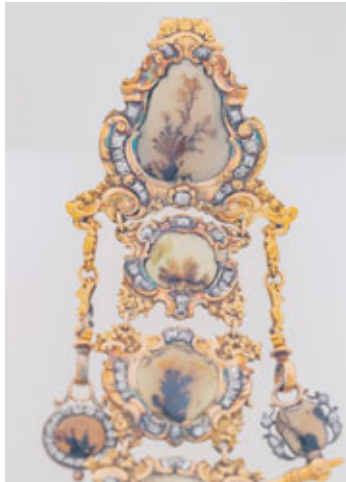
MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Belarab bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said inaugurated the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said's Corner at the National Museum's Renaissance Gallery today.

The corner conveys different aspects of the personality of the late Sultan and his role as an icon of peace and friendly relations with various countries of the world. The corner highlights late Sultan's birth and upbringing, his most prominent hobbies and interests, his university studies, his accession to the throne since the dawn of the Blessed Renaissance, his establishment of a state of institutions and law, his role in integrating heritage and modernity, his status as a symbol of wisdom and peace at the regional and international levels.

The Corner manifests a host of connotations and concepts that transcend the borders of this country. The edifice will portray the Sultan as a unique personality that highlighted his country and its cultural and civilisational values.

The official inauguration included selected musical paragraphs from the performance of the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra, and a brief visual presentation of the Corner, then the speech of the National Museum delivered by Jamal bin Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, followed by the inauguration of the Corner of Sultan Qaboos bin Said (the Dearest and Purest of Men).

The Corner includes several sections, namely: The Symbols of State, the Dearest and Purest of Men (his birth, upbringing, hobbies and interests), Oman's Renewed Renaissance, and the timeline of the Al Busaid Dynasty section starting from Sultan Ahmad bin Said Al Busaidi, Sultan Said bin Taimur section, the Supreme Commander section, the Man of Wisdom and Peace sec-



The Corner manifests a host of connotations and concepts that transcend the borders of this country. The edifice will portray the Sultan as a unique personality that highlighted his country and its cultural and civilisational values.



tion and the State of Institutions and Law section. Based on the quote of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur, "I want to look at the map of the world and not find a country that is not bound with ties of friendship with Oman", a special section named "the Mutual Relations" was dedicated to showcase a selective artefacts of state gifts that were presented to the late Sultan.

Among the most prominent Royal Artefacts displayed in the

Corner of Sultan Qaboos bin Said (the Dearest and Purest of Men), the exercise book of the late Sultan in English dated back to (1378 - 79 AH/1958 - 59 AD), a pocket watch presented by the Royal Family members to the late Sultan on the occasion of his marriage to HH Sayyida Kamla bint Tarik Al Said (1396 AH/1976 AD), the ceremonial uniform of Sultan Qaboos bin Said for the 40th National Day celebrations (18 Rabi' ath-Thani 1421 AH/21 July 2000

AD), the International Peace Award, presented by the late Jimmy Carter, former U.S. President, to the late Sultan, and a miniature portrait of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said presented by W.P. Mundy. The Renaissance Gallery commemorates the modern history of Oman since the advent of the era of the Al Busaid Dynasty, continuing to the era of the Renewed Renaissance of Oman under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. - ONA



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A GOODWILL VISIT

Pakistan Navy ship Shamsheer visits Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In pursuance of Pakistan Navy’s commitment to regional security and affirmation of its role as a force with global outlook, Pakistan Navy Ship Shamsheer (with embarked helicopter) visited Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat from May 10 to May 14, 2022.

This was a part of a goodwill visit during its Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) which is Pakistan Navy’s initiative of maintaining presence in the critical sea lanes in order to contribute to regional maritime security



and freedom of navigation.

During the stay at port, the ship hosted a reception onboard (while abiding by the SOPs and instructions issued by Supreme Committee dealing with COVID-19) which was attended by

diplomats including ambassadors & military attaches of various countries, senior officers from RNO and prominent Pakistani community members.

Officers and men from the Royal Navy of Oman visited the ship for professional briefings and interaction. The ship’s visit was aimed at strengthening friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan in general and Royal Navy of Oman and Pakistan Navy in particular as well as exploring new vistas for future collaborative initiatives between the two brotherly countries.



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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In Loving Memory

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GEORGE THOMAS

With profound grief we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved colleague

Mr. George Thomas who passed away on the 8th of May 2022.

George Thomas was a Father, Manager, Mentor, Supporter and a cherished friend to us all.

Please keep George Thomas’s family in your prayers & thoughts as they go through this difficult time.

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VOLTAMP ENERGY SAOG

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2022

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to present the un-audited results of Voltamp Energy SAOG for the first quarter ended 31st March 2022.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS:
Summary of performance of the Company (including Subsidiaries) is as follows:

Particulars	Three months period ended 31st March 2022	Three months period ended 31st March 2021	% Increase/ (decrease)
	RO	RO	
Revenue	6,340,615	6,241,320	1.6%
Other Income	8,818	75,319	(88.29%)
Expenses	(7,298,909)	(6,313,154)	(15.6%)
Profit Before Tax	(949,476)	3,485	(27345%)
Provision for Income Tax	138,589	(1,662)	8439%
Profit After Tax	(810,887)	1,823	(44581%)
Basic earnings per share (Bzs)	(9.961)	0.002	(44581%)
Net assets per share(OMR)	0.226	0.248	(8.9%)
Paid-up share capital	8,140,275	8,140,275	-

The company had a fair value income on its "Available for Sale" investment of RO 16,517 during this period as against an income of RO 33,033 during the same period in 2021. Total comprehensive loss after adjusting for fair value income is RO 794,370 as against RO 34,856 during the same period in 2021.

The performance during first quarter is impacted primarily due to the unprecedented increase in raw material prices for the orders in hand whereas the sales price remains firm on these orders. The company is making efforts to minimize further impact by asking price variation with such customers.

Future Outlook

The global economy is witnessing various fluctuations in the markets for raw materials which also includes primary raw material for our products including oil apart from the supply chain disruption and delays all over the world and more particularly in European region, while customers have started accepting the change in market dynamics and sales prices have started increasing to a greater extent in line with material price increase.

Based on the initiatives and actions done on new products and new markets particularly in adding 220 kV Power transformers, inverter duty transformers and E-House this is going to give a long term advantage to the company's growth. Further addition in this year is scheduled to be 400kV Power transformer and higher rating of Medium voltage switchgear would add to better future performance.

The company is committed to progress through continuous improvement in efficiency and productivity in its operations and innovation in its product manufacturing processes.

Given the current inflationary environment, the company's outlook for 2022 remains "cautiously optimistic."

Compliance

The company is in compliance with the current CMA code.

Thanks & Appreciation:

On behalf of the Board, I would like to convey our extreme thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Majesty's Government for the initiatives and incentives undertaken in support

of the Omani economy and for providing a secure and safe environment for industries to flourish and prosper.

The Board of Directors wish to register their sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion, Capital Market Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange Company SAOC, and the Omani Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

I also extend my sincere thanks to all our clients, employees, suppliers, bankers, and other stakeholders for their continued support to the company. Finally, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to our Shareholders for the confidence they have reposed in the Company and in its Board.

Aymen bin Hamad Al Busaidi

Chairman

Voltamp Energy SAOG

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME 3 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	3 months ended 31st March 2022 RO	3 months ended 31st March 2021 RO
Revenue	6,340,615	6,241,320
Cost of sales	(5,977,911)	(5,189,841)
Gross profit	362,704	1,051,479
Other income	8,356	74,921
Selling, administrative and general expenses	(1,127,724)	(944,587)
Impairment (loss) / reversal on trade receivables	(10,000)	(7,000)
Profit from operations	(766,664)	174,813
Finance income	462	398
Finance cost	(183,274)	(171,726)
Profit / (Loss) for the period before taxation	(949,476)	3,485
Taxation	138,589	(1,662)
Profit/(Loss) for the period after taxation	(810,887)	1,823
Basic earnings per share (Bzs)	-9.961	0.022
Net Income attributable to : Equity holders of the Parents	(684,023)	(5,195)
Non controlling interest	(126,864)	7,018
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss		
Investments at FVOCI - net change in fair value	16,517	33,034
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period, net of tax	(794,370)	34,857

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT

	31st March, 2022 RO	31st March, 2021 RO	31st December 2021 (Audited) RO
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9,305,240	9,668,968	9,493,615
Intangible Assets	369,290	476,231	412,086
Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	809,308	875,374	792,791
Right-of-use assets	992,534	855,395	1,007,811
Deferred tax asset	1,002,466	730,282	785,166
Total non-current assets	12,478,838	12,606,250	12,491,469
Current assets			
Inventories	11,699,627	8,929,110	11,001,869
Trade and other receivables	19,483,799	20,003,643	24,349,595
Amount due from related parties	-	128,561	-
Cash in hand and at banks	320,917	344,270	292,903
Total current assets	31,504,343	29,405,584	35,644,367
Total assets	43,983,181	42,011,834	48,135,836
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Share capital	8,140,275	8,140,275	8,140,275
Share premium	3,146,070	3,146,070	3,146,070
Fair value reserve	(1,957,990)	(1,891,923)	(1,974,507)
Legal reserve	3,031,496	3,026,000	3,031,496
Retained earnings	5,098,601	6,711,134	6,026,832
Equity attributable to the share holders of the Parent Company	17,458,452	19,131,556	18,370,166
Non controlling interest	949,186	1,066,874	1,076,050
Total equity	18,407,638	20,198,430	19,446,216
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Long term loan	545,116	943,482	644,683
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	871,328	747,541	898,810
End of service benefits	665,988	633,962	660,799
Total non-current liabilities	2,082,432	2,324,985	2,204,292
Current liabilities			
Dividend Payable	244,208	407,014	-
Bank borrowings	12,670,340	10,517,960	14,161,932
Current portion of long term loan	228,485	603,485	228,485
Trade and other payables	9,982,789	7,725,224	11,797,070
Current portion of lease liabilities	126,240	111,061	135,568
Income tax payable	83,758	119,790	5,065
Amount due to related parties	157,291	3,885	157,208
Total current liabilities	23,493,111	19,488,419	26,485,328
Total liabilities	25,575,543	21,813,404	28,689,620
Total equity and liabilities	43,983,181	42,011,834	48,135,836
Net assets per share	0.226	0.248	0.239



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UAE expanded economic reach under Khalifa’s leadership

The prudent leadership of the late Sheikh Khalifa contributed to advancing the stature of the UAE as a regional cornerstone for achieving security and stability and promoting peaceful coexistence



His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. – WAM

ABU DHABI: Under the rule of late His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE has buttressed up its position and proactive role on the regional and international scene, forging robust relations with the outer world on the basis of mutual respect and unwavering commitment to resolving global disputes through diplomacy.

The prudent leadership of the late Sheikh Khalifa contributed to advancing the stature of the UAE as a regional cornerstone for achieving security and stability and promoting peaceful coexistence.

The late president had his thoughtful vision for the Arab Gulf as a strategic region whose security and stability are fundamental to the security and stability of the world.

Under his leadership, UAE continued its significant role in deepening ties of cooperation between GCC states and their peoples, and effectively contributed to the

sustainable development drives adopted by the region.

In so doing, the late Sheikh Khalifa was keen on following in the footsteps of the UAE Founding Fathers, consolidating bridges of cooperation with all Arab nations across all fronts.

During the past years, in which many Arab countries faced major challenges, the UAE contributed to maintaining Arab security, providing all possible means of support for defending Arab causes.

During the global health crisis, triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE has been unwaveringly standing by Arab nations in addressing the repercussions through the dispatch of medical

supplies, food and other humanitarian aid and services.

Under late Sheikh Khalifa, the UAE forged strategic partnerships with emerging economic powers like China, India and South Korea, while continuing to powerhouses led by the United States and Russia. It also continued to strengthen cooperation relations with the European Union members, notably France, Britain, Germany and other influential international powers.

Thanks to his wise policy, the UAE has maintained constructive diplomatic relations with about 200 countries around the world, with the Emirates now hosting around 110 foreign embassies and

75 consulates on its soil. Today, the UAE passport ranked on the list of the world’s top 20 most powerful passports in the first quarter of 2022. The UAE passport ranked 15 this year and 16th in 2021 with a visa-free/visa-on-arrival score of 173. In 2020, the UAE passport was ranked 18th. UAE passport holders can now enter 175 destinations around the world visa-free.

Thanks to his leadership, the UAE established partnership ties with various international organisations and institutions, and played a prominent role in enabling these entities to carry out their responsibilities, foremost of which is maintaining international security and stability, promoting the language of tolerance and dialogue among peoples, and strengthening response to emergency humanitarian situations.

Recently, the UAE won for the second time in its history a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the period 2022-2023. In addition, UAE won membership on the UN Human Rights Council for the 2022-2024 term during elections that took place among members of the United Nations General Assembly, continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights on national, regional, and international levels.

The United Arab Emirates has cooperation agreements with more than 28 international organisations of the United Nations, which carry out about 80 advisory and technical missions on the Emirati soil.

At the humanitarian level, UAE under late Sheikh Khalifa forged ahead with providing foreign aid to various countries around the world with the aim of reducing poverty and helping countries and societies in need, as well as promoting peace, prosperity and stability, and stimulating economic growth in developing countries. Since establishment until mid-2021, the UAE provided more than AED320 billion in foreign aid to about 155 countries across the globe. – WAM



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RULER OF THE EMIRATE OF ABU DHABI



His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. – WAM

Mohamed bin Zayed receives condolences from world leaders

ABU DHABI: His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, received on Saturday phone calls from leaders of a number of brotherly and friendly countries, during which they offered their condolences on the passing of late His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Sheikh Mohamed received condolences from His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Highness Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait; Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia; President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; US President Joe Biden; and French President Emmanuel

Macron. The heads of state expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy to Sheikh Mohamed, the honorable Al Nahyan Family and the people of the UAE over this great loss. They noted the merits of the late UAE leader, his good deeds and his great role in serving his nation and humanity at large.

They spoke high of his significant contributions to strengthening the relations between the UAE and their countries, and hailed the globally-acclaimed civilisational and developmental drive he spearheaded in his country.

For his part, Sheikh Mohamed expressed his thanks and appreciation for the sincere feelings expressed during the phone calls, and prayed to God to provide the leaders of the these nations with continued good health and well-being. – WAM

OVER SHEIKH KHALIFA DEATH

Pakistan to observe three-day mourning

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has declared three-day national mourning as a mark of respect for the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) President, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who passed away on Friday. According to a press release issued by the Pakistan Foreign Office, the National Flag of Pakistan will be flown at half-mast during the national mourning, reported The Nation.

Pakistan Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said in a statement that the government and the people have received the news of the “sad demise of the UAE President with a deep sense of sorrow and grief”. In addition, Ahmed also men-

tioned that with Sheikh Khalifa's death, UAE has lost a visionary leader while the people of Pakistan have lost their sincere friend, reported The Nation.

Further, the spokesperson stated that the late UAE Sheikh Khalifa had played a primary role in the modernisation and development of the UAE. Sheikh Khalifa's leadership qualities and vision were important to UAE's rise to prominence as a major economic powerhouse.

Notably, the sterling contributions of the UAE President in humanitarian affairs and also towards promoting peace will be remembered in the pages of history, wrote The Nation. – ANI



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Post Graduate Teachers (PGT) - Biology & Accountancy	• Post Graduate with B.Ed. • Minimum 3 years of handling at Higher Secondary level in any curriculum.
Trained Graduate Teachers (TGT) – All Subjects	• Graduate / Post Graduate in the relevant subject with B.Ed. • Minimum 3 years of handling classes at Secondary level in any curriculum.
Hindi - Language Teachers	• Native speakers with B. Ed and Hindi as one of the main subjects in Masters or Graduation. • Minimum of 5 years of work experience is a must.
Swimming Coach P.E. Teacher Dance Teacher Music Teacher Art Teacher	• Swimming Coach (Only Female) with relevant qualification and experience in coaching School children. • Graduate/Post Graduate with relevant qualification and Experience. • Dance, Music, Art Teachers with a Diploma or Degree in the relevant fields. Teaching experience in schools will be preferred.
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- Only candidates who have done a regular study shall apply. (No distance or part time)
- Applicants who have applied in the last one year need not apply again.
- Interested applicants may email their latest CV and passport size photograph to career.teachers@isboman.com or please visit our Career page in our website www.isboman.com on or before 22nd May 2022.

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TENDER NOTICE
Ref: ISB/Tender/2022-23 dated 10/5/2022

Bids are invited from interested parties for the following tenders:

Sl. No.	Name of Tender	Tender No.	Qty.	Tender Documents available from	Tender Submission Date
01	Supply of Smart Boards	A001/2022-23	15	15/5/2022	30/5/2022
02	Supply of Computers	A002/2022-23	50	15/5/2022	30/5/2022
03	Supply of 3 D videos for CBSE grade 9&10	A003/2022-23	50	15/5/2022	30/5/2022
04	General Insurance	A004/2022-23	L/S	15/5/2022	30/5/2022
05	Medical Insurance	A005/2022-23	staffs	15/5/2022	30/5/2022
06	Waste water Collection	A006/2022-23		15/5/2022	30/5/2022
07	Supply of RF ID cards for Students and Staffs	A007/2022-23	3000 nos.	15/5/2022	30/5/2022

Tender documents can be collected from ISB office, till a day before the date of submission.

Enquiries and requests for clarifications regarding above Tenders shall be submitted through emails to principal@isboman.com

Sealed tenders, inscribing the tender name and number only, on the envelope to be dropped in the tender box placed in ISB, **on/before 01.00 PM** of the tender submission date; along with all necessary details and supporting documents. ISB reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.



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SPORTS



Young racing champion Al Rawahi eyes top finish in Jordan rally

The rally consists of 12 stages in Jordan River and Dead Sea area

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Talented young rally driver Abdullah Al Rawahi puts challenging target for himself to finish the Jordan International rally, the fourth round of middle East rally championship at top and to reach the podium at the end of the race.

Al Rawahi on Skoda Fabia R5 setting beside Jordanian co-driver Atta Al Hamood is ranked currently in position 3 overall MERC standing after leaving last rally in Kuwait who been forced for early retirement due to technical problem and engine overheating of the car.

The rally consists of 12 stages in Jordan River and Dead Sea area, where 3 stages which is repeated 3 time will be held on Friday 20 th of this month and the remaining 3 stages will be repeated 3 times also on Saturday. Abdullah Al Rawahi who owned



54 points in this championship before entering this rally and who is sponsored by Ministry of culture, sports, youth and Sohar International and Al Manar Financial investments and Motel, mentioned that he will do his best efforts to come back with good result from Jordan and he

is looking forward to start the rally as he does know very well Jordan terrain and stages which he will definitely get the support from his Jordanian base and citizen co-driver Atta Al Hamood to compete in big championship like this.”

This rally will skip the partici-

pation of the other Omani driver Zakaria Al Amri who registered in the entry list in the beginning.

He suddenly withdrew due to lack of financing and support to this participation in Jordan rally as the rally car needs a lot of accessories and parts during the rally.



2023 AFC Asian Cup football to be shifted from China

BEIJING: The 2023 Asian Cup football tournament will be relocated from China to a new host, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the tournament’s Local Organising Committee announced on Saturday.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese Organizing Committee cannot pledge at this moment to hold next year’s Asian Cup competition under a fully open model. After negotiations between the AFC, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) and the Local Organizing Committee, a joint decision has been made to remove the 2023 Asian Cup from China to a new host which is to be confirmed soon,” read a statement published by the Chinese Organizing Committee.

“The Organizing Committee hereby expresses sincere gratitude to the AFC, all host cities and the whole society for their great support during the tournament’s preparations,” the statement added.

The AFC said in a separate statement that it appreciates that

China, the CFA and the Local Organizing Committee have made “this very difficult but necessary decision in the collective interests of the AFC Asian Cup 2023, which has also provided the AFC the required time to assess the situation regarding the hosting of the AFC Asian Cup 2023.”

“The AFC worked closely with the CFA and the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Local Organizing Committee during the preparations and several milestones were achieved, including the launch of the tournament logo and the unveiling of the newly completed Shanghai Pudong Football Stadium last year,” the Asian football governing body added.

Details about the next steps related to the hosting of the Asian Cup will be announced in due course, the AFC said.

China was awarded the hosting right of the 2023 Asian Cup in June 2019. The 24-team competition was scheduled to be hosted across 10 Chinese cities. **Xinhua**

BASKETBALL TOURNEY

Mediacom, DB Schenker emerge champions in Grand 5x5 basketball

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mediacom and DB Schenker claimed the titles in the A division and B division respectively during the finals of the Grand Group of Companies 5x5 basketball tournament at the Al Amal Sports Complex on Friday. The tournament concluded in the presence of the chief guest of honour, Dr Mohammad bin Humaid al Alawi, Director of Finance and Administrative Affairs at Jalaan Bani Bu Ali Hospital, and the tournament founder Ali bin Humaid al Alawi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Grand Global Investment.

Also present were Qais al Hinai, representative of the technical sponsor of Omantel, Rabie Awlad Thani, Secretary of the Oman Basketball Association, Hanif al Balushi, Chairman of

the Competitions Committee of the Oman Basketball Association, representatives from the Philippine Embassy headed by Honourable Labour Attache Gregorio Abalos and the heads of sponsoring companies.

The first final match of Division B started with the matches of the Travel Buddies Holidays team and the DB Schenker team at 1 pm. The match was characterised by strength and rivalry between the two teams, which lasted for two hours, in which the DB Schenker team clinched a deserved victory by 95-84 and became the B division champions. The second final match of division A also witnessed competition and excitement between the Octal team and the Mediacom team, which started at 4 pm and ended at 5.45 pm.

The Mediacom team won with a score of 78-69 and was crowned the division A champions.

The tournament ended with the Omani Royal Anthem and the Philippine National Anthem, and then the chief guest of honour presented trophies to the first three teams of the division A and division B. Representatives of the Oman Basketball Association, Omantel Communications Company and representatives of the Philippine Embassy distributed individual prizes to the best players, technical officials and organisers of the tournament.

At the end, Ali bin Humaid al Alawi congratulated the winning teams in the tournament, and extended thanks and gratitude to all the organisers, the FMB Committee, OPBL and the sponsors of the participating teams for the success of the tournament.



CHAMPIONS: The tournament concluded in the presence of the chief guest of honour, Dr Mohammad bin Humaid al Alawi, Director of Finance and Administrative Affairs at Jalaan Bani Bu Ali Hospital, and the tournament founder Ali bin Humaid al Alawi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Grand Global Investment

UNITY CUP T20

Omani cricketer to play in T20 tourney in USA

MUSCAT: Oman’s experienced cricketer Sufyan Mehmood is set to showcase his potential at the forthcoming Unity Cup T20 tournament in Maryland, USA, from May 24-31.

The allrounder, who represented Oman in the past, has been performing consistently in the short-format of the game.

Organised by 22 Yards Cricket Club in the USA, this private tournament is organising the second edition.

A total prize money of US\$130,000 is on offer for the 16 participating teams.

Sufyan will be rubbing shoulders with international cricketers like Unmukt Chand, Mohammad Asif, Corey Anderson and Liam Plunkett to name a few.

Sufyan has been flying Oman’s flag high in various T20 and T10 tournaments in the past, having featured in teams during tournaments in Nepal, Qatar, Singapore and USA.

He represented Renaissance CT in the domestic league and was among the top-three wicket-takers in the inaugural Oman D10 league held in March, 2022.

Ahead of his trip, Sufyan thanked Renaissance CT management and his employers for giving him an opportunity to compete with some of the best players in the world.

FOOTBALL

Romelu Lukaku lashes out on Chelsea exit rumours before FA Cup final against Liverpool



LONDON: Romelu Lukaku on Friday rubbished the statements from his agent in which the latter claimed that the striker wants to hold talks with Chelsea this summer over his future at the Premier League club.

Lukaku joined Chelsea in a club-record 97.5m pounds transfer from Inter Milan last summer. The 29-year-old has struggled this season as he has scored just 15 goals in 42 games across all competitions for the Blues.

The striker’s agent Federico Pastorello in an interview with

La Repubblica admitted his client had encountered “problems” at Stamford Bridge.

He said, as per goal.com: “Given the figures of the transfer, no one could have expected such a situation. I’m not the one to discuss technical choices, but it is obvious that there was a problem.”

“However, figures must be put into context. He is the best scorer in the team despite getting less playing time than his teammates,” the agent added.

After this interview by Pas-

torello, Lukaku took to Instagram and said: “Never ever will I let someone speak for me.”

“I kept my mouth shut and focused on helping the team and end the season in the best way possible. So if someone out there trying to say something about me and the club... not in my name,” he added.

Chelsea will be back at Wembley to face Liverpool in a cup final for the second time in the space of a few months, this time with the FA Cup up for grabs on Saturday. **ANI**

ITALIAN OPEN



Novak Djokovic downs Felix Auger-Aliassime to set semi-final clash with Casper Ruud

ROME: World Number 1 Novak Djokovic on Friday defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime to reach the semi-final of the Italian Open 2022.

The five-time champion brushed past Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-5, 7-6 (7/1) in straight sets in a tough match at the ATP Masters 1000 event. Djokovic and Auger-Aliassime were neck and neck until the Serb broke to lead 5-3 but the eighth seed fought back. Djokovic eventually sealed up the opening set in style.

The Canadian brought the crowd to their feet by fighting back and taking the second set to a tie-break but his brave resistance finally came to an end.

Djokovic will next face Norwe-

gian fifth seed Casper Ruud who continued his prevailing form on clay and clinched a hard-fought 7-6(7), 7-5 win against Canada’s Denis Shapovalov.

Djokovic will be eying 1000th tour-level victory on Saturday and a win on Sunday in the final. This will ensure he makes it a record-extending 38th ATP Masters 1000 title.

Stefanos Tsitsipas made it to the semis by defeating Jannick Sinner 7-6 (7/5) 6-2 in a thrilling clash between two powerful players.

Tsitsipas will face Germany’s Alexander Zverev, who scored a comfortable win over Cristian Garin, the only unseeded player in the tournament. Zverev won 7-5, 6-2. **ANI**

INTERIOR DESIGN EXPO

From May 16 to 18, trade exhibitions and conferences organiser Al Nimr Expo will fully open its doors to the trade and business community for the 8th edition of Interior Design & Furnishing Expo (IDF Oman) at Halls, 3, 4 and 5 of the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



INDIA'S EXPORTS RISE

India's merchandise exports rose by 30.7 per cent year-on-year to \$40.19 billion in April 2022 as compared to \$30.75 billion in the corresponding month of the last year, led by strong growth in sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals, the government data showed.

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Competitive profit rates starting from **4.95%**

94.8% jump in Indian businesses registering with Invest Easy portal

Today, Indian businesses are operating in multiple industries across every region of Oman with an estimated investment of \$7.5 billion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Trade and investment flow between India and Oman have remained on a positive trajectory despite the pandemic. This can be seen in the 94.8 per cent increase in the number of Indian businesses registering with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion's (MoCIIP's) Invest Easy portal, up from 450 in 2019 to 877 in 2021.



TRADE MISSION: Led by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and accompanied by over 40 high-profile Omani organisations, the delegation visited New Delhi and Mumbai to develop new business opportunities.

Today, Indian businesses are operating in multiple industries across every region of Oman with an estimated investment of \$7.5 billion. While bilateral trade also witnessed robust growth increasing from \$5.4 billion in 2020-21 to \$9.9 billion in 2021-2022, an

impressive annual growth of 82.6 per cent. This was stated by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion which wrapped up a successful trade and investment mission to India on Friday. Led by Qais bin Mohammed Al

Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and accompanied by over 40 high-profile Omani organisations the delegation visited New Delhi and Mumbai to develop new business opportunities and strengthen investment and trade ties in manu-

facturing, healthcare, renewables and tourism.

After an intensive series of trade and investment-focused meetings with Indian ministers and leading industrialists earlier in the week, on Thursday Minister Al Yousef held talks with senior officials at Invest in India and Niti Aayog, the Indian Government's public policy think tank. He then went on to deliver opening remarks at the 10th Oman-India Joint Business Council meeting at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

Commenting on the important commercial relationship between Oman and India, Minister Al Yousef remarked, "As Oman's economy moves forward under the wise guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and given the new opportunities already opened up by Oman Vision 2040 we are seeing a growing number of Indian SMEs and investors looking to leverage Oman's strategic location and world-class transport infrastructure to enter the GCC and African markets."

"This is borne out by the recent trade and investment figures, but we cannot take this ongoing inter-

est for granted. We are fully committed to encouraging new and impactful collaborations in health, renewables, tourism and manufacturing, sectors where our nations have complementary capabilities," he added. "This is the message I delivered loud and clear at Thursday's Joint Business Council meeting and indeed I was most gratified by the positive response this received," Al Yousef said.

Highlighting the growth potential for Oman-made goods in India, the Minister noted, "The 172 per cent increase in our 2021 non-oil exports to India demonstrates the appetite for Omani products with Indian consumers. From discussions held during this trip, it is clear this is very much the tip of the iceberg in terms of demand, particularly given the growth of India's middle class. The prize is substantial."

"On our return, my team and I will be engaging with Omani exporters to encourage them to seize the opportunities and capitalise on the wealth of possibilities presented by the Indian market given that by 2050 it will be the world's third-largest importer, following China and the United States," he further added.

PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT OMAN



PDO celebrates 85th anniversary of foundation day

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) celebrated the 85th anniversary of its foundation in 1937 during its annual PDO Day event.

The occasion is held every year to mark the anniversary of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's historic official visit to the Company's Bait Mina Al Fahal headquarters building in 2013. The event, which was held under the auspices of Eng. Salim Bin Nasser Al Aufi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, recognised the achievements and contributions of staff in both technical and non-technical fields.

The company also launched a set of commemorative stamps produced by Oman Post marking momentous years in its history including its establishment in 1937 and the first export of oil 55 years ago in 1967.

And guests and employees enjoyed a photo exhibition marking PDO's past, present and future.

Eng. Salim Al Aufi said: "As evident through its very proud history, PDO has played a central role in the development of the Sultanate over many decades. It was a pleasure to attend PDO Day which provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on these spe-

cial milestones of the Company and to recognise the talented Omani professionals who were at the forefront of many of these success stories."

Managing Director Steve Phimister said: "PDO has an illustrious history and I know we will build on those solid foundations as we enter a new era and capture the opportunities that come with the Energy Transition."

"There is much to celebrate in our history and there are also exciting times ahead, as we leverage technology and our capabilities to evolve into a fully integrated energy company. In full alignment with the Oman Vision 2040, we will grow our core hydrocarbon business and develop new low-Carbon value-chains, thereby sustaining our contribution to Oman for decades to come."

During the event, PDO revealed its 85th-anniversary logo to celebrate its continuous development and evolution as it embarks on its decarbonisation journey with a greater emphasis on renewables, such as solar and wind.

The Oil North Directorate, Gas Directorate and Project Delivery team won the Gold Technical Award for completing the Yibal Kuff mega project, the most technically complex in PDO history.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENT SURVEY

Global industry seen accelerating investment in energy efficiency

DUBAI: Global industry is accelerating its investment in energy efficiency in the next five years as the crucial race towards Net Zero intensifies, a new survey finds.

The Energy Efficiency Investment Survey 2022 comes in the wake of a recent UN report calling for concerted action from countries to cut greenhouse emissions at a faster rate.

The global survey conducted by Sapio Research targeted 2,294 companies in 13 countries, ranging in size from 500 to 5,000 or more employees. It offers the latest snapshot of how industries across the world are planning to invest in energy efficiency measures to achieve Net-Zero.

A key finding is that more than half (54 per cent) of the companies



are already investing, while 40 per cent plan to make energy efficiency improvements this year.

"Significant population and economic growth will accelerate climate change to a critical point

if governments and industry don't intensify their efforts. Growing urbanization and rising geopolitical tension will also make energy security and sustainability even more critical," said Tarak Mehta, President of ABB Motion.

"Improving energy efficiency is an essential strategy to address these potential crises. Therefore, the acceleration in investment highlighted by this survey is positive news."

Industrial motor-driven systems, in particular, hold huge potential for energy efficiency measures. Almost two-thirds of the survey respondents are upgrading their equipment to best-in-class efficiency ratings, such as high-efficiency electric motors controlled by variable speed drives.

The report also highlights areas of concern. Half of the respondents listed cost as the biggest barrier to improving energy efficiency and 37 per cent felt downtime was a barrier. Also concerning is that only 41 per cent of respondents felt they had all the information needed regarding energy efficiency measures.

"It is vital to help stakeholders across the industry understand that Net Zero need not mean net cost. Both suppliers and governments have a role to play in promoting the message that adopting energy-efficient technology offers a fast return on investment while cutting CO2 emissions. The bottom line is that energy efficiency is good for business and good for the environment," said Mehta.

ORGANISATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES

Opec lowers global economic, oil demand forecasts

VIENNA: The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) revised its forecasts for this year's global economic growth and oil demand, citing COVID-19-induced restrictions and geopolitical tensions.

The oil alliance said in its monthly oil market report that the world economy is expected to grow by 3.5 per cent in 2022, compared to its forecast of 3.9 per cent a month ago.

Opec said notable challenges facing the global economy include "geopolitical tensions, the continued pandemic, rising inflation, aggravated supply chain issues, high sovereign debt levels in many regions and expected monetary tightening by central banks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and the euro area."



The oil-producer group also forecasts the global oil demand this year to increase by 3.4 million barrels per day year on year, down

300,000 barrels per day from last month's assessment.

Oil demand in 2022 is expected to be "impacted by ongoing geo-

political developments in Eastern Europe, as well as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions," Opec said in its report. -ANI



MARKET



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Interior Design Expo to begin from May 16

IDF Oman, the only dedicated show for the Sultanate's design industry, leverages the recovery and positive developments in the construction and tourism sectors, which are spurring the need for design spaces that require design-related materials, furnishings, and products, services, creative and innovative solutions and technologies

Times News Service

MUSCAT: From May 16 to 18, trade exhibitions and conferences organiser Al Nimr Expo will fully open its doors to the trade and business community for the 8th

edition of Interior Design & Furnishing Expo (IDF Oman) at Halls, 3, 4 and 5 of the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre. IDF Oman, the only dedicated show for the Sultanate's design industry, leverages the recovery

and positive developments in the construction and tourism sectors, which are spurring the need for design spaces that require design-related materials, furnishings, and products, services, creative and innovative solutions and technologies.

Visitors will expect to see about 200 Oman and international companies showcasing the best and the latest of their products and services — from bathroom, bedroom design accessories, furniture and furnishings, lighting, paint and coatings, tiles and stones to commercial fit out interiors, outdoor design and décor and smart products, services, technologies and equipment.

For three days, IDF Oman will host industry leaders, interior and exterior design companies, manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, decision-makers, buyers, investors, industry professionals and end buyers who will come together to learn as well as share emerging sector trends, new projects, forge

new partnerships, share insights, ideas and plans for the continuous recovery of the industry.

Other attractions are Art Space, an exhibit of traditional and contemporary Omani art, paintings, sculptures, and photographs by budding and professional artists, hobbyists, designers, painters, creators and art students and Design Talks, a seminar on relevant topics presented by design experts, architects, interior designers, urban planners and design industry professionals.

Nader Abbas, Managing Director, Al Nimr Expo, says, "We are encouraged to see that businesses are eager to reconnect with the industry after a pandemic hiatus and we are positive that this show will pave the way for a lot of business, investment and partnership opportunities, new businesses and new markets. We invite everyone to visit IDF Oman for their sourcing requirements."

IDF Oman will be open from 2:00 to 9:30pm.

EXHIBITION



Kawasaki introduces humanoid robot technology in Japan

TOKYO: At an exhibition of industrial robots held in Tokyo, Kawasaki Heavy Industries attracted attention by developing a humanoid robot that works like humans outside factories.

This is a humanoid robot that is supposed to work in a high-level space. "Kawasaki Heavy Industries is the first manufacturer in Japan to produce industrial robots, licensed in 1968 from Unimation in the United States. It has a history of more than 50 years since then, and I am proud of the technological capability which is cultivated over a very long history," Seiji Amazawa, a representative of Kawasaki Heavy Industries said.

"We have Group Vision 2030, which is appealing for robotics technology in two areas: safety and security in remote societies and mobility in the future. In the area of the safety and security of remote society, we are exhibiting the "HINOTORI," a Medic-aid or a surgical support robot," Amazawa said.

"Throughout the development process, we are developing a robot that has the operability to satisfy the doctor's demand while receiving an opinion from various doctors. So far, it has already been used in about 150 surgeries. There is an inspection system that automates PCR testing in the corona pandemic with a robot, and the results can be received very quickly by automatically inspecting samples brought in by human work," Amazawa added.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries is also developing a system that remotely controls factory robots.

"We will provide a platform with the concept that workers at a distant workplace are able to work by operating robots. This is a simple demonstration. We're going to sort the balls of two different colours," Amazawa said.

"This time, we are offering such an experiential demonstration where you can work at a distant place such as by operating a robot from the living room of the home to work robot in a factory," Amazawa further said.

"In the global robot industry, 90 per cent of the world's market is outside of Japan, so we are very focused on the overseas market such as China, the United States, and Europe. In this exhibition, we are proposing a service robot for future life. But it is still mainly for industrial robots to be installed and used in factories," Amazawa explained.

"We have the slogan 'from industrial robot manufacturers to comprehensive robot manufacturers'. This comprehensive robot manufacturer concept is penetrating operating robots in this exhibition such as various delivery robots and remote control robots. We believe that there will be more scenes robots leave the factory and work in various places outside the factory in the future," Amazawa said.

Kawasaki's robot technology aims to create coexistence between robots and human beings. -ANI

GOVERNMENT DATA

India's exports rise 30.7% to \$40.19bn in April

NEW DELHI: India's merchandise exports rose by 30.7 per cent year-on-year to \$40.19 billion in April 2022 as compared to \$30.75 billion in the corresponding month of the last year, led by strong growth in sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals, the government data showed.

India's merchandise imports in April 2022 surged to \$60.30 billion, which is an increase of 30.97 per cent over imports of \$46.04 billion in April 2021, according to data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The merchandise trade deficit in April 2022 surged to \$20.11 billion as against \$15.29 billion in April 2021, which is an increase of 31.50 per cent.

After a record performance in the last financial year, the exports continued robust growth in April 2022 with merchandise exports scaling a new high by crossing \$40 billion. This is an increase of over 30 per cent vis-a-vis April 2021, the ministry said.

Petroleum products (127.69 per cent), Electronic goods (71.69 per cent), cereals (60.83 per cent), coffee (59.38 per cent), processed food (38.82 per cent) and leather products (36.68 per cent) exports led the way in achieving the record performance. Services performed extremely well to reach \$27.60 billion, which is an increase of 53 per



cent over April 2021.

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April 2022 are estimated to be \$67.79 billion, exhibiting a growth of 38.90 per cent over the same period last year.

Overall imports in April 2022 are estimated to be \$75.87 billion,

exhibiting a positive growth of 36.31 per cent over the same period last year. Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports in April 2022 were \$28.46 billion, registering a positive growth of 19.89 per cent over non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports of \$23.74 billion in April 2021.

Non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery (gold, silver & precious metals) imports were \$35.68 billion in April 2022 with a positive growth of 34.37 per cent over Non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery imports of \$26.55 Billion in April 2021, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry data showed. -ANI



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REPORT

Global semiconductor revenue to grow 13.6% in 2022

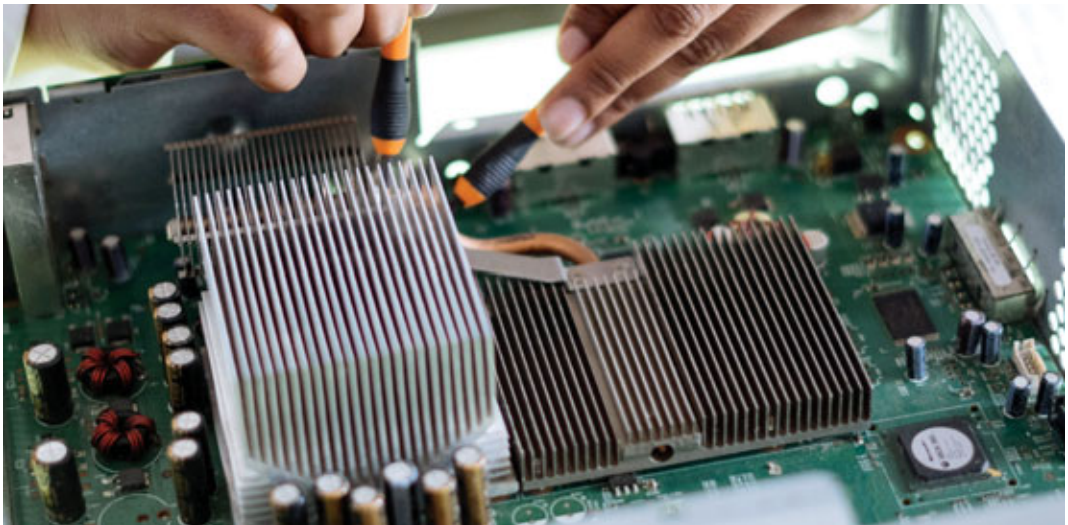
DUBAI: Global semiconductor revenue is projected to total \$676 billion in 2022, an increase of 13.6 per cent from 2021, according to Gartner, Inc.

"The semiconductor average selling price (ASP) hike from the chip shortage continues to be a key driver for growth in the global semiconductor market in 2022, but overall semiconductor component supply constraints are expected to gradually ease through 2022 and prices will stabilise with the improving inventory situation," said Alan Priestley, research vice president at Gartner.

Overall, the outlook for global semiconductor revenue has increased from the previous quarter's forecast by \$37 billion, to \$676 billion. Automotive applications will continue to experience component supply constraints - particularly in microcontrollers (MCUs), power management integrated circuits (PMICs) and voltage regulators - extending into 2023. Slowing growth in PCs, smartphones and server end markets is expected to gradually slow down the growth of semiconductor revenue as semiconductor supply and demand gradually comes into balance during 2022.

Chip shortage concerns continue in some sectors

The chip shortage will continue to be a concern for the supply chain of electronics equipment in 2022 and will have different effects in major electronic equipment markets depending on different semi-



conductor device types. Most semiconductor shortages eased in PCs and smartphones as production moved into the offseason combined with increased semiconductor supply in the market. However, some semiconductor device types will continue to be in shortage in the automotive supply chain through late 2022.

"Although unit production of automotive vehicles will grow below expectation at 12.5 per cent in 2022, semiconductor device ASPs are expected to remain high due to continued tight supply driving the automotive semiconductor market to double-digit growth (19 per cent) in 2022," said Priestley. "Automotive HPC, EV/HEV and advanced driver assistance systems will lead the growth in automotive electronics sectors through the forecast period."

Memory market to lead semiconductor revenue growth in 2022

The memory market will remain the largest semiconductor device market through the forecast period and is projected to account for 31.4 per cent of the overall semiconductor market in 2022. DRAM and NAND are expected to be in undersupply in the second quarter of 2022. The NAND market will enter oversupply in the fourth quarter of 2022, while DRAM is expected to move into oversupply in the second half of 2023. The combination of megabyte shipments and higher annual average ASPs this year will sustain revenue growth for both markets in 2022, with projected growth of 22.8 per cent for DRAM and 38.1 per cent growth for NAND.

Migration to 5G expected to spur growth

Semiconductor revenue for smartphones is forecast to increase 15.2 per cent in 2022, as 5G smartphone unit production is expected to grow by 45.3 per cent in 2022, reaching 808 million units and representing 55 per cent of all smartphones produced.

Aggressive migration from 4G to 5G from major smartphone chipset vendors has temporarily led to a shortage in 4G system-on-chip integrated baseband ICs which began in the second half of 2021.

Rising 5G-integrated baseband IC inventory will result in declining prices for 5G smartphones and accelerate the penetration of 5G further through the forecast period.

5 WAYS TO MAKE A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION AT A NEW JOB



REMEMBER, IT'S EASIER TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION THAN TO CORRECT A NEGATIVE ONE.



Each organization has its own culture, eccentric drama and politics which can be overwhelming on the first day at work. But it need not be - and it is here that your first impression matters!

As much as a job is about the quality of your work, it is also your interpersonal relationships that can help take you a long way. Therefore, it is essential to build the right contacts at the very beginning of your time at an organization. The following are some basic suggestions to help you tip-toe your way around the pitfalls and build your network:

1 KNOW THE TERRITORY

Talk to the people who work or had previously worked at your new organization. Learn a trick or two, combine them with your previous work experience, and give it your best shot accordingly!

2 BE PRESENT

Your mental presence is as important as the physical one. Catering to your cellphone more than the environment right in front does not only make you seem unavailable but is also a sign of professional truancy.

3 BODY LANGUAGE

Your body language is the very first thing that is noticed before you even utter a word. It is important that you look, amiable, confident and calm. Smiling is another important aspect; it shows that you are enjoying being with others.

4 SHARE PLAUSIBLE PERSONAL DETAILS, DO NOT OVERSHARE

Sharing personal details about yourself like your interests, pets, and hobbies is a great way to help keep the conversation light, while also creating a sense of authenticity and warmth. Any controversial topic or comment should be avoided.

5 ASK FOR HELP

If you are unsure about a thing at work; ask! It will not only help you to avoid landing yourself in an unnecessary mess but will also help create a network. People like being a helping hand, and hate know-all!



IN-PICTURES





Exhibition on Ishtar Gate held in Pergamon Museum in Berlin
Picture shows the Ishtar Gate at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, capital of Germany. [Xinhua](#)



Summer farming across China
The fields in Jiaye Village of Congjiang County in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province. [Xinhua](#)



Miao ethnic people start new life after poverty alleviation resettlement
Picture shows a view of the resettlement area of the Miao ethnic group in Heku Town of Fenghuang County, central China's Hunan Province. [Xinhua](#)



Resident uses Dulong blanket weaving skills to increase family's incomes
Dulong resident Li Wenshi (left) and her family members show the Dulong blankets in Dizhengdang Village of Dulongjiang Township, Gongshan Dulong and Nu Autonomous County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. [Xinhua](#)



Baby formula shortage worsening in US prompts federal intervention
Picture shows shelves of baby formula at a store in Virginia, the United States. [Xinhua](#)

People visit digital art exhibition in Indonesia
People visit a digital art exhibition themed 'Saving the Future of Our Water Resource' in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. [Xinhua](#)





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Bank Muscat launches limited edition Visa Prepaid Card

The new limited edition Visa Prepaid Card was launched to celebrate the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022

MUSCAT: In celebration of the countdown to the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced the launch of an exclusive limited edition Visa Prepaid Card in part-

nership with Visa. Customers can apply via Mobile or Internet Banking for the Visa card, which has been designed as a collector's item and can be used for both local and global payments. On this occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashaani, General Manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said: "We are delighted to launch the new limited edition Visa Prepaid Card to celebrate the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022, thanks to Visa. Bank Muscat Visa Prepaid Cards continue to lead local and regional benchmarks in providing a secure and convenient payment option for our customers. The growth of Bank Muscat's Visa Prepaid Cards has been impressive over the years, and we continue our leadership in launching Visa payment products which fulfil the financial needs of our customers."

It is important to note that the Visa Prepaid Card features contactless payment technology and can be managed easily through the bank's Mobile Banking app or Internet Banking. Customers can apply for a personalised card with its unique design, load funds and top it up instantly, and also review transactions to manage their expenses. In addition, the cards can be used for secure online payments apart from PoS payments and ATM withdrawals.

Popular option
Bank Muscat's contactless Visa Prepaid cards are a popular option for customers to complete their low-value point-of-sale (POS) transactions at groceries and supermarkets with a simple tap of the POS terminal without the need to enter their identification num-

ber (PIN) for transactions up to OMR40. Recently, Bank Muscat launched an option for customers to apply for Visa Prepaid Cards through the Internet or Mobile banking. The new process continues the bank's customer-centric strategy of launching new payment products and services that improve financial inclusion and offer new, convenient and highly secure e-payment options. The bank has stated that it will continue to launch new digital payment services and platforms to further enhance the ease of banking and customer convenience. It must be noted that contactless cards feature best-in-class security for PoS and online transactions. In case of any loss or misplacement of the card, it can be blocked immediately by calling the Bank Muscat Contact Centre.



OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Harvard Business School Club of GCC hosts OIA president

MUSCAT: Harvard Business School Club for the Gulf Cooperation Council hosted the president of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, President of Oman Investment Authority, explained that in the world of business and economy, we must learn from great leaders who have achieved significant success. Leadership is the beating heart of all organisations and some have tended to define it as a set of personal qualities, while others have tended to define it as a mandate and official authority, while other studies state that leadership is the behaviour, interaction and influence one has on others, this came during Al Murshidi's speech while hosting an open dialogue session at a gathering organised by at Harvard Business School Club of the GCC, that was represented by its chair Sulaiman bin Hamad Al Harthi. Al-Murshidi added in the open dialogue session, "We often meet and rave about the success of projects that we have worked on, whether in governmental or semi-governmental institutions, but we rarely talk about the people behind those successes that are comparable if not superior to the hidden soldiers behind the scenes of global success stories. We make a continuous effort to vigilantly study global experiences that give us ideas and inspire us in the same context via looking at the mechanism and vision through which the successful steps were implemented so that we can apply the same in our institutions. To attract, develop, train and retain talented people to create leaders for the future. Our investment strategy depends, above all, on the competence and experience of our employees, who are one of the most important factors for our success. Whoever has the qualities of a leader has a passion for change. Al-Murshidi is one of the most acclaimed leaders in the Sultanate. He has extensive professional experience, during which he held leadership positions in several institutions and companies, and contributed to the establishment of many commercial, investment and industrial companies in the region. His Excellency's career spans more than 30 years. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Geophysics from the United States of America in 1989 and then obtained a Master's degree in Petroleum Geology from Scotland in 1996. Al-Murshidi began his career in Petroleum Development of Oman,



and then rose to leadership positions in a number of institutions, including the Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Company and one of the private colleges in the Sultanate. On the 25th of November 2012, Royal Decree No. 58/2012 was issued appointing him as the CEO of the State General Reserve Fund with a special degree, and on June 8th, 2020 another Royal Decree No. (62/2020) was issued appointing him as President of the Oman Investment Authority with the rank of Minister. Since its inception in June 2020, Oman Investment Authority succeeded in implementing a number of programmes and procedures aimed at creating clear governance that establishes a new stage of operational and financial performance for the companies whose ownership has devolved to it in accordance with Royal Decree No. 61/2020, indicating that the corporate governance charter will achieve transparency and the principle of responsibility and accountability and avoid conflict of interest for members of boards of directors, adherence to the rules of business conduct, maximizing the value of shareholders' rights and ensuring equal treatment for them, in addition to improving the efficiency of companies and enabling them to operate commercially and economically. OIA has also secured new international investments to achieve revenues that enhance the Sultanate's ability to implement balanced policies and build financial reserves for future generations and contribute to the transfer of knowledge and advanced technologies globally to benefit from them locally. OIA also announced in November 2021 the opening of 13 national projects through the companies owned by

it, and the investment value of the projects is approximately OMR 3.5 billion it varies in sectors and is geographically distributed over a number of governorates. It is worth mentioning that the vision of the Harvard Business School Club for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries is to communicate with various institutions at the regional level within the framework of economic and governmental transformation in a global ecosystem witnessed by the region. This is to enable societies to take into account the commitment to the ideal values of respect for rights, the exchange of different visions, honesty, integrity and transparency in dealing with all members of society, as well as a high sense of leading the scene with prudence and professionalism. Moreover, the Harvard Business School Club of the GCC seeks to strengthen commercial and social relations between the representative members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and to promote regional business and the educational and social climate through participation and exchange of experiences with local and regional companies and governments and providing the necessary support to organisations and institutions that serve the public interest and focus on continuing education and making leaders. The Harvard Business School Club for the GCC is led by its Chairman, Sulaiman Hamad Al Harthi, the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank. The club regularly hosts a number of prominent speakers in various sectors to talk about leadership and management which have resulted in a significant impact on the socio-economic environment in the Sultanate in line with the demands of the modern world.

WORLD RALLY TEAM



Toyota Gazoo Racing clinches victory at Croatia Rally

MUSCAT: Recently, Toyota's Gazoo Racing (GR) World Rally Team (WRT) made an impressive mark this season for its GR YARIS Rally1 vehicle in round three of the 2022 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Adding to his victory at Rally Sweden in February, Kalle Rovanperä made a thrilling finish to the Croatia Rally, extending his FIA World Rally Drivers' Championship lead to 29 points. As round three of the season ended, the team has under its belt 14 of the 19 stages across the event, which enable Toyota to lead the manufacturers' championship by 42 points. Despite the challenging weather and road conditions due to heavy rains, Rovanperä was in superb form throughout the rally together with co-driver Jonne Halttunen in the No.69 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 and won six of the eight stages on the first day of the rally to open up an advantage of more than a minute over his rivals. On the second day, Rovan-

perä secured a stage win to take a lead of almost 20 seconds into the deciding leg and continued that performance into the final day. Akio Toyoda, President and CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation, commented "Kalle, Jonne, congratulations on your victory! Their win at the Power Stage was unbelievable as it must have been not an easy rally with the unstable weather. The team has been doing various tests and developments for two months since Sweden and I want to thank all the team members because Kalle's great driving is based on their cumulative efforts. The hard work will pay off for sure, and it will lead to the base of Toyota's car making. I believe we can repay the fans by showing exciting rallies and keep pursuing ever-better cars. Lastly, to the fans, thank you very much for your continuous support." Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endur-

ance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GR, to consolidate all of its motorsport activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone. Round four of the 2022 FIA World Rally Championship is the Vodafone Rally de Portugal, which will take place from May 19 - 22, and features classic stages on sandy and rocky roads.



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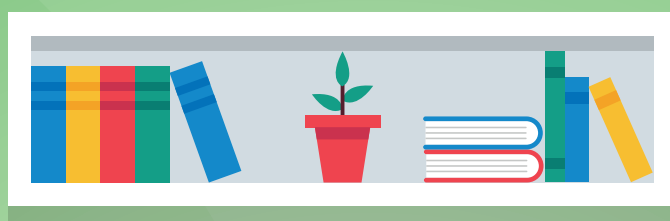


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