



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON
PAKISTAN DAY INSIDE



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HM THE SULTAN SENDS GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Arif Alvi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on his country's National Day. His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Alvi. His Majesty also wished the people of Pakistan further progress and prosperity. -**ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 19 | 20 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



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OMAN BETTER EQUIPPED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A special programme was organised by the Royal Oman Police (ROP) to handle cases of human trafficking

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Law enforcement agencies in Oman are now better equipped to tackle incidents of human trafficking.

Following a special programme organised by the Royal Oman Police (ROP), personnel from various ROP offices across the governorates in the Sultanate, were identified, trained and qualified to handle cases of human trafficking.

"The officers were imparted training in the legal and technical aspects involved in handling human trafficking cases," said Brigadier Jamal bin Habib Al Quraishi, Director General of Inquiries and Criminal Investigations at the Royal Oman Police.

The programme was organised under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Dubai.



BRIGADIER JAMAL BIN HABIB AL QURAISHI

Captain Khalid bin Ali Tabook and Captain Adel bin Abdullah Al Badi topped the specialised diploma programme on combating human trafficking. "Human trafficking has become a global phenomenon that poses serious threat and

concern to societies," said Captain Al Badi. "It has led to the emergence of organised gangs, which compelled the Sultanate - like other countries - to intensify efforts to control the crime.

"The programme comprised a number of activities, including written exams and training by instructors accredited in the field," he added.

The diploma course consisted of different aspects of human trafficking, including concepts, factors and impact of the crime. The course also included study of international efforts to curb the menace.

Explaining the programme, Captain Tabook said "the programme aims to prepare specialists qualified in the field of human trafficking. It also provided us with the opportunity to make use of the best local, regional and global expertise and practices when it came to tackling this crime."

Major General Khalifa bin Ali Al Siyabi, Assistant Inspector General of Administrative and Financial Affairs at ROP Police and Customs, honoured Captain Khalid bin Ali Tabooq and Captain Adel bin Abdullah Al Badi, for their performance during the course.

COMMON INTEREST

HM receives phone call from UK PM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday received a phone call from Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK).

During the phone call, the two sides reviewed the relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them in all spheres. They also exchanged views on several regional and international matters of common interest.

HM sends greetings

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Iranian New Year (Nowruz). His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Raisi. His Majesty also wished the people of Iran further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Expats numbers rise

1 Roughly 60,000 new expats have come to Oman in first two months of 2022. **>A3**

WORLD Australia-India ties

2 Australia has said that it will invest over \$280mn to boost economic cooperation with India. **>A8**

MARKET OMR3mn steel unit

3 A pact has been inked for OMR3mn phase 1 of a steel unit in Samail. **>B1**

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POPULATION TREND

Expat population in Oman increases by nearly 60,000 in two months

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Roughly 60,000 new expatriates have come to Oman in the first two months of 2022, figures released by the government show.

57,870 expatriates arrived in Oman between 1 January 2022 and the end of February, according to statistics published by the National Centre for Statistics and Information in its monthly statistical bulletin for March 2022.

Oman's population accordingly rose from 4,527,446 at the end of December 2021, to 4,595,661 in February of this year. Correspondingly, there has been an increase in the number of expatriates employed in the country -- up from 1.409 million employees at the end of December 2021 to 1.461 million as of February 2022.

A sharp dip (10.7 percent) in the number of expatriates working in the government sector was also recorded during the period: there were 36,928 foreign nationals employed in government as of February 2022 as opposed to 37,996 in 2021.

Bangladeshis largest group Bangladeshis continue to make up the largest expatriate community in the country: There are 546,182 expatriates from that country



in Oman. The Indian expatriate population is the second-largest with 490,114 people. There is also a significant expatriate population from Pakistan: 206,083 Pakistani nationals live in Oman.

There are smaller communities from other countries as well, including the Philippines (46,240 people), Egypt (31,817), Sri Lanka (20,306), Nepal (18,367), Tanzania (11,854) and Sudan (8,020).

Majority in Muscat

A majority of expatriate workers live in Muscat, which is home to 608,571 people. There is also a significant population from overseas in the southern Dhofar region, which houses 168,739 people. Al Batinah North (207,086 people),

Ad Dakhiliyah (97,267) and Al Batinah South (98,472) also have a sizeable expatriate population.

Expatriate workers also make up a significant portion of the population in South Al Sharqiyah (85,090), North Al Sharqiyah (73,607), Ad Dhahirah (48,933), Al Buraimi (37,861) and Al Wusta (25,382). The smallest proportion of expatriates live in the northern region of Musandam, which hosts just above 10,000 foreign nationals.

Employment profiles

The construction sector is the single largest employer of expatriates in the country employing nearly 400,000 workers. Nearly 180,000 expatriates are employed in manufacturing and more than 200,000

in automobile sales and repair. The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors employ a further 85,000 expatriates, while more than 70,000 work in administration and support services.

Storage and transport companies employ another 65,000 expatriates, while more than 100,000 work in the hospitality and restaurant sector. Roughly 20,000 expats are employed in scientific and technical roles and more than 12,000 each work in education and healthcare and social welfare sectors.

A vast majority of expatriates are employed as engineers (nearly 600,000), while more than 400,000 are in service jobs.

Industrial, chemical and food industry roles account for another 100,000 expatriates, as do sales jobs. Scientific and technical research sees employment provided for more than 85,000 expatriates, while nearly 32,000 are employed as administrators, directors and managers.

The NCSI recognises private sector employees as "individuals working in establishments owned by one or more individuals, which they have established for profit. These establishments must have commercial registrations and municipality permits that enables them to earn revenue.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

29,115 REACH



Story on a Delhi-Doha flight being diverted to Pakistan reached 29,115 people and had 2,271 link clicks on Facebook.



Story on a Delhi-Doha flight being diverted to Pakistan

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,400 VIEWS



The Middy Update on Royal Cavalry horse 'Haroun' had 1,400 views and reached 3,300 people on Facebook.



Middy Update on Royal Cavalry horse 'Haroun'

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,032 VIEWS



The Morning Minute video on Honourable Lady, Spouse of His Majesty visits Social Welfare Home had 1,032 views and 70 likes on Instagram.



Morning Minute video on Honourable Lady visit to Welfare Home

Greetings to the Government & the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day



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Hamed Al Harthi completes epic 560km ‘Border to Coast’ challenge

Starting from Um Zumul, on the border of the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, on 13 March 2022, he was joined by local runners and well-wishers

Times News Service



63-year-old Hamed Al Harthi, a life-long runner, said that this achievement stands alongside the greatest achievements in his career and the challenge of different terrains, high daytime temperatures and cold nights in the desert was unlike anything he had encountered before

this challenge!"

The route took Hamed from Um Zumul close to the border area, through to Lekhwair and Fahud before reaching the Wilayat of Adam. From there, he ran to Sinaw, Al Mudaybi, Al Qabil, Al Wasil and then through to the final destination in Sur. On each stage he was supported by a technical and logistics team to ensure his safety and maintain the correct course and cheered on by supporters.

63-year-old Hamed, a life-long runner, said that this achievement stands alongside the greatest achievements in his career and the challenge of different terrains, high daytime temperatures and cold nights in the desert was unlike anything he had encountered before.

Hamed competed in OMAN by UTMB® and Ushuaia by UTMB® in Argentina in 2019, UTMB® Mont-Blanc 2021 and reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro the same year. He plans to continue taking on epic challenges all around the world and will now turn his attentions to recovery before making a step to another challenge. The Border to Coast challenge was supported by Dho-far Insurance, Hamed's personal sponsors for the endeavour.

MUSCAT: Hamed Al Harthi, one of Oman's most experienced trail runners, crossed the finish line in Sur at 5:30 pm on 21 March 2022 after completing the epic 560km 'Border to Coast' self-challenge in eight days.

Starting from Um Zumul, on the border of the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Ara-

bia and the United Arab Emirates, on 13 March 2022, he was joined by local runners and well-wishers throughout the journey and raised money for donate.om, Oman's Donations Portal for Charitable Organisations.

After pushing the limits and going above and beyond age, Hamed confirmed his arrival in Sur by

posting 'mission accomplished!' on his Instagram account (@hamedalharthy1) where he had been charting progress throughout the challenge and sharing footage of the run captured by his own team and those running alongside him. In total, he managed to raise donations from 107 people through the donate.om portal.

Speaking after completing the challenge, Hamed said, "The challenge was very tough and our plans had to change. I was hoping to finish in six to seven days, but the temperatures in the desert were hotter than expected and that slowed down our progress. It was very, very hot and we could only sleep for three hours every day, and

this – as well as injuries – was the hardest part. Sometimes the wind was on our side so we could increase our speed, and catch up, and the support team was fantastic. Without them we could not have achieved our goal. They kept us on track and motivated. I am grateful for their assistance throughout and very happy to have completed



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ARAB BOOKER PRIZE

Novel shortlisted

MUSCAT: A novel titled 'Dilshad: A Biography of Hunger and Satiation' by the Omani writer and novelist Bushra Khalfan was shortlisted for the 15th edition of International Prize for Arabic Fiction (Booker 2022). The novel presents social tales overlapping in a by-gone era and foreshadowing a social reality mirroring the history of Muscat, its villages and its people from different backgrounds under seemingly harsh conditions. — ONA

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Council of Oman takes part in Jakarta meetings



JAKARTA: The Council of Oman is taking part in the 144th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the 209th session of the Governing Council and the meetings of the Executive, Standing and Specialised Committees.

The meetings are held in Indonesia from 19 to 24 March 2022.

The Council of Oman joined in the discussions of the 144th General Assembly on reaching zero carbon emissions by holding parliaments on climate change.

Yaqoub Mohammed Al Har-

thy, Vice Chairman of the Shura Council, head of the participating delegation, affirmed that the future vision of combating climate change is evident in Oman as strategic plans were devised to address these changes.

Al Harthy underscored the importance of joint work between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as combating global warming.

The Council of Oman actively participated in reviewing the

agenda of the 209th session of the Governing Council.

The two Secretaries-General of the State Council and Shura Council also took part in the meetings of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments.

The Council of Oman also participated in the meetings of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs, among others. — ONA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Ministry takes measures to ensure cement availability in local market

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion held on Tuesday a joint meeting with departments concerned and related companies to discuss cement shortage in some governorates of Oman.

The meeting reaffirmed that the public and private partnership is the basis of integrative action. It also stressed that opening direct channels of dialogue will contribute in understanding the needs of the market and the challenges facing Omani cement factories.

One of the local factories suspended its production due to the hike costs of raw materials used in the production process.

Accordingly, Oman Cement Company announced its readiness to boost its production capacity by 10% to meet the local demand.

The meeting was headed by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

Present during the meeting were Dr. Saleh Said Masan, Undersecretary for Commerce and



Industry, officials and CEOs of Omani cement factories, as well as representatives of cement import companies and distribution companies. Dr. Saleh said that the ministry has always been keen on dealing with challenges and finding suitable solutions.

He affirmed that the meeting resulted in taking several measures to ensure the availability of

cement in the upcoming period in all governorates of Oman, while maintaining prices.

This can be achieved by ramping up the output of some local factories, as well as facilitating direct import of cement from other countries to cover shortage while adhering to the standards approved in Oman.

— ONA





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OMAN ATTENDS OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry is taking part in the two-day meeting of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad, Pakistan. Oman's delegation is led by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs. - ONA



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

ROHM to stage Finiqia, The Legend Lives On by Caracalla Dance Theatre

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) announced the upcoming performance by the Caracalla Dance Theatre entitled Finiqia, The Legend Lives On.

The performance will take place at the ROHM House of Musical Arts on Thursday and Friday, 24 and 25 March 2022.

Brink of warfare

The first part is set in ancient world, where neighbouring regions sit on the brink of warfare. Searching to solidify his kingdom, Phoenician King Ahirom's only choice is to extend his hand towards the Dynasty of Egypt and

its celebrated Pharaoh Ramses II, and as an allegiance, offers his daughter Cedrus in marriage to Amun-her-khepeshef the son of Ramses II.

Cedrus must choose between honour and love as her heart belongs to another man.

From ancient Finiqia, we travel through the sands of time, witnessed only by the once-majestic temples of Ahirom, now laying in ruins. Locals gather in a typical village where feuding families struggle to keep the peace. Once again, a marriage is brokered to appease the stormy relations. The legend may influence the outcome.

The Caracalla Dance Theatre is celebrating its 54th anniversary since its foundation in Lebanon in 1968. One of the most prominent dance theatres in the middle east, it has established itself as a cultural institution, renowned for presenting vibrant artistic productions portraying the richness of Arabian cultural heritage.

Driven by the vision of the Caracalla family, its founder and artistic director Abdel Halim Caracalla, director Ivan Caracalla and choreographer Alissar Caracalla, the Caracalla Dance Theatre is a beacon of Dance Theatre from the Arab world defined by tradition, excellence and innovation. - ONA



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES

Oman marks World Water Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday marked World Water Day, themed 'Groundwater - Making the Invisible Visible.'

Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and other departments concerned, attach great attention to the water sector since the advent of the modern Omani Renaissance.

The Ministry has established 12 artificial rain stations to enhance the amount of rainfall, which will lead to an increase in the level of groundwater.

The ministry said that in 2021, a project was implemented to connect 6 artificial rain stations through a microwave communications system.

The annual renewable water resources in Oman are estimated at 1,318 million cubic metres and demand for these resources is increasing, particularly in the agricultural field. The water deficit in Oman is estimated at 316 million cubic metres each year.

Groundwater represents 83 per cent of water sources in Oman, followed by desalination water at 10 per cent. Surface water constitutes only 5 per cent, while treated wastewater represents only 2 per cent.

The ministry pointed out that dam projects of various types were implemented in Oman due to their importance in feeding the aquifer and limiting the overlap of sea water with groundwater aquifer. The number of dams in Oman reached 174 by the end of 2021. The number of new permits issued in 2021 reached 1274, including 876 for digging new water wells. - ONA



ARTIFICIAL RAIN STATIONS: The Ministry has established 12 artificial rain stations to enhance the amount of rainfall, which will lead to an increase in the level of groundwater. - ONA

13 PROJECTS ENDORSED

Agriculture Development Fund okays projects worth OMR 1.3mn

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund endorsed 13 projects to be set up in various governorates of Oman to the tune of OMR1.3 million. The projects are in the fields of agriculture (plants and livestock) and fisheries.

This was stated during the board's 1st meeting for 2022, held under the chairmanship of Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Chairman of the board.

The meeting also discussed a spectrum of topics, including the executive position of funded projects and the annual report of 2021. It also approved the financial charts of 2021.

- ONA





TENDER

Oman chamber of commerce and industry would like to re-announce the following public tender:

Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Fees (irrevocable)	Specialized companies	Deadline for Obtaining Documents	Deadline for Tender submission
1/2022	IT licences Renewal	25 /-R.O	Companies specialized in information system	30/3/2022	6/4/2022 Before 12 pm

Companies specialized on information system may obtain the tender documents from the Administration Department at the Second Floor of the chamber's Headquarters in Ruwi , during the official working hours against the payment of tender fees.

Tender Terms:

Provide valued CR,OCCI membership and taxation certificate .

Interested companies should enclose their bids a 1% Bank guarantee/ certified cheque of proposal value issued by one of the banks operating in Oman valid for 90 days from the deadline of submitting the bids addressed in the name of **Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry**. The bids without this temporary guarantee will not be considered.

The bids should be submitted in red waxed envelopes addressed to - Head of main tendering Committee , OCCI, written outside the Number and title of the Tender. No indication about the bidder is allowed on the envelope.

Offers should be deposited in the tender box kept at the Administration Department in the Second floor of OCCI Head office.

OCCI is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bids. It has the right to accept or reject any bids without showing reasons.

Interested companies should submit the Tenders before 12 pm on 6 April 2022.

For further details, you may call to : 24763739 - 766



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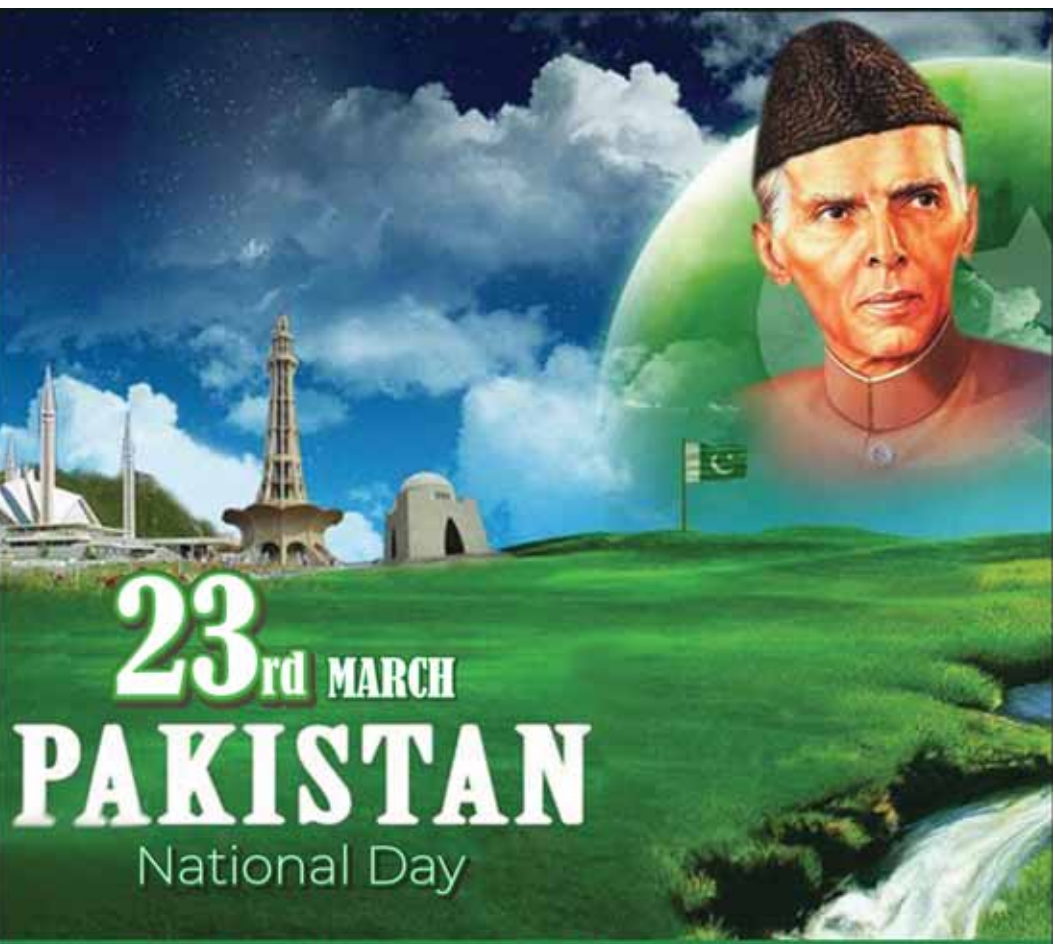
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23rd MARCH PAKISTAN National Day

On the auspicious occasion of National day of Pakistan, we wish to congratulate government and people of Pakistan and thank government of Oman for their continued patronage and support.



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The Essence of Pakistaniat

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the National Day of Pakistan, I wish to express my best wishes and regards to the brotherly government and the people of Sultanate of Oman, and to Pakistani residents in this beautiful country, who contribute to the development and the social milieu of Oman while earning their livelihoods here.

Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who fought for provincial autonomy and rights of the Muslims of India for 31 years, which led to the creation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 1947. 23rd March 1940 marks the Magna Carta for the creation of Pakistan-the Lahore Resolution, which called for statehood for contiguous Muslim majority areas in the West and East of India.

Pakistan's constitutionalism is reflected in robust democratic institutions in the center and the six regions of Pakistan, its strong judiciary and press, and a robust civil society.

Its Islamic character is reflected in Pakistan's society, the Islamic character of its constitution and Islamic welfare institutions like the safety net of the Ehsas Program and the nationwide Sehat card, the largest state healthcare insurance in the world.

The unity and federalism of Pakistan are now comparable to the best federal systems in the world. The extraordinarily massive devolution of administrative, legislative and financial powers to the



MOHAMMED IMRAN ALI CHAUDHRY: Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman

provinces and regions after the 18th Constitutional Amendment has forever fortified the hyphen that joins Pakistan's diverse political tributaries into a wholesome and united state.

The Kartarpur Corridor allowing Sikhs around the world unprecedented access from India is just one symbol of Pakistan's trajectory towards tolerance, pluralism, and diverse and multiple identities. This trajectory runs counter to right wing movements regionally and globally.

Pakistan has also bucked the trend by successfully fighting Covid-19 through unique smart lockdowns and unique bodies like the National Command and Operations Center (NCOCC), a nerve center that synergizes, articulates and implements the national effort against this pandemic. It is a success story despite Pakistan's finite resources and has been studied

internationally because of its effectiveness.

Initially affected adversely by Covid-19 driven world downward trends economically during the past two years, Pakistan has now increased its tax revenues many times, has reduced oil prices despite the opposite trend worldwide and expects a GDP growth of plus 5 per cent.

Pakistan has augmented its defence because of its unstable geopolitical position. Pakistan Army, Air force and Navy are now modernizing themselves and also helping create stability in the region as well as brotherly countries in the Gulf.

Pakistan helped the world community by evacuating nationals of many countries from Afghanistan through Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), and is now in the forefront of helping brotherly Afghanistan stabilize itself, halt food shortages there and lead an OIC (Organization of Islamic Conference) and world effort to engage with Afghanistan and create bonds not only between the governments of the two countries but further strengthen the bond between the two peoples while hosting more than 3 million Afghan nationals.

Pakistan is hosting the 48th session of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in its capital on the 22nd and 23rd of March. OIC is emerging as a multilateral body promoting peace, security, human rights and sustainable development.

Pakistan and Oman enjoy great fraternal ties not only rooted

in history, religion and geography, but most importantly in the warmth, respect and love between our two peoples. We have strong bilateral ties especially in political, economic and defence spheres and our two Navies have very close cooperation. It has been a month since I have come to Oman as Ambassador and it already feels like a second home to me.

The efforts and decisions taken by the Government of Oman in curtailing Covid-19 are a model for the world.

Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos played an extremely important role in promoting brotherly and friendly ties between Pakistan and Oman. His visit to Pakistan in 2001 laid the solid foundation of this highly cooperative relationship. Oman's neutral and balanced Foreign Policy was a vision of late Sultan, who benevolently transformed the Sultanate of Oman for 50 years. His policies are studied worldwide as a model for middle income countries.

In the end I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my best wishes for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's everlasting health and happiness and for the continued progress, stability and prosperity of the brotherly Sultanate of Oman. I thank Government of Oman for its cooperation and all Omanis for their love and continuous support which is a manifestation of our centuries old bond. I am confident that our relations will further strengthen in times to come.

"Long live Pak-Oman Friendship"

'Long live Pak-Oman Friendship'



President Dr Arif Alvi talking to the visiting Omani delegation, at Aiwan-e-Sadar, on 06-01-2022



Delegation of Omani businessmen led by H.E. Redha Juma Mohammed Ali Al-Saleh, chairman OCCI calls on prime minister Imran Khan at Islamabad on 6th January, 2022



IMRAN KHAN
Prime Minister of Pakistan

“

The Government envisages Pakistan to be a 'welfare state' based on the principles of Islamic ideology similar to those put in place by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Medina. Our commitment is to form a welfare state where rule of law, meritocracy, transparency and accountability in governance are guaranteed, where equal opportunity exists for all and where social welfare is provided to all those who need it.

On 23rd March 1940, the Resolution to create a separate homeland for Muslims of the sub-continent was passed in the session of Muslim League.

On 23rd March 1956, the first Constitution of Pakistan was passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Surreal and Enchanting Glory of Nature in Pakistan



VISIT PAKISTAN

Pakistan has it all to offer to every kind of traveller. From the mighty stretches of giant mountain ranges in the North to the vast alluvial delta of the Indus River in the South, Pakistan remains a land of high adventure and attractions.

The North of Pakistan is where its charms deepen. Pakistan would offer you the mighty mountains as it has more peaks taller than 22,965 feet than China and Nepal combined.

Three mighty mountain ranges of Himalayas, Karakoram and the Hindukush meet in Pakistan presenting some of the spectacular natural scenes and adventure activity to undertake. Come see

these wonders of nature with your own eyes and enjoy Pakistani hospitality.

Pakistan is declared one of the top tourist destination by the leading magazines in the last few years. The charm that Pakistan can offer to the adventure tourist is never ending.

Pakistan would present you with the old practices in spirituality and a peep into the 4000 years' old civilization. It has bustling cities, traditions bazars, cultural places and indigenous cuisine.

The Pakistani government has launched online visa services for 175 countries and 50 countries were offered visa on arrival, making a visit to Pakistan easier. The

country received an influx of travel vloggers, who showed the beauty and culture of the country, especially the northern areas to the world.

Covid-19, Smart Lock Downs and Vaccination Campaign
Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan who introduced the SMART LOCK DOWN policy instead of the general lock down which could bring whole life in the country to a standstill.

This strategy proved to be a great success in containing Covid-19 pandemic and reducing the loss of human lives to a minimum despite the fact that there was a huge loss of life in the neighbouring countries.

The success story of Pakistan was acknowledged and admired by many around the globe.

During the pandemic, Pakistani medical equipment industry quickly stepped up to the need of the hour and expanded local production of the personal protection equipment (PPE) which it was able to export as well, local production of the ventilators were started, enhanced the production of oxygen supply and thousands of ICU beds were added to the existing medical facilities in the country.

Although Pakistan is not a vaccine producing country yet it was able to manage vaccine and till now 100 million Pakistanis have been fully vaccinated. More



than 127 million Pakistanis have received at least one dose of vaccination. Pakistan is very close to achieving vaccination of all eligible citizen.

Successful Campaign of 10 Billion Tree Tsunami

Pakistan's largest afforestation and eco-restoration drive launched by the Prime Minister Imran Khan went full swing in the year 2021. This is an earnest effort to return the nature what humanity owe it and to make the world a liveable place for our future generations.

Community leaders, government officials, students and common persons all participated with

great enthusiasm in the multiple tree plantation drives held round the year in which millions of saplings were planted. Earth's climate and future is bright.

The initiative is admired by many all over the world. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson asked the world to follow the example of Imran Khan's 10 Billion Tree Tsunami against climate change.

Achievements in Sports

Pakistan is a great sporting nation and won many laurels in sports over the years. In the early nineties, Pakistan was world champion in 4 major sports that is cricket, hockey, squash and snooker. Pakistan was

no ordinary in sports last year.

Muhammad Wasem regained his number 1 position in the WBA Flyweight category when he defeated Colombia's Robert Barrera.

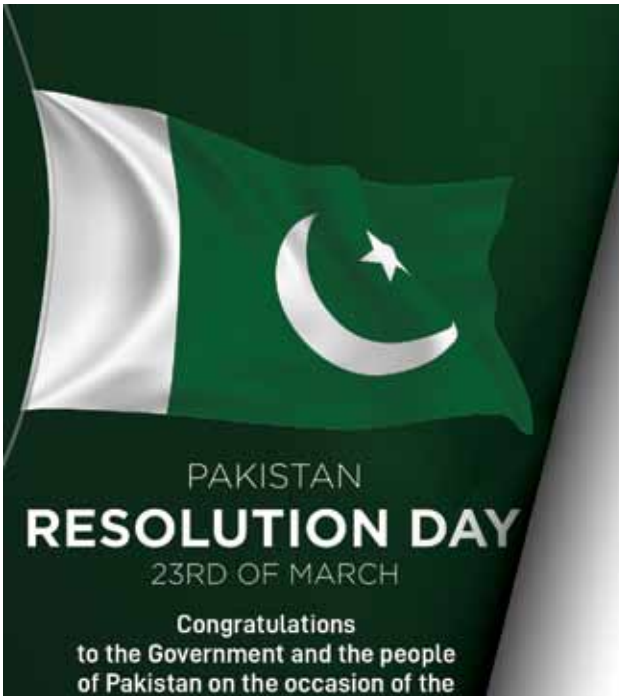
Pakistan's Haider Ali won Gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympic Games and created history by becoming the first Pakistani to do so.

Pakistan's Javelin thrower Arshad Ali and Talha Talib in the 67kg weightlifting category impressed with their phenomenal performances.

Pakistan reached the semifinals of the T20 World Cup with some extra ordinary performances in some very competitive matches.

Sheroz Kashif summited Mount Everest and K-2 and became the youngest Pakistani to summit 8 highest peaks.





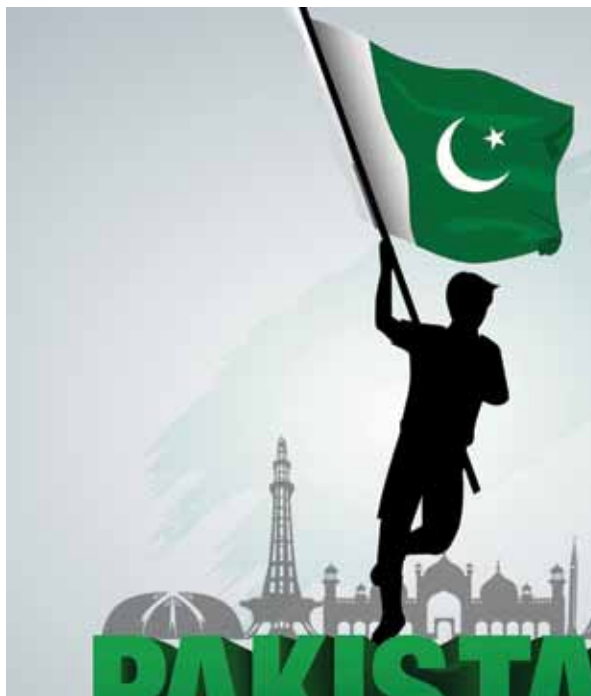
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Congratulations
to the Government and the people
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As we celebrate this momentous day
with Pakistanis across the world,
we strengthen our resolve to enrich lives
with our commitment to enabling dreams.



**Managing director
CHOUDHARY MOHAMMAD ZAMAN
CONTACT - 95278000**



23RD OF MARCH
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We are nation with our own distinctive culture and civilization,
language & literature, art & architecture, names & nomenclature,
In short we have our own distinctive outlook on life & of life.
By all canons of international law, WE ARE A NATION...



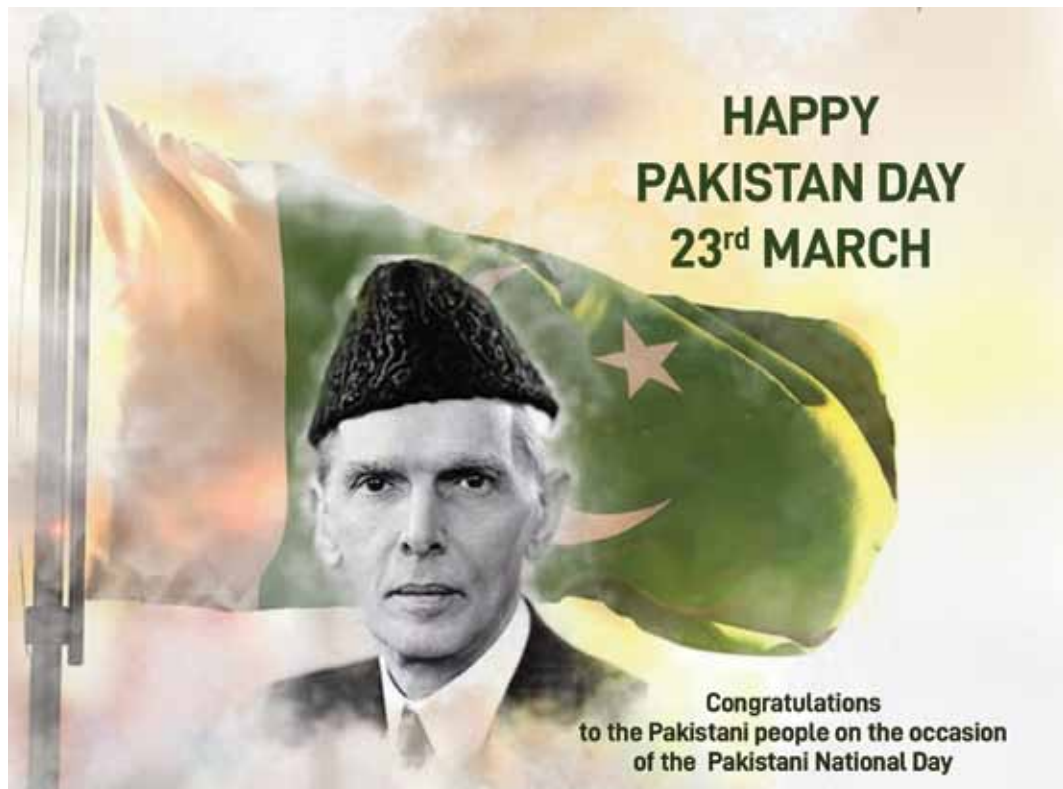
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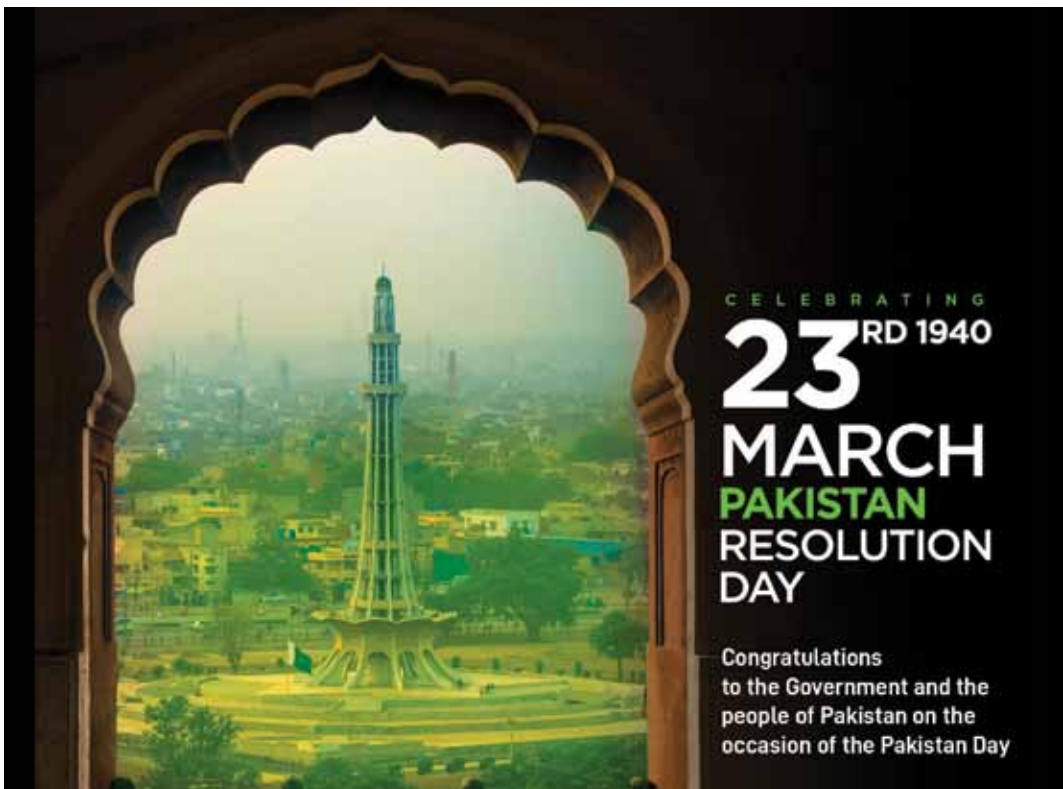


HAPPY
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23rd MARCH

Congratulations
to the Pakistani people on the
occasion of the Pakistani National Day



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— 23th OF MARCH —
PAKISTAN
DAY



Wishing Happy Pakistan Day to the People of Pakistan

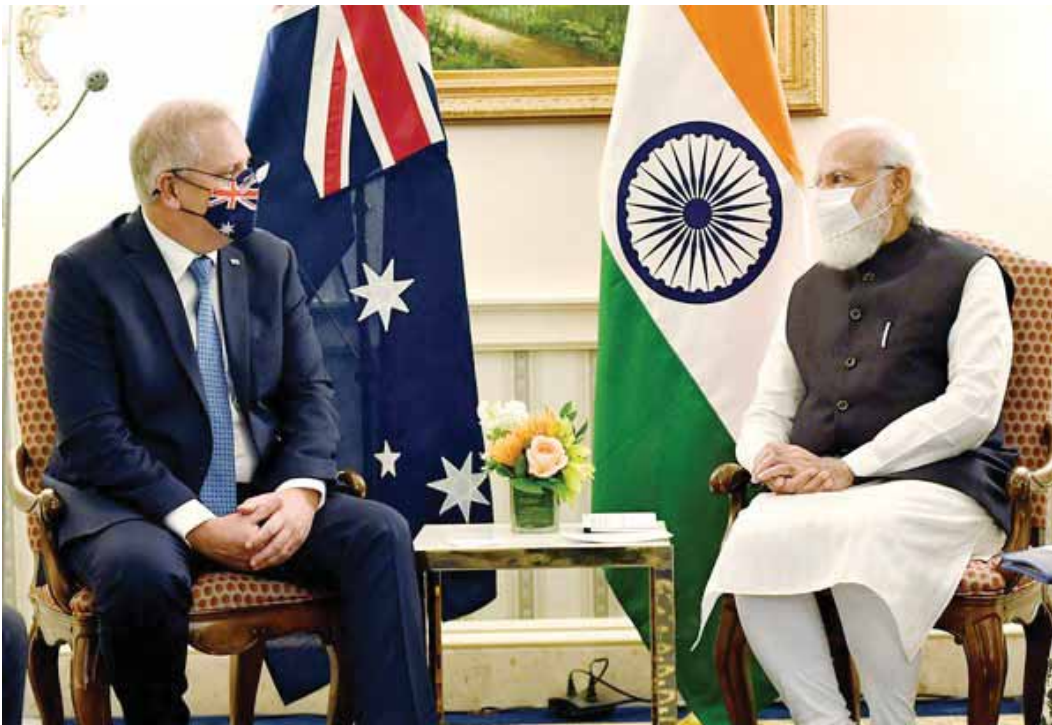


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Australia to invest over \$280mn to boost economic cooperation with India

In 2020, India was Australia's seventh-largest trading partner, with two-way trade valued at \$24.3 billion

CANBERRA: The Scott Morrison government is investing over \$280 million to boost cooperation with India, to further grow its economic relationship and support jobs and businesses in both countries, the Australian government said in a press statement on Tuesday. In 2020, India was Australia's seventh-largest trading partner, with two-way trade valued at \$24.3 billion, and the sixth-largest goods and services export market, valued at \$16.9 billion. In 2020, India was Australia's third-largest market for services exports. The Australian government said it will provide additional investment, including \$16.6 million to strengthen linkages with India's key policy and finance insti-



INDIA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS: The Australian government said it will provide additional investment in the relationship including \$16.6 million to strengthen linkages with India's key policy.

tutions as part of the Update to the India Economic Strategy to 2035. They will also provide \$8.9 million to support enhanced business engagement and an increased Australia presence in India. India and Australia held a virtual leaders meeting on Monday,

where Australia committed \$17.2 million to extend the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund to continue supporting a world-class relationship and establish an Australia-India Innovation and Technology Challenge. According to the government

release, \$35.7 million will be given for a Green Steel Partnership, a Critical Minerals Research Partnership, and a contribution to the International Energy Agency to support cooperation on research, production and commercialisation of clean technologies, critical

minerals and energy. \$25.2 million will be allotted to expand the Australian Space Agency's International Space Investment initiative to deepen space cooperation with India. Nearly \$28.1 million will be allocated to launch a Centre for Australia-India Relations to deepen community ties, promote public discussions and policy dialogue, and engage the Indian diaspora. Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan said the Morrison Government was investing to grow the Australia-India economic, trade and investment relationship. "India and Australia share common values, complementary economies and strong people-to-people links that make us ideal partners," Tehan said. "Our partnership with India is vital as we both strive for stronger, sustainable economic growth and more secure and diversified trade and investment patterns and supply chains." He also said the Australian Government remains committed to the India Economic Strategy and its ambitious goals: to lift India into our top three export markets by 2035, and to make India the third-largest destination in Asia for outward Australian investment.

— ANI

India is an emerging global power, says South Korean envoy

NEW DELHI: India is an emerging global power specially in the economic domain and is a leader in the Indo-Pacific region as part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), South Korea's envoy Chang Jae-bok said on Tuesday. Speaking with ANI, the South Korean Ambassador to India said that relations between the two countries are getting strengthened in diverse fields. "India is an emerging global power, especially in the economic field, security and other issues. It's part of the Quad (consisting of Australia, Japan, India and the US), so leader in the Indo-Pacific region," he said. Bilateral relations between India and South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, were established in 1962 and upgraded to ambassador-level in 1973. The envoy said apart from cultural relations, the two countries are also strengthening ties in areas of security and commerce. Asked about the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the ambassador said that dialogue is the way forward. He said South Korea is providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. "South Korea is rooting for peace and dialogue to solve it. South Korea is in a position to help Ukrainian people who are in a dangerous situation. The Korean government is providing humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people," Chang Jae-bok said. **ANI**

DROPPING DEMANDS

Ukraine willing to drop NATO membership demand in exchange for security guarantee

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine was willing to consider dropping its demands for full NATO membership in exchange for security guarantees. "It's a compromise for everyone: for the West, which doesn't know what to do with us with regard to NATO, for Ukraine, which wants security guarantees, and for Russia, which doesn't want further NATO expansion," Zelenskyy said late on Monday in an interview with Ukrainian television channels. Ukraine is well aware it cannot be admitted to NATO at the moment because they "do not want to fight with Russia," Zelenskyy said, adding, "Okay, what other security guarantees are possible?" Zelenskyy was adamant that he needed to talk to Russian President Vladimir Putin in order to understand whether Russia even intends to stop the war.

Putin has so far ignored Zelenskyy repeated requests for direct talks. On Monday, Zelenskyy said again that he is ready to meet Putin "in any format" but would also not bow to ultimatums from Russia to surrender. The president also suggested that after a cease-fire agreement, Kyiv would be ready to discuss the status of Crimea and the eastern Donbas region held by Russian-backed separatists. However, Zelenskyy said he plans to put any agreements reached with Russia to a nationwide referendum for public approval. **Zelenskyy assassination bid foiled, claims Ukraine** Ukrainian counter-intelligence



has scuppered a possible attempt on the life of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, according to local media reports. News agency UNIAN reported that a man belonging to group of Russian saboteurs was arrested in Uzhhorod, a city in the far west of the country. The group of up to 25 men planned on pretending to be members of the Ukrainian armed forces in a bid to make their way towards Kyiv. The report states that the group was also planning on carrying out acts of sabotage. Ukraine's government has claimed that Russia has sent a number of assassination squads to kill Zelenskyy.

Holocaust survivor killed in Russian strike As the Russia-Ukraine war inches closer to completing one month, in a recent development, a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor, Borys Romanchenko, was killed Friday by a Russian strike on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. Buchenwald concentration camp memorial institute confirmed Romanchenko's death. According to the memorial, Romanchenko survived the camps at Buchenwald, Peenemunde, Dora and Bergen-Belsen during World War II. The memorial said that it was "stunned" by news of his death adding, Romanchenko worked "intensively on the mem-

ory of Nazi crimes and was vice-president of the Buchenwald-Dora International Committee." Yulia Romanchenko, Borys' granddaughter, told CNN that she "learned about the shelling of Saltivka residential district on March 18 from social networks. I asked locals if they knew anything about my grandfather's house. They sent me a video of a burning house. I found out about this after the curfew and therefore I could not go there immediately." However, while she tried to reach the area, she found her grandfather's house "completely burned down -- there were no windows, no balcony, nothing in his apartment," reported CNN. **uw**

RESUMED

French automaker Renault resumes production in Moscow

MOSCOW: French automaker Renault on Tuesday resumed production in Moscow after it suspended production due to a disruption in logistics in late February. "On March 22, the company decided to resume operations in the country. Renault is the majority owner of AvtoVaz, Russia's largest car manufacturer famous for the Lada brand," tweeted The Kyiv Independent. Following the February 24 special operations by Russia in Ukraine, many automakers including, Jaguar Land Rover, Ford and Volvo have stopped shipments to Russia, "considering the potential risks associated with trading material with Russia, including the sanctions imposed by the EU and US." It's been nearly a month since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, deploying tens of thousands of troops into an offensive against its neighbour from three sides. As per the Armed Forces of Ukraine indicative estimates of Russia's losses on Tuesday, Moscow has lost approximately 15,300 troops, 99 planes, 123 helicopters, 509 tanks, 252 artillery pieces and 1,556 armoured personnel carriers, reported The Kyiv Independent. While Ukraine's military is much smaller, its forces have mounted a fierce resistance that has managed to hold off Russian advances in some parts of the country. The indicative estimates of Russia's losses also included 80 MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System), 3 boats, 1,000 vehicles, 35 UAV



(Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), 45 anti-aircraft warfare and 15 special equipment, reported The Kyiv Independent. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday urged Italy to freeze Russian assets in an address to the Italian parliament. "Zelenskyy calls on Italy not to be a 'resort for murderers.' In an address to the Italian parliament, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Italy should freeze Russian assets, impose an embargo on Russian goods and block seaports for Russian vessels," tweeted The Kyiv Independent. Zelenskyy also told the Italian parliament that the danger to grain exports from Ukraine can cause hunger in many parts of the world. Zelenskyy and Pope Francis also talked over the phone on Tuesday about the war. "Today I spoke with his Holiness Pope Francis, and he said very important words, 'I understand that you want peace. I understand that you have to defend yourselves, that soldiers defend civilians, they defend their homeland. Everyone is defending it,'" Zelenskyy said in an address to Italian Parliament. **ANI**

ANOTHER VOTE

UN General Assembly to vote again on Ukraine crisis

LONDON: The UN General Assembly (UNGA) will vote on Wednesday on a draft resolution on Ukraine, the second such resolution since the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, a spokesperson said on Monday. The 11th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly will be held after a letter requesting the resumption was received by UNGA President Abdulla Shahid, his spokesperson Paulina Kubiak told reporters in an email. "A draft resolution sponsored by



Ukraine and other member states has been submitted and is being processed," she said.

According to diplomatic sources, the new UNGA draft resolution focuses on the humanitarian situ-

ation, calling for the protection of civilians, medical personnel, aid workers, journalists, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure. **UK, US, France set to increase pressure on Russia** The UK, the US, France, Germany and Italy are set to increase pressure on Russia in connection with Moscow's special military operation in Ukraine, the UK government said in a statement. "The Prime Minister spoke to the leaders of the Quint - the United Kingdom, United States,

France, Germany and Italy - this afternoon to discuss our coordinated response to the escalating crisis in Ukraine," it said. "The leaders affirmed their ongoing commitment to support Ukraine militarily, diplomatically and economically, equipping the democratically-elected government in Kyiv with the tools it needs to defend itself. They also resolved to increase the pressure on Russia to halt its unprovoked invasion, including by maintaining wide-ranging and coordinated sanctions," ac-

cording to the statement. Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine on February 24 in response to calls from the Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics (DPR and LPR) for protection against intensifying attacks by Ukrainian troops. The Russian Defence Ministry said the special operation, which targets Ukrainian military infrastructure only, aims to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine. Moscow has said it has no plans to occupy Ukraine. Western nations have imposed numerous sanctions on Russia. **ANI**



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WORLD

Experts warn of rise in COVID-19 cases due to new variant

Infections of the highly transmissible variant, known as BA.2, have been doubling each week

LOS ANGELES: Experts warned that the United States may see another rise in COVID-19 cases in the next few weeks as the new Omicron subvariant continues to spread across the country.

Infections of the highly transmissible variant, known as BA.2, have been doubling each week, according to data of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of the week ending March 12, BA.2 makes up 23.1 percent of all COVID-19 cases in the country, compared to 1 percent of new



cases in the week ending Feb. 5, and 7.1 percent in the week ending February 26, CDC data showed.

Although the original Omicron variant still makes up the majority of COVID-19 infections in the country, its prevalence has dropped to 66.1 percent in the week ending March 12.

Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said he expects "an uptick in cases" due to BA.2, but not necessarily a massive surge like other variants have caused.

Fauci told ABC on Sunday the new strain is about 50 to 60 percent more transmissible than the

first Omicron strain, adding that it could take over as the dominant strain in the United States.

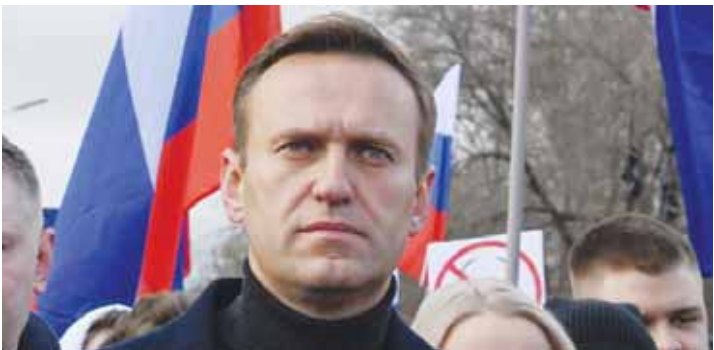
However, he noted that the strain does not appear to cause more severe illness or evade immune responses from vaccination or prior infection.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy also said the variant could cause a new spike in cases, but adding that the country is in a better position now than it was in the previous two years.

Several European countries, such as Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, have reported a spike in COVID-19 cases over the last couple of weeks.

Health officials continue to stress COVID-19 vaccines and boosters remain the best ways to prevent serious illness from the virus. According to CDC data, 76.7 percent of the total U.S. population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 65.3 percent has completed their primary series as of March 16. However, only about half of the booster-eligible population has received a booster dose. **ANI**

Moscow court sentences Kremlin critic Navalny to 9 years in prison



MOSCOW: A Russian court on Tuesday, sentenced Opposition figure Alexey Navalny to nine years to prison and fined him 1.2 million rubles (USD 11,527) in separate criminal cases of fraud and contempt of court in a move that is being seen as a crackdown on the Kremlin critic.

The sentence was announced by the Lefortovo district court judge Margarita Kotova who announced the sentence to nine years in a "strict regime penal colony" for a criminal case of fraud and contempt of court, Sputnik News Agency reported.

The fraud case was initiated over a year ago. Navalny allegedly stole and spent over 350 million rubles (USD 3.1 million) donated to his Anti-Corruption Foundation for personal use, Sputnik reported citing investigation details.

His anti-corruption organization called, FBK, had last year been designated an "extremist organization and foreign agent" and subsequently banned by the Russian authorities.

The other charge in the case concerns Navalny allegedly insulting Judge Vera Akimova, who sentenced him to a fine of 850,000 rubles (USD 7,500) for slandering a veteran of World War 2, Ignat Artemenko, Sputnik further reported, adding that the two

His anti-corruption organisation called, FBK, had last year been designated an "extremist organisation and foreign agent" and subsequently banned by the Russian authorities

offences were investigated separately, but before being submitted to the court, they were combined into one case.

The Russian prosecutors in the case were seeking 13-year imprisonment and a fine of 1.2 million rubles (\$10,600) for Navalny on charges of fraud and contempt of court.

Meanwhile, Navalny's lawyer Olga Mikhailova said that the decision of the court will be appealed, saying, "We will, of course, appeal against the verdict."

In a dramatic development, Navalny's lawyers were themselves detained by the police later on Tuesday because they failed to move away from a roadway, Sputnik reported. **ANI**

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

Several flights delayed and cancelled in Germany

BERLIN: Security personnel went on strike at eight German airports on Tuesday amidst an ongoing battle over pay and working conditions.

According to workers' union Verdi, stoppages were occurring at major international airports including Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne/Bonn, and Düsseldorf. Security workers at Germany's largest

and busiest airport, Frankfurt, were also going on strike.

Airports warned passengers to expect cancellations, delays, and a long wait to get through security checkpoints. Frankfurt Airport went so far as to tell passengers not to come to the airport at all, because there was no way they'd reach their flights without staff at security checkpoints.

The strikes were the second round of work stoppages in as many weeks.

Cologne/Bonn airport announced that 50 of its 60 planned flights for the day would not take off. In Hamburg, 88 flights were nixed, alongside 100 in Berlin. In Frankfurt, at least 110 would have to be canceled, officials said.

Verdi is asking for at least one

euro more an hour for workers. According to employers, this would adjust standardized pay scales such that it would amount to 40% more pay for many employees.

In all of Germany's federal states except Bavaria, the Federal Police delegate airport security to private contractors.

—DW

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SPORTS

Novak Djokovic regains World No. 1 spot, Nadal back in top 3

The Serbian tennis star lost the number one spot in ATP rankings to Daniil Medvedev on February 28 as the Russian became the 27th player to reach No. 1 in the world

MUSCAT: Hamed London: The 20-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic regained the World No. 1 spot in the ATP rankings released on Monday despite not featuring in Indian Wells.



The Serbian tennis star lost the number one spot in ATP rankings to Daniil Medvedev on February 28 as the Russian became the 27th player to reach No. 1 in the world. But after Gael Monfils defeated Medvedev in the second round at the Indian Wells Masters, Djokovic has regained the number one spot. The Serbian currently stands on top with 8,465 points while Medvedev stands on the second spot with 8,445 points. Djokovic has only played one tournament this year. He played his first tournament of 2022 in Dubai where he lost to the Czech Republic's Jiri Vesely 4-6, 6-7(4) in the quarter-final. Rafael Nadal, who lost to Taylor Fritz in the Indian wells final, has returned to the top three in the rankings. The World No.4 Rafael Nadal's unbeaten streak of 20 matches in 2022 came to an end as the 21-time grand slam champion lost to America's Taylor Fritz 3-6 6-7 (5-7) in the final of Indian Wells. -ANI

German Federation reacts to online abuse of referees

BERLIN: The German football federation (DFB) has reacted to increasing online abuse of match officials by blocking comments on its Twitter feed dedicated to referees, it said on Tuesday. In December the DFB had asked fans to keep their comments to the topic of decisions and behave respectfully. Many comments, however, were still deleted and users blocked but the DFB has gone a step further by preventing responses being made to posts until the end of the season. -DNA



OOC participates in Executive Office meet



Times News Service

RIYADH: The Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) participated in the 94th meeting of the GCC Executive Office held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Monday. OOC was represented by Taha bin Suleiman Al-Kishri, OOC Secretary General, and Abdullah bin Muhammad Bamkhalaf, OOC Treasurer. During the meeting, the holding of GCC tournaments during the coming period was discussed. The discussions were held on 3rd GCC games that will be hosted by Kuwait next May, GCC games for youth and juniors, GCC beach games, and the gymnastics and martial arts tournament. The attendees approved the establishment of GCC Games for youth and juniors in the United Arab Emirates in 2023, and the venues for the rest of the courses will be determined at the end of this year. In the light of the preparations made by the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Supreme Organizing Committee for the 3rd Gulf Games, the attendees approved the date of holding the tournament from May 12-31,

2022, and approved the date of May 22 as the official opening date for the games. The attendees were briefed on the previous proposal regarding the dissolution of the organizing committees and the formation of four advisory committees for the organizing and following-up of joint sports work, which are directly linked to the Executive Office and undertake the organisation of sports courses in GCC, represented by the Sports Committee, the Women's Sports Committee, the Athletes Committee, the Paralympic Committee. The members of the office also reviewed a number of proposals and topics submitted by GCC NOCs. The most important of which is the approval for amending the name of the Youth and Junior Committee of the Athletes Committee, cancelling the Coordination and Following-up Committee, and approving the proposed tasks of the advisory committees. GCC NOCs were assigned to nominate their representatives to the advisory committees, provided that the candidate should have competence in any of the fields of these committees.

OMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Al Zubair receives top official from Bahrain sports body

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Khalid bin Mohammed Al Zubair, President of the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) received Issa bin Mohammed Abdul Rahim, President of the Bahraini and International Sports for All Federations, on Tuesday. He is currently visiting Oman within the framework of the International Sports for All Federation's keenness to communicate with NOCs and sports bodies and to see their programmes and activities in this field and the technical and administrative

needs to promote. Dr. Juma bin Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain accredited to the Sultanate also accompanied the guest. During the meeting, they discussed ways and prospects for cooperation between the International Sports for All Federation and OOC, and some ideas and projects that would contribute to the development and dissemination of the concept of sport, in addition to exchanging experiences and benefiting from the best experiences and programmes for sports for all.



KNOCK-OUT BASIS

Al Hail Cricket Club to organise Danube Ramadan Tennex Ball Cricket Tournament

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Hail Cricket Club will be organising the 3rd Edition of the Danube Ramadan Tennex Ball Cricket Tournament 2022 at the Al Hail Cricket grass Ground in Mabelah on April 4, 2022. The tournament matches will be played on a knock-out basis with participation limited to 32 teams. The tournament is open to all the teams that are participating in the OCC-conducted 'A' division and all other divisions below A division. The organisers have decided to give some interesting prizes besides the main trophy and cash prize for the winners and runners-up. Team. There will also be prizes for the Best Bowler and Best disciplined team apart from regular prizes.



In addition, there are other exciting prizes that will be given away by the organisers in various categories. To make it more exciting for the viewers as well, the organisers will also give away surprise gifts on weekly basis to the visitors

and audience. A separate area will be provided for children to play during the course of the tournament. All the matches will start at 9:30 pm. The interested teams can register their team through our website. The website can be accessed

on the following URL www.alhail-cricketclub.com. Registration will be on first-come first-served basis with limitation up to 32 teams max. The tournament draw is scheduled to take place in HCT ground in Mabelah at 7:30pm on March 31, 2022 in the presence of all the team captains and managers. We would like to thank Thamim Ansari, Country Head-Oman-Danube for his unstinted support to cricket in the country. He is also an accomplished cricketer and currently playing soft ball cricket in Oman for the Danube Team. In the past, Thamim Ansari has played first class cricket in UAE for Danube Team and scored century as well. The main sponsors for the Tournament are Al Danube, number one building materials company in the Sultanate.

22-26 MARCH 2022

Omani team ready for GCC Sailing Championships in Kuwait

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sixteen of Oman Sail's best young prospects will compete against sailors from across the region at the 11th GCC Sailing Championship which is taking place from 22-26 March 2022 at Messilah Beach in Kuwait. The Omani squad includes sailors under the age of 17 in the Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 classes, all of whom earned their place in the team by finishing in top positions in a recent rankings race event held in Mussanah. The Omani team comprises: Tameem Suleiman Al Balushi (Optimist), Abdul Latif Zeyad Al Qasbi (Optimist), Hassen Nasser Al Wahabi (Optimist), Feras Haitham Al Nabhani (Optimist), Alaa Hassan Al Hinae (Optimist), Hood Saad Al Nofali (Optimist), AbdulRah-



man Khalid Al Hadi (Optimist), Aous Maher Al Busaidi (Optimist), Elyas Bader Al Fadhly (ILCA 4), Nebras Ahmed Al Owaisi (ILCA 4), Al Salim Ali Al Hamdani (ILCA 4), Ahmed Hassan Al Bulushi (ILCA 6), Zakariya Suleiman Al Wahabi (ILCA 6), Musaab Mohaed Al Hadi (ILCA 7), Abdulmalik Gharib Al Hinae (ILCA 7) and Al Moutasem Hamood Al Farsi (ILCA 7). The sailors will be joined by Nawaf Yaqood Al Ghadani (Team leader), Sultan AbdulAziz Al Zadjali (Optimist Coach), Muthir Issa Al Kindi (ILCA 4 Coach) and Hashim Hamed Al Hashmi (ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 Coach). Nawaf Yaqoob Al Ghadani, Oman's Team Leader, said, "This is a great opportunity for our rising stars to test themselves against the best young sailors in the region. It allows each sailor a chance to gain

experience of high level competition, how to handle the pressure and put into practice the technique we have been working on in training. We have a strong squad and we're looking forward to the Championships in Kuwait." Sultan AbdulAziz Al Zadjali, Optimist Coach, said, "The GCC Sailing Championship is an important step in the journey toward becoming an elite sailor. Everyone representing Oman has earned their place by excelling in ranking races and we are hopeful of a good showing during the week. Each day is a new opportunity to improve, learn from the day before and help the sailors to reach their potential while enjoying the feeling of competition." Abdulmalik Gharib Al Hinai, member of the ILCA 7 fleet heading to the event, said, "I am looking

forward to the opportunity in Kuwait. We have all trained very well in the build up to the event and feel well prepared. The GCC Sailing Championships present a good chance to see how we compare to sailors our own age across the region, learn from each other, make friends and take the next step in our development as sailors." Over the four days, sailors from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, along with the team from Oman Sail, will battle for position in races taking place each day before the fleet splits for the final day when the medals will be decided. In total, 12 races are scheduled for each class, except the Optimist class where a maximum of nine will be held. An overall prize will be awarded for the most successful nation at the Championships.

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Shaheen and Naseem fiery bowling spells give Pakistan an upper hand

At stumps, Pakistan's score read at 90/1 with hosts currently trailing by 301 runs

LAHORE: Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah's four-wicket hauls helped Pakistan in bundling out Australia at 391 and getting an upper hand on Day 2 of the ongoing third Test in Lahore, on Tuesday.

At Stumps, Pakistan's score read at 90/1 with hosts currently trailing by 301 runs. Batters Abdullah Shafique and Azhar Ali are standing unbeaten at the crease.

Resuming Day 2 at 232/5, Australia batters Cameron Green and Alex Carey continued with their decent knocks and scored their respective half-centuries.

Their duo finally broke when Nauman Ali claimed Carey's wicket with 341 runs on the board.

Green then fell prey to Naseem's fiery pace and got bowled



after scoring 79 runs.

Mitchell Starc and skipper Pat Cummins came to the crease and tried to anchor the innings but could not do much as the former got caught by Nauman Ali on Shaheen Afridi's delivery, with the team's total at 369/8.

Naseem then dismissed Nathan Lyon for just 4 runs. Later,

Mitchell Swepson joined hands with Cummins but got bowled by Shaheen, which ended the visitors' batting run at 391.

Coming to bat, Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq gave a steady start to Pakistan. Cummins then dismissed Imam-ul-Haq with just 20 runs on the board.

Later, Azhar Ali joined hands

with Abdullah and the duo ensured that there was no more damage in Pakistan's batting lineup. Pakistan ended Day 2 at 90/1.

Brief score: Australia 391 (Usman Khawaja 91, Cameron Green 79; Naseem Shah 4/58) vs Pakistan 90/1 (Abdullah Shafique 45*, Azhar Ali 30*; Pat Cummins 1/27). **ww**

Oman Cricket announces Board of Directors' list for 2022-2025



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket's Annual General Meeting was held at the Al-Falaj Hotel on March 21, 2022 to elect the new Board of Directors for 2022-25.

The results saw Pankaj Khimji and Madhursinh Jesrani continue in their respective roles as Oman Cricket's Chairman and Secretary. Paul Robert Sheridan and Alkesh Naranji Joshi were elected Vice-chairman and Treasurer.

The full list of the Board of Directors of Oman Cricket from 2022-25 is as follows: Pankaj Kanaksi Gokaldas Khimji - Chairman, Paul Robert Sheridan - Vice-Chairman, Madhursinh Jamnadas Jesrani - Secretary, Alkesh Naranji Joshi - Treasurer, Kiran Navinchandra Asher - Member, Maqbool Hussain Mossa Al Lawati



- Member, Dilipkumar Shamaldas Mehta - Member, Syed Anwar Ahsan - Member, Ali Moosa Yousuf - Member, All the Directors remain fully committed to build on the success that Oman Cricket has garnered and to further grow the game of cricket in the Sultanate.

EXTENDED

Defender Toti Gomes extends contract with Wolves until 2027

LONDON: Wolverhampton Wanderers has renewed the contract of defender Toti Gomes after his impressive performances with the club.

The 23-year-old enjoyed a seamless transition into Bruno Lage's group at the start of 2022 and, after impressing in defence, has signed new terms until 2027. The Portuguese joined Wolves from Estoril in 2020 but enjoyed his initial development on loan at Grasshopper Club Zurich, who he helped earn promotion to the Swiss Super League with a full season of consistent performances.

Such was the youngster's success in Switzerland, he returned for a second loan spell last summer and continued to impress a division higher, being tidy and efficient on the ball and robust in

The Portuguese joined Wolves from Estoril in 2020 but enjoyed his initial development on loan at Grasshopper Club Zurich, who he helped earn promotion to the Swiss Super League

his defending, alongside an array of Wolves colleagues on loan at the club.

Then came his Molineux return in January. Immediately in the starting eleven for the visit of

Southampton the day before his 23rd birthday, Toti's performances helped Wolves to back-to-back Premier League wins, with a similarly solid showing at Brentford the following week.

Despite the return of Romain Saiss and Willy Boly, Toti has remained in Wolverhampton for the second part of the season to provide another option to Lage and was on the bench for Friday's meeting with Leeds United.

Scott Sellars, technical director of Wolves in a statement said: "This is a reward for Toti for the hard work he's put in while at the club, especially while on loan at Grasshoppers. He's worked very hard on his football and has really developed, then he got the opportunity to come to the club full time and has been excellent in everything he does." **ww**

FOOTBALL

Pepe to miss Portugal's FIFA World Cup qualifier

LISBON: Portugal star defender Pepe will miss the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Turkey after he tested positive for COVID-19.

Fernando Santos' side will be without both of their first-choice centre-backs after Ruben Dias was also ruled out of action. "Pepe tested positive for Covid-19 and will fulfill the scheduled isolation days," said an official FPF statement. **ww**

Greetings to the Government & the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day

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Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
16/2022	Consultancy services (design and supervision for construction of hydrotherapy units at (al -buraimi - dhank)	consultancy offices registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the first degree	Monday 11-4-2022 02:00 PM	Sunday 1-5-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
17/2022	Consultancy services (design and supervision for construction of hydrotherapy units at (sur - al mudhaibi and jalan bani bu Hassan)	consultancy offices registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the first degree	Monday 11-4-2022 02:00 PM	Sunday 1-5-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On **Wednesday 23/3/2022**
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry"

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2022 reaching \$111.23, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 87 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$110.36. - **ONA**

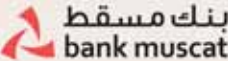
MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,314.35 points, up by 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.14 per cent at 489.52 points. Raysut Cement, up 4.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investment, down 8.33 per cent, was the top loser.



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Samail Industrial City attracts steel industries project worth OMR3mn



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Samail Industrial City, affiliated to the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates 'Mada'yn', has signed an agreement with Gulf Petrochemical Services and Trading to set up a steel industries plant on an area of 181,000 sqm, with an investment volume touching OMR3 million for phase one of the project.

Live-work-play model

It is worthwhile to mention that Samail Industrial City is designed according to the latest international standards taking into ac-

count the environmental, civil defence, social and recreational requirements to achieve an integrated live-work-play model. Moreover, the Medical Fitness Examination project in Samail Industrial City will be opened next June in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Samail Industrial City is divided into several sectors to attract a variety of industries.

These include the food industry, plastic and petrochemical industry, steel industry; marble industry; building materials industry; and supporting services sector (e.g. warehouses).



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CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR242.5 million

Muscat: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR242.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from March 23 until April 20, 2022.

The average accepted price reached 99.960 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.960 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.52143 per cent and 0.52164 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Oman Airports to supply Kala plant with green waste

MUSCAT: Oman Airports signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company, a Member of Nama Group. The aim is to supply the green waste of Muscat International Airport to the compost factory (Kala), of the Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company.

The MoU was signed by Sheikh Aimen Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, and Qais Saud Al Zakwani, CEO of the Oman Water and Wastewater Services.

Sheikh Al Hosni said that Oman Airports is working with the national efforts, which aim at promoting environmental sustainability. He emphasised the role of the circular economy

for cities that maximise the sustainable value of environmental resources. Al Hosni further added, airports worldwide compete to be a model that expresses efforts of their countries in search for environmental sustainability solutions.

Al Zakwani said, "This agreement comes within the series of initiatives achieved by the company to implement the concept of sustainability, through preserving the environment and maximising the economic value of our products and services. Recycling and investment of available resources have an utmost priority in the company's operations and natural compost factory is a model for these practices." - **ONA**

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MSX index ends higher



Raysut Cement, up 4.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investment, down 8.33 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,314.35 points, up by 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.14 per cent at 489.52 points. Raysut Cement, up 4.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investment, down 8.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 515 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.6 million, with more than 12 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 11 advanced, 13 declined and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR1.2 million while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR1.15 million followed by foreign investors for OMR31,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6951.26 points, up by 0.33 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, National Bank Oman, Bank Muscat, Al Madina Takaful, and Vision Insurance were up by 1.64 per cent, 1.45 per cent, 1.09 per cent, 1.04 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina

Investments, Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, and Sohar International Bank were down by 8.33 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 1.41 per cent, 1.19 per cent and 0.85 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6035.23 points, up by 0.45 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Cables Industry, Jazeera Steel Products, Al Maha Ceramics, and Oman Flour Mills were up by 4 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 0.46 per cent, 0.4 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, National Aluminium, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy, and Al Anwar Ceramics were down by 3.49 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 1.39 per cent, 0.82 per cent, and 0.44 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.08 per cent before closing at 1626.89 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Oman Telecom, Renaissance Services, OIFC, and Ooredoo were up by 2.08 per cent, 0.46 per cent, 0.46 per cent, 0 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Oman National Engineering and National Gas were down by 2.04 per cent, 1.74 per cent and 0.73 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
Index	4,314.35	4,301.99	4,314.35	4,302.38	11.97	0.28
MSX 30 INDEX	6,951.25	6,928.15	6,951.25	6,928.15	23.10	0.33
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,052.45	6,028.73	6,052.23	6,008.18	27.05	0.45
Industry Index	1,627.59	1,624.00	1,626.89	1,625.56	1.33	0.08
Services Index	489.52	488.82	489.52	488.82	0.70	0.14
MSX TR INDEX	5,215.84	5,200.90	5,215.84	5,200.64	15.21	0.29
FINANCIAL TOTAL	6,965.60	6,942.46	6,965.60	6,939.54	26.07	0.38
RETURN INDEX	1,641.68	1,638.05	1,640.97	1,639.63	1.34	0.08
SERVICES TOTAL	1,641.68	1,638.05	1,640.97	1,639.63	1.34	0.08
INDUSTRIAL TOTAL	6,077.68	6,053.86	6,060.39	6,033.23	27.16	0.45
RETURN INDEX	6,077.68	6,053.86	6,060.39	6,033.23	27.16	0.45

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,292,931	4,642,036	383	22,323,158,859	11	13	14	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 22

ISIN	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																
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	10,000	1,820	3	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.175	0.007	4.000	0.182	0.175	0.182	0.100	36,400,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	18,950	19,870	7	1.020	1.050	1.020	1.050	1.015	0.035	3.448	1.050	1.050	1.050	0.100	94,185,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	74,716	9,265	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.122	0.002	1.839	0.124	0.123	0.126	0.100	241,757,526
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,814,646	2,127,182	62	0.554	0.560	0.550	0.558	0.552	0.006	1.087	0.560	0.556	0.560	0.100	1,994,556,934
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	24,4845	106,136	33	0.434	0.436	0.432	0.434	0.432	0.002	0.463	0.434	0.434	0.434	0.100	54,205,715
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	798,945	350,533	21	0.436	0.440	0.436	0.438	0.436	0.002	0.459	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	103,547,580
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	550,000	484,000	2	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.876	0.004	0.457	0.880	0.880	0.884	0.100	860,000,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,450,000	724,100	21	0.500	0.500	0.498	0.500	0.498	0.002	0.402	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,010	329	2	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.328	0.328	0.000	0.000	0.326	0.326	0.328	0.100	219,223,860
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	20,000	6,680	3	0.334	0.334	0.334	0.334	0.334	0.000	0.000	0.334	0.334	0.344	0.100	217,415,373
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	749,400	78,687	26	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	10,500,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	790,650	362,404	25	0.460	0.460	0.458	0.458	0.460	-0.002	-0.435	0.458	0.458	0.458	0.100	100,760,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	55,000	7,500	8	0.136	0.137	0.136	0.136	0.137	-0.001	-0.730	0.136	0.135	0.142	0.100	11,560,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,080,000	126,440	6	0.118	0.118	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.118	0.100	348,837,288
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	332,100	27,438	24	0.084	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.078	0.084	0.100	16,600,000
Total	15	9,990,262	4,432,383	244												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	33,937	1,649	3	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.048	0.048	0.050	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	75,000	15,750	2	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.207	0.003	1.449	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.100	341,448,735
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	18,650	1,809	6	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	16,975,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	100	7	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.060	0.066	0.100	4,851,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	80,000	10,000	9	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	250,039,099
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	1,000	84	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.086	0.100	21,808,740
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	3,160	123	2	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.039	0.043	0.100	9,503,430
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	167,500	7,538	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.043	0.046	0.100	8,983,602
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	17,926	1,775	5	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	221,455,350
OM0000004699	SHARQIYAH DESALIN	1,500	173	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.000	0.115	0.100	11,247,248
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	49,329	3,966	6	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.083	0.100	77,320,328
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	15,010	720	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	70,204,670
OM0000009710	BANKA DESALINATION	334,580	49,489	25	0.140	0.141	0.138	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.100	103,573,080
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	164,000	19,670	11	0.125	0.125	0.120	0.121	0.122	-0.001	-0.820	0.120	0.120	0.123	0.100	9,849,733
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	186,519	13,243	9	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.398	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	14,412,038
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	108,120	7,638	4	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	153,650	17,382	14	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.113	0.115	-0.002	-1.739	0.113	0.113	0.114	0.100	14,690,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	102,806	4,955	5	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	141,600	11,550	11	0.083	0.083	0.080	0.082	0.084	-0.002	-2.381	0.080	0.081	0.082	0.100	2,752,859
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	461,000	31,498	7	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.070	-0.002	-2.857	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	80,000	6,635	4	0.086	0.086	0.082	0.083	0.086	-0.003	-3.488	0.082	0.083	0.085	0.100	10,375,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV	76,718	3,376	8	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.048	-0.004	-8.333	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	3,561,643
Total	22	2,293,105	209,270	138												

Omani products showcased at Carrefour, City Centre Muscat

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates 'Madayn' is organising a six-day Omani Products Exhibition at Carrefour, City Centre Muscat as part of 'Made in Oman' Campaign. The opening ceremony was held on Tuesday under the auspices of Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, CEO of Madayn. The exhibition, which will continue till March 27, aims at providing the needs of the consumers for the blessed month of Ramadan.

The series of 'Made in Oman' Exhibitions in the various local hypermarkets and commercial centres play a key role in generating awareness among the local and foreign community on the quality and competitive features of the locally manufactured products, and emphasising on the significant role played by supporting the local made products in advancing the national economy. -ONA

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Asyad Ports sets new milestone with IMS certification

MUSCAT: Asyad Ports, a member of Asyad Group, hits another mark in its journey towards operational excellence by securing the Integrated Management System (IMS) certification. Showing outstanding capabilities, Asyad Ports met all IMS certification requirements within less than one year, with multiple audits conducted internally and by an external body.

The integrated management system increases efficiency, effectiveness, and optimizes cost while minimizing the disruption caused by repeated external audits. It also reflects a lid commitment to enhanced performance, higher employee and customer satisfaction, and continuous improvement.



"Receiving the IMS certification is a testament to our continuous efforts to increase effectiveness, streamline business processes, and ensure the highest quality of services in our facilities," said Dr

Ahmed Al Abri, Chief Executive Officer of Asyad Ports.

"Our extensive ISO certifications portfolio reinforces the faith our customers and partners place in Asyad Ports as a trusted name

for consistency and customer satisfaction. We will continue our quest to apply best sector practices and meet the highest international standards across all functions."

"This achievement will play a major role in attracting new shipping lines and improving our operations," he added.

With the addition of the Integrated Management System certification, Asyad Ports managed to build an impressive record of international certificates that reflects its commitment to develop robust operations, ensure standardisation of management processes, and apply diligent occupational health and safety practices.

- ONA

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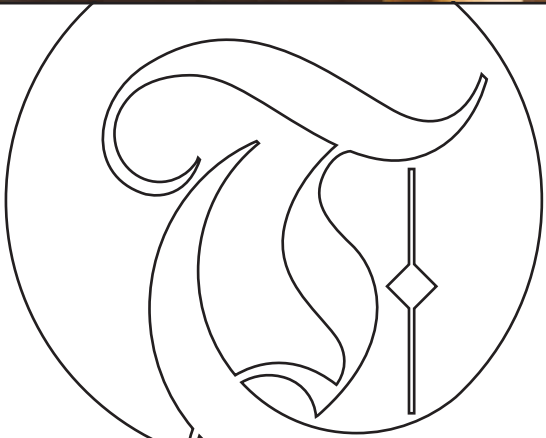
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Healthy Home Cooking



LIFESTYLE



According to a new study, being confident in the kitchen is not only good for your taste buds, but it's also good for your mental health. The research, led by the Edith Cowan University (ECU), was published in the journal, 'Frontiers in Nutrition'. The study follows ECU's partnership with The Good Foundation and Jamie's Ministry of Food initiative, with a mobile food kitchen providing cooking classes in the community as well as at the University's Perth and SW campuses, throughout 2016 to 2018. In total, 657 participants undertook the seven-week healthy cooking course. At the same time, ECU Institute for Nutrition Research academics measured the programme's effect on participants' cooking confidence and self-perceived mental health, as well as their overall satisfaction around cooking and diet-related behaviours.

Researchers found those who participated in the program saw significant improvements in general health, mental health and subjective vitality immediately after the program which remained six months after completing the course when compared to the study's control group. Improvements in cooking confidence, the ability to easily change eating habits and overcome lifestyle barriers to healthy eating were also reported. Lead researcher Dr Joanna Rees said the study showed the importance of diet for mental health. "Improving people's diet quality can be a preventive strategy to halt or slow the rise in poor mental health, obesity and other metabolic health disorders," she said.



Benefits People's Mental Health

"Future health programmes should continue to prioritise the barriers to healthy eating such as poor food environments and time restrictions, whilst placing greater emphasis on the value of healthy eating via quick and easy home cooked meals, rich in fruit and vegetables and avoiding ultra-processed convenience foods," she added. The institute has previously found a link between eating more fruits and vegetables and improved longer-term mental health in a larger study collecting more sophisticated dietary data, implying the participants in the current study may have felt better due to improved diet.

Future health programmes should continue to prioritise the barriers to healthy eating such as poor food environments and time restrictions, whilst placing greater emphasis on the value of healthy eating via quick and easy home cooked meals, rich in fruit and vegetables and avoiding ultra-processed convenience foods.



However, the study showed participants' mental health improved despite their reported diet not being found to have changed after completing the programme. Also, the mental health benefits were equal among participants who were overweight or obese, and those in a healthy weight range. "This suggests a link between cooking confidence and satisfaction around cooking, and mental health benefits," Dr Rees said. The study also revealed cooking remains a highly gendered task. At the start of the program, 77 per cent of participants who identified as female claimed to be confident

about cooking, compared to just 23 per cent of those who identified as male. But at the end of the program, cooking confidence and cooking skills were equal across both counterparts. "This change in confidence could see change to the household food environment by reducing the gender bias and leading to a gender balance in home cooking," Dr Rees said. "This in turn may help to overcome some of the barriers presented by not knowing how to cook, such as easing the time constraints which can lead to readymade meals which are high in energy but low in nutritional value," Dr Rees concluded. - ANI

THE WORLD IN PICTURES



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St. Patrick's Day Parade returns to Toronto
A dressed-up reveller poses for photos with a float during the 2022 Toronto St. Patrick's Day Parade in Toronto, Canada. The parade on Sunday returned to Toronto after a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *xinhua*



Ferry sinks after colliding with cargo vessel in Bangladesh
Rescuers undertake dive operations in a river following a ferry accident in Narayanganj, Bangladesh. Rescuers have recovered six bodies from a river in Narayanganj district outside Bangladesh's capital Dhaka after a ferry collided with another vessel and capsized on Sunday, a senior official said. *xinhua*

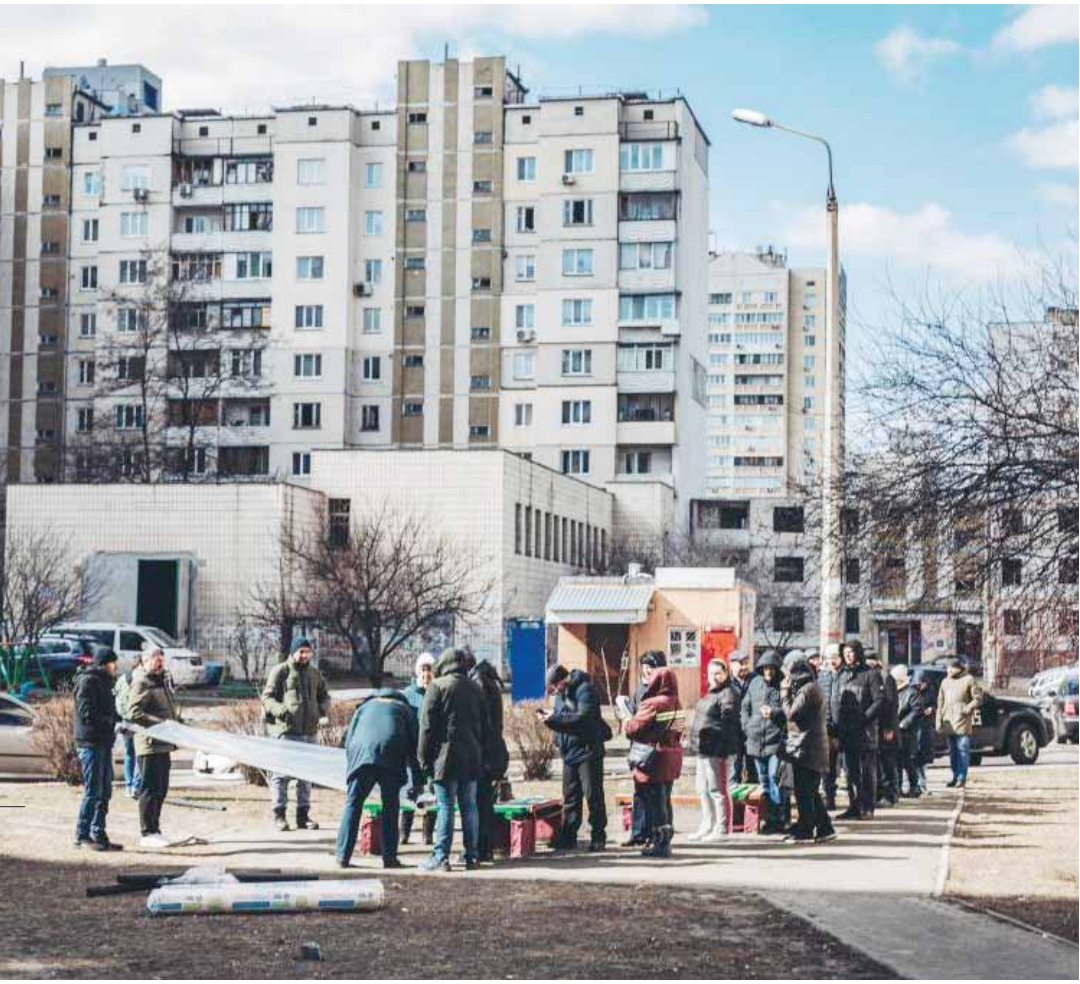


View of famous building La Muralla Roja in Spain
Picture shows a view of the famous building La Muralla Roja in Calpe, Spain. *xinhua*



Garden Expo park in Chongqing
An aerial picture shows the Garden Expo park in Chongqing, southwest China. *xinhua*

Ukraine extends martial law
People line up to get plastic covers to mend broken windows in Kiev, Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed a bill extending martial law in Ukraine, the press service of Ukraine's parliament said. *xinhua*



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‘Scratch and Win’ Kia Pegas this Ramadan

The Pegas is powered by Kia’s efficient 1.4-litre multi-point injection gasoline engine which produces maximum output of 94PS at 6,000rpm and maximum torque output of 13.5 @ 4,000 rpm



definitive character lines give the impression of motion, even while it sits stationary.

Inside, the cabin of the Pegas offers occupants maximum space and convenience. The centre fascia has been designed to enhance ease of use, with many of the car’s functions controlled with clear, ergonomic buttons. Adding appeal to the interior of the Pegas is power windows, front console centre armrest with storage box, driver’s seat adjuster, manual air conditioning, Radio and Bluetooth.

The Pegas is also immensely practical for storing luggage.

The trunk has a capacity of 475 litres, enough to store up to three golf bags, or a couple of large suitcases. As the trunk lid opens, illumination within the trunk also reveals any smaller items that could be forgotten.

Furthermore, the Pegas is equipped with an array of safety features, including four airbags, Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS), Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) and Keyless Entry System.

Reliable International Automotive, the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.

is on us. The campaign is valid until May 1. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details.)

The Kia Pegas is powered by Kia’s efficient 1.4-litre MPI (multi-point injection) gasoline engine which produces maximum output of 94PS at 6,000rpm and maximum torque output of 13.5 @ 4,000 rpm. It offers impressive fuel efficiency of 17.8 Kms/L.

For added convenience and safety the Pegas is also equipped with a rear parking system and steering audio control.

The Pegas offers buyers in this class a uniquely stylish design, with sculpted body panels and bold character lines complemented by a striking colour palette and a carefully-balanced sedan silhouette. The Pegas’ profile is enhanced with a chrome radiator grille, body colour bumper and door handles, body colour outside mirrors, side repeater lamp in the outside mirror, halogen lamps, 14” steel wheel, front fog lamp and rear fog lamp. Viewed from the side, the profile of the Pegas gives it a finely-balanced silhouette. Its

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SILVER SPONSOR

Oxy sponsors Oman Sustainability Week

MUSCAT: Oxy Oman representatives recently attended Oman Sustainability Week (OSW), which comprises a series of events centred on sustainability, including an awards ceremony, conference, and exhibition, where Oxy served as a silver sponsor.

The OSW was organised by be’ah and the Ministry of Energy and aimed to highlight Oman’s commitment to sustainability through engagement with national and global stakeholders with the themes of sustainable development and leadership.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Said bin Khamis Al Balushi, Senior Vice President Technical of Oxy

Oman attended the event, along with other senior representatives of the company.

The OSW hosted an exhibition showcasing global companies and organizations, including an Oxy booth, featuring the company’s efforts in sustainability and long-term investments to achieve net-zero emissions.

In addition, the OSW featured presentations and panel discussions on the latest sustainability technologies, solutions, and initiatives from across the world, and covered topics such as biowaste and food security, strategic planning for sustainable development, sustainability and the fourth industrial revolution, and carbon emissions.

“We’re proud to sponsor and participate in the inaugural Oman Sustainability Week, as Oxy is committed to innovating new approaches to advance sustainability in our operations, to advance a low-carbon future,” said Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager at Oxy Oman.

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ROUND-UP

EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS



Buraimi University to sign MoU with University of West London

MUSCAT: University of Buraimi (UoB) received a high-ranking delegation from the University of West London (UWL), led by Dr. Peter John, the Vice Chancellor, and accompanied by the British Ambassador to Oman, Bill Murray. The visit aims to sign a memorandum of understanding between University of Buraimi and University of West London to foster their collaboration in the fields of scientific research and consultancy in industry, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Abood bin Hamed Al Sawafi, Vice-chancellor of University of Buraimi and Yusuf bin Mohammed Al Farsi, Chairman of the



Board of Directors, along with several members of the senior management, received the visiting delegation.

The University of West London is a public university in the United Kingdom founded in 1860. For more than 150 years, UWL has excelled in academic as well as vocational education supplying the workforce and labour market with young professionals in the fields of business administration, computing, engineering, film, media, design, hospitality, tourism, humanities and social sciences, law, criminology, music and health care.

EXQUISITE CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Michelin-starred chef Rohit Ghai brings ‘Kutir’ from London to Shangri-la Al Husn

MUSCAT: After a decade on London's restaurant scene, one of the culinary world's most in-demand Michelin-starred chefs, Chef Rohit Ghai, joins Shangri-la Al Husn, Muscat at Sultanah for five nights only from March 23 to 27 paired with the enchanting live performance of a saxophonist and vocalist.

On this visiting stint, Chef Rohit will present an exquisite culinary experience as he delights guests of the fine-dining restaurant Sultanah with a carefully curated menu featuring his trademark interpretation of Indian cuisine. He will treat Muscat diners to a series of elegant and bespoke dishes during his kitchen takeover.

Earning a Michelin star within a record-breaking time of 10 months post-opening Jamavar in London's Mayfair, Chef Rohit has won praise from celebrities and dignitaries, as well as some of Britain's most discerning food critics. He is well-regarded worldwide for his innovative cooking techniques and ability to blend authentic Indian dishes with the contemporary fine-dining presentation.

Chef Rohit's international career began in 2008 when he joined Michelin-starred Benares in London's Mayfair, where he developed an understanding of the British palate and French techniques. In 2013, as a talented rising star in the London restaurant



scene, his created flair for cooking earned him a role as executive chef of two Michelin-starred restaurants, Trishna and Gymkhana.

Rohit Ghai opened his first solo site, Kutir in late 2018. Kutir is co-founded by Ghai and Abhi Sangwan who met during their time at Gymkhana, Bombay Bustle and Hoppers, and translated from Sanskrit means 'a small cottage in the middle of nowhere.' Kutir menu draws inspiration from the royal tradition of hunting expeditions in the lush forests and jungles of the Indian countryside. The food is representative of the feasting-style, convivial and celebratory dining that occurs on these retreats, and menus feature highly seasonal ingredients with an emphasis on game and seafood and offer a tasting or 'expedition' menu of 6 tasting courses.

Chef Rohit brought Kutir to Dubai for the first time at Expo 2020 under 'The Never Been Seen Collection', which garnered amazing interest among visiting culinary enthusiasts and has been a resounding success.

"We are excited to welcome an internationally acclaimed chef of this calibre to Shangri-La Al Husn. Chef Rohit Ghai brings to the kitchen and table a wealth of experience and creative vision which diversifies from traditional Indian cuisine," General Manager Sandro Mazza said of the chef's visit. "Our culinary team looks forward to learning from him in the pursuit of continuous growth and culinary excellence. Chef Rohit's visit will add new flavours and colours to our resort's dining scene as we continue delighting our guests with our series of immersive culinary experiences at Oman's exclusive cliff-top retreat."

INFINITI introduces exciting special offers

Range of offers on specific INFINITI models include free registration, free insurance, assured gifts vouchers, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card, digital promotion, INFINITI loyalty programme, reference programme



MUSCAT: Continuing with the tradition of rewarding its valued customers during the holy month of Ramadan, INFINITI Oman has introduced special offers across its INFINITI product range.

Range of offers on specific INFINITI models include free registration, free insurance, assured gifts vouchers, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card, digital promotion, INFINITI loyalty programme, reference programme. The special offer which started on March 20 will go on till May 19.

The scheme is applicable for all customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles for personal use only. Vehicles purchased with commercial

registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for a taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. The scheme is applicable for retail billing only.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman, said, "We are happy to put together a great deal as part of our celebrations of the holy month. Our special offers allow customers to buy their dream INFINITI with a combination of great incentives. INFINITI vehicles continue to be amongst the best-selling vehicles in Oman for obvious reasons. They are an excellent choice for anyone looking for powerful performance, safe drive, and comfortable interiors."

All customers purchasing INFINITI Q50, Q60, QX50, QX55, QX80 in the scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration.

All customers purchasing INFINITI Q50, Q60, QX50, QX55, QX80 in the scheme period will be eligible for Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers up to OMR 400. Vouchers can be redeemed for vehicle service, purchase of value-added service products at the SBA workshop, purchase of parts/accessories at the SBA workshop and purchase of service contracts from the SBA workshop. VAS vouchers will have to be utilised fully in one go and cannot be fragmented.

Any additional expenses on top of the voucher amount will be paid by the customer separately. VAS Voucher will have a limited validity period & will have to be a consumer before October 31. VAS Voucher is transferable and will be in the denomination of OMR 50. Multiple vouchers will be issued for OMR 200 / 400. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the amount cannot be discounted in cash.

The gift voucher value will vary from model to model. For INFINITI Q50, INFINITI Q60, INFINITI QX50 and INFINITI QX55 it is OMR 200 and for INFINITI QX80 it is OMR 400.

Customers purchasing INFINITI Q50, Q60, QX50, QX55, QX80 in the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of two years or 30,000km (whichever is earlier). This offer excludes battery and wear and tear components. This offer includes only the Service intervals of 10,000km.

All INFINITI vehicles: Q50, Q60, QX50, QX55, QX80 purchased in the scheme period will have a 3 years / 100,000km manufacturer's warranty.

A free AAA / Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI Saloon Cars & SUV vehicles, for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman & UAE.

Two winners from all the social media users who will participate in the Ramadan campaign, Contest and other online challenges on Instagram (@sbainfinitiomani) and Facebook (@sbainfinitiomani) will get BOSE Ear Buds.

All INFINITI existing owners and their immediate family members [father, mother, son(s) & unmarried daughter(s)] will be eligible for the following additional benefits on purchase of another INFINITI vehicle. Diamond members will get a loyalty bonus on the trade-in price of Infiniti vehicle of OMR 300 and platinum will get OMR 400. The special in-house finance rate for diamond members is 3.75% and platinum is 3.50%. Diamond members will get a special accessories package of window tinting and platinum members will get window tinting and paint protection.

INFINITI will generate references of people looking to buy a car. This reference will be generated from existing INFINITI customers. The same person cannot refer himself but can refer to multiple names. If any of the referred persons buy an INFINITI car, then the person who referred him will get OMR 100 gift voucher. This gift voucher can be redeemed during vehicle service at the SBA workshop, purchase of consumables from SBA counters, Purchase of parts and accessories from SBA counters. All such gift voucher winners will be declared on an ongoing basis. This gift voucher is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for credit. The gift voucher will be valid for six months from the date of issue.

RARE LIVER DISEASE



Yemeni national undergoes successful liver transplant at Aster Mims, Calicut

MUSCAT: Doctors at Aster Mims Calicut performed a successful liver transplant for a Riyadh based Yemeni national, suffering from end-stage liver disease, the first of its kind in North Kerala.

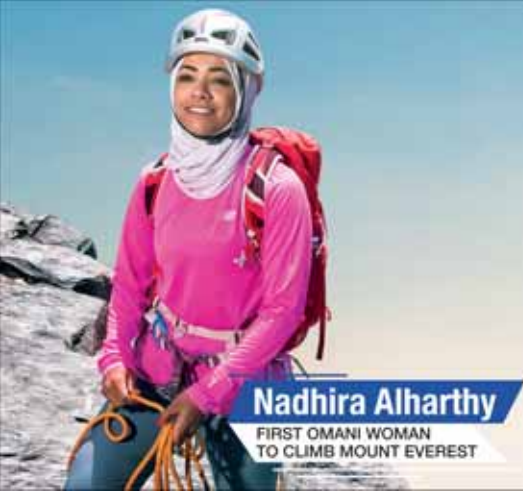
Born with rare liver disease, 30-year-old Fatima Abdulkarim Saeed Al Nahdi was under treatment from various hospitals in the Middle East. She had Budd Chiari syndrome with multiple protein enzyme defects resulting in blockage of major vessels of the liver. Though a stent tube was placed from Saudi Arabia 2 years back, she had multiple medical issues with a poor quality of life. All of that changed, thanks to a liver transplant she received three months back from Aster Mims Calicut.

She came to know about the Liver team at Aster from her brother's Keralite friend through whom they consulted the liver surgeon, Dr Noushif Medappil. Though travel restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic made things difficult, the MVT team aided a hassle-free process.

Her brother, Saleh Al Nahdi donated a portion of his liver through major surgery to save his beloved sister. The 12-hour long surgery was technically challenging involving removal of the previous stent tube with damaged liver and reconstructing major vessels, said Dr Sajeesh Sahadevan, Head of the team. The surgical team including Dr Noushif, Dr Abishek, Dr Seetha were supported by the hepatology team led by Dr Anish Kumar and liver intensivists Dr Kishore and Dr Rakesh.

"We could put our complete trust and faith in the team. We are thankful to the doctors, nurses and the experienced team at Aster Mims, Calicut for their timely intervention to get my life back on track again. Back in Riyadh with family, Ms Fatima was also astonished by the hospitality of Calicut.

With the support of the Ministry of Health complex medical services similar to the present case would be done in the upcoming Aster Royal Hospital in Muscat which includes 145 inpatient beds 128 Slice CT, 1.5 Tesla MRI, cardiac Cath Lab to name a few.



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+5 points

قطع
5 Pieces

وفر
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1 RIAL .820

0 RIAL .910

نفاقي الدجاج (أمريكانا) ٣٤٠ غرام
Americana chicken franks 340g



قطعتين
2 Pieces

وفر
SAVE 50%

2 RIAL .980

1 RIAL .490

كرات لحم بقر (الزین) ٣٠٠ غرام
Al Zain Beef Meat Ball 300g



وفر
SAVE 21%

3 RIAL .790

2 RIAL .990

شوكولاتة بالنمر (كارفور) ٣٤٠ غرام
Carrefour chocodate calendar 340g



1800W

10L

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59 RIAL .900

34 RIAL .900

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Impex airfryer AF4310



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11 RIAL .990

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Blumen hot pot assorted



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وفر
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2 RIAL .580

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Lipton yellow Label tea bags 200's



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وفر
SAVE 33%

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1 RIAL .990

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