

OMAN OIL PRICE SHOOTS UP TO JUST SHORT OF \$85 A BARREL

The price of Oman oil increased overnight by \$1.16 to reach just short of \$85 a barrel, reports the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). "The marker price on January 17 for March 2022 Oman crude oil futures contract (OQD) is \$ 84.94," said the DME in an announcement. **>A2**



OMAN EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH UAE

MUSCAT: The Foreign Ministry here expressed the solidarity of the Sultanate of Oman with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and supports measures undertaken by the UAE to safeguard its security and stability. Oman also voiced its condemnation and denouncement of the attack that targeted the UAE capital city, Abu Dhabi, and caused death and injury among civilians. **-ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Archaeological exhibition kicks off



1 The "archaeological discoveries" exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, kicked off on Monday at Al Baleed Archeological site, the Governorate of Dhofar. The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharusi, the Ministry's Undersecretary for Heritage. **>A5**

WORLD North Korea tests 4th missile this month

2 North Korea fired two unidentified projectiles towards the ocean off its east coast on Monday, the South Korean military said. This would be the fourth weapons test by Pyongyang since New Year's Day – a frequency that observers believe is unusual. Japan's coast guard confirmed the launch. **>A7**

MARKET Agreement to develop renewable energy

3 The Ministry of Energy and Minerals and BP has signed a Strategic Framework Agreement and a Renewables Data Collection Agreement to support the development of renewable energy and green hydrogen development in Oman. **>B1**

HONOUR

HM the Sultan confers Order of Commendation on former Director General, Chairman of AFESD



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Monday conferred the Order of Commendation on Abdullateef Yousef Al Hamad, Former Director-General and Chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development's (AFESD) Board of Directors.

The order reflects His Majesty the Sultan's recognition for the efforts of AFESD former chairman and his contribution to the development work on the Arab level.

The order was handed over by His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan when he received Al Hamad in his office on Monday.

The conferment ceremony was attended by the Secretary-General and the two advisers at the Office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. **-ONA**



OMAN LAUNCHES 22 NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The new avenues were created as part of the ministry's commitments to create 100 new opportunities for investment in the industrial sector



The newly created business opportunities are spread across three companies

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 22 investment opportunities related to manufacturing and industry have been launched by Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment

Promotion (MOCIIP).

The new avenues were created as part of the ministry's commitments to create 100 new opportunities for investment in the industrial sector, and have been spread across three companies:

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Nama Group, and Mazoon Dairy. It is hoped that the opening up of new areas for investment will encourage local and foreign investors to set up more operations in Oman.

15 of the opportunities are provided by PDO, amounting to investment value worth OMR44 million. PDO has created room for investment in the space of manufacturing of key components related to oil and gas, such as switchgears, measurement instruments,

IPF valves, control valves, actuators, gas turbine air intake filters, raw materials for thermoplastic and thermoset pipes, rig spares, perforation explosives for oil and gas applications, CCTV camera poles, and low voltage motors.

Companies that specialise in the manufacture of chemicals such as enzymes, shale inhibitor polyamines, de-emulsifiers, and glycol, also have opportunities to invest in PDO's operations.

As part of its collaboration with Nama, and its cross-sector in-

country value efforts, PDO has also encouraged investment into the manufacture of reverse osmosis membranes, and in the fabrication of electrical steel towers and communication cables.

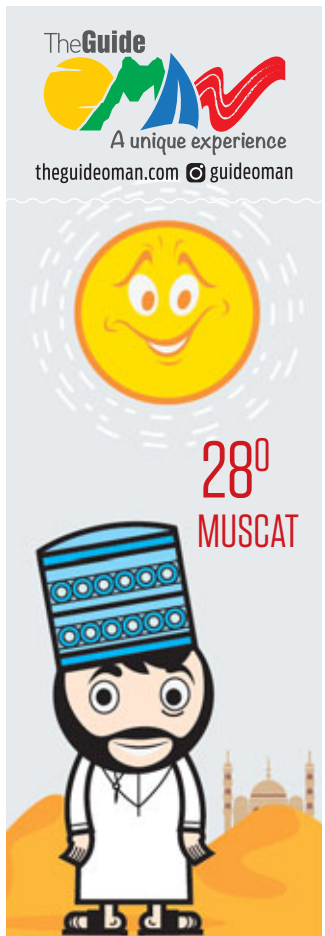
Five more areas of investment worth OMR70 million are provided by Nama Group, and another two are under Mazoon Dairy, worth OMR600,000.

Nama Holding is looking for investors and companies to set up the manufacturing of infrastructure such as capacitor banks in

substations, air breaker switches, and smart electric meters.

A full list of areas open to investors can be viewed on the website, www.investinoman.com

Explaining the decision to expand investment to include these particular areas, Asila bint Salem Al Samsamiya, the Undersecretary for Investment Promotion at MOCIIP said, "The ministry took into consideration the need to distribute these investment opportunities across the various governorates of Oman." **>A2**



RESEARCH

Royal Hospital Muscat discovers new genetic disease

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new genetic disease has been discovered by a team of doctors working at the Royal Hospital in Muscat.

The discovery was made by a team of physicians comprising specialists from the Respiratory Diseases and Genetic Health Centre of the Royal Hospital in cooperation with their counterparts from Germany. The newly discovered genetic disease is similar to cystic fibrosis.

It was the culprit behind cases of recent pulmonary infection in four children (three of them from one family). The doctors have identified the responsible new gene as 'AGR2'. The 'AGR2' gene was not previously described as the cause of any disease. It took three years to complete the study.

The team included Dr. Sumaya bint Juma Al Arami and Dr. Khawla bint Said Al Shidhani and Dr. Maryam bint Mohammed Al Shehi.

Dr. Sumaya and Dr. Khawla, are



both consultant physicians from the Respiratory Unit and Dr. Maryam is a consultant genetics and genetic medicine from the Genetic Health Centre.

The team applied the study to the gene's effect on infected mice to further establish the symptoms of the recurrent infections.

The researchers concluded that

the altered gene generates proteins that prevent the formation of mucus naturally, said Dr. Maryam bint Mohammed Al Shehi, a paediatrician and genetics consultant at the National Centre for Genetic Health at the Royal Hospital.

This in turn, affects the process of eliminating microbes easily, thus causing recurring severe in-

fections in the lungs, which may lead to lung tissue damage in the long run, she added.

Dr. Sumaya bint Juma Al Arami said that the discovery to identify the cause of a completely new genetic disease and document it for the first time in a prestigious scientific journal is a scientific achievement.

This discovery facilitates the diagnosis and treatment of similar rare diseases, she added.

Four cases have already been diagnosed in the Sultanate of Oman during the research period, she

further said.

Dr. Khawla bint Said Al Shidhani clarified that there is currently no complete curative treatment for this disease, and the proposed treatments alleviate the disease and slow down its complications, such as pulmonary fibrosis.

Dr. Maryam laid stress on the necessity of genetic testing before marriage for members of families with history of hereditary disease.

This will help avoid occurrence of such rare genetic diseases in the future.





Dhuhr.....	12:22pm
Asr.....	3:27pm
Maghrib.....	5:48pm
Isha.....	7:02pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:32am

Oman oil price shoots up, hovers near \$85 a barrel

Dr Mohammed Al Wardi, an economic analyst, added that the current price of oil was nearly \$35 higher than the projected price listed in the budget



Times News Service

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DME
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Budget list
Dr Mohammed Al Wardi, an economic analyst, added that the current price of oil was nearly \$35 higher than the projected price listed in the budget.

Oman crude
Even as recently as a month ago, the price of Oman crude was listed as \$73.24 a barrel, which means prices have shot up by more than \$10 in a span of 30

days. Prices were better in November 2021, when oil fetched \$81.26 a barrel, and even better on 18 October, when Oman crude was priced at \$83.95.
However, about a year ago, on 18 January 2021, the price of oil hovered at about \$54 a barrel, far closer to the estimated price listed in the budget.
Oil prices, in fact, stayed between \$50 and \$55 a barrel for most of January 2021.

Oman Oil and Gas Institute marks passing out of 70 participants

MUSCAT: Oman Institute for Oil and Gas on Monday held a ceremony marking the passing out of 70 engineers and geologists at the conclusion of the first phase of intensive training of human resources.
The ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Musallam Salim Al Busaidi, Human Resources Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labour.

Agreement signed
The ceremony included the signing of an agreement between Oman Institute for Oil and Gas and Oman Environment Services Company (Be’ah) dealing with partnership in the field of environmental resources sustainability.

Training programmes
Eng. Nasr Nassir Al Siyabi, Director General of Oman Institute for Oil and Gas, stressed the significance of the institute’s training programmes provided in honing the skills of the participants.

Participants
Meanwhile, Abulrahman Humaid Al Yahya’ee, CEO of Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL), told the media that all the participants joined the labour market (70 percent of them in oil and gas firms) after completing the three-year training programme.



FUNCTION: The ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Musallam Salim Al Busaidi, Human Resources Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labour. - ONA



- ONA

CH-AVIATION



Asia’s Youngest Aircraft Fleet award for SalamAir

MUSCAT: SalamAir has won Asia’s youngest aircraft fleet for 2022 and the third world Youngest Aircraft Fleet award from Ch-Aviation, Switzerland.

On this occasion, Capt. Mohamed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir said: “This will be the second year that we have won this accolade by Ch-Aviation. It is definitely a proud moment for all of us at SalamAir as we are celebrating our 5th anniversary of providing our customers with the best value for money service, in the most state of the art aircraft the Airbus A320neo and A321neo. We are recognised among 4,700 active airlines globally, it makes us very proud to have such a young fleet as it helps us in being efficient, reliable while offering our customers comfort when travelling.
“Our environmental impact is also at our forefront as much as our customers; having a young



fleet also helps us reduce our carbon footprint with lower carbon emissions making us more environment friendly.
“We have always maintained our service excellence and we will make all efforts to continue to do so in the future as well. We hope to receive our 2nd A321neo aircraft this year which will be utilized to further expand our network and take our customers to new and exciting destinations.” -ONA

INDUSTRIAL CITY

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, visited Al Buraimi Industrial City on Monday to explore the projects and get acquainted with the opportunities available in the industrial city.

Al Mahrouqiyah was accompanied by a number of officials representing the public and private sectors.

Receiving the delegation, Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, CEO of Madayn, explained that Al Buraimi Industrial City – along with the rest of Madayn’s expanding network of industrial cities – was established to achieve the vision of Madayn in enhancing the Sultanate’s position as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, ICT, innovation and entrepreneurship excellence.

He said that its mission was to attract industrial investments and provide continued support, through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value adding services, and easy governmental processes.

The visit emphasised on the significance of effective integration between Madayn and the educational institutions in Al Buraimi governorate to achieve



mutual benefit and identify innovation and knowledge-based investment opportunities in pursuance of Oman Vision 2040.
The visit also stressed the importance of providing training opportunities to students to develop their skills and meet the requirements of the labour market.
The officials elaborated that Al Buraimi Industrial City was established in 1998 on an area exceeding 5 million sqm, and is adjacent to key ports and local and regional airports.
Located nearly 100 km away from Sohar Port and Sohar Air-

port and around 120 km away from Dubai International Airport and Jebel Ali Port, Al Buraimi Industrial City today is home to over 300 projects of various activities.
Moreover, the officials explained that Madayn is currently implementing infrastructure development project in Al Buraimi Industrial City, which comprises developing an area of 300,000 sqm to incubate Small and Medium Enterprises, establishing sewage plant as well as rehabilitating roads and rain drainage channels.
The Minister of Higher Edu-

cation, Research and Innovation then toured Al Buraimi Industrial City where she was introduced to Masar Service Centre which is currently in its soft opening phase in Al Buraimi.
Through providing a lineup of services that are required by investors, Masar Service Centre aims at accelerating and simplifying procedures, strengthening relations with partners to provide integrated services to investors, and ensuring a reliable and secure environment for the companies to conduct day-to-day transactions with the concerned bodies.

ARM INDEX

Oman Air granted ‘Airline Retailing Maturity status’ certification

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, on Monday announced that it has been granted ‘Airline Retailing Maturity status’ under IATA’s ARM Index Programme.
The certification recognises that Oman Air uses Shop/Order capabilities compliant with the standard Enhanced and Simplified Distribution message schema, version 18.2 and the ARM index Capabilities Verification Guidance.
Commenting on the certification, Umesh Chhiber, Senior Vice President Revenue Management, Pricing and Distribution at Oman Air, said “Receiving this status is a proud moment for Oman Air as we now join the first few airlines to have attained the ARM Index certification. Airline retailing has been one of the biggest industry disrupters in recent years and Oman Air is working towards developing additional enhanced

retailing capabilities on our NDC channel. These new capabilities, once developed and verified by IATA, will be published in our ARM Index Registry.”
Oman Air’s new strategy is focused on becoming an omnichannel airline that gives its customers the freedom to choose when and how they interact with the airline.
“As a customer-centric airline, Oman Air is committed to providing greater freedom of choice to our customers,” Chhiber added, “This is irrespective of whether or not they choose traditional GDS distribution channels, OTAs, aggregators or the cost-optimal NDC Channel, which will help Oman Air reduce its distribution costs significantly. I commend IATA and other airlines who alongside Oman Air are fully committed to the NDC journey by offering more freedom of choice to the customer.” -ONA



SECOND PACKAGE



New opportunities for investment

“This was done to help contribute to achieving economic and social development in each governorate, as well as provide job opportunities,” she added.
“This will help add to the economic and social dimensions of the development plans set up by each governorate.”
In this context, Dr Saleh bin Saeed Al Masan, the Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry at MOCIIP, added that the ministry will speed up the applications and approvals for investors who wish to set up operations in Oman. “This comes along with an

integrated package of facilitating procedures, as well as providing incentives and privileges,” he explained.
According to Sami bin Salem Al Sahib, the Director General of Industry at the ministry, “these opportunities were created to enhance the investment environment in the country by encouraging local and foreign investors to establish national industry, and promote the concept of added in-country value to the industrial sector, which in turn contributes to supporting the Omani economy.” With inputs from Oman News Agency



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More private vet clinics will improve animal care

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources is encouraging and supporting the establishment of veterinary facilities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Encouraging more private veterinary clinics to open will mean there is better care available for animals, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) has said.

“The ministry is encouraging and supporting the establishment of veterinary facilities by contributing to a wider umbrella to help provide veterinary services to breeders of, and investors in animals,” said the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in a statement.



IN OPERATION: At the start of 2022, there were 320 private veterinary facilities operating in Oman.

At the start of 2022, there were 320 private veterinary facilities operating in Oman. These include 192 clinics, 124 pharmacies, and four laboratories.

Comprehensive treatment “These facilities provide com-

prehensive treatment, diagnostic and laboratory services necessary for the livestock sector to ensure the safety and quality of animal products, and raise the economic value of the sector and the groups benefiting from it,” added the ministry.



There are 64 veterinary facilities each in North and South Al Batinah, 38 each in North Sharqiyah and Muscat, 31 in Dhofar, 23 each in Al Dakhiliyah and South Al Sharqiyah, 19 in Al Dhahirah, nine in Al Buraimi, seven in Al Wusta, and four in Musandam.

Providing services “The Ministry takes care of private veterinary facilities by providing services such as issuing and renewing licenses, supervising, inspecting, monitoring and preparing reports on their services,” added the ministry.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

37,019 REACH

Over 8,000 job vacancies have been announced by the Ministry of Education.





A story about new jobs announced in Oman

A story about new jobs announced in Oman reached 37,019 people and had 3,595 engagements on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

7,500 VIEWS





Maghrib Minute video

The Maghrib Minute video had 7,500 views and reached 30,900 people on Facebook.

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

496 VIEWS





Page 1 story video

The Page 1 story video had 496 views and 37 likes on Instagram.



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THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

ROUND UP OF THE PERFORMANCES FOR JANUARY 2022



FOLLOWING on from the success of the season's opening performance by Saber Rebai on the 6th and 7th of January, the Royal Opera House Muscat has announced a host of performances programmed for the coming weeks to delight and enthrall audiences.

Their enduringly popular Lunch Music series returns on the 15th of January. Enjoy an informal dip in and out of opera at the Opera Galleria. Grab a coffee or an early lunch and take your family to enjoy live music in the mall. It is free of charge and full of fun. There is no better way to enjoy a lazy Friday lunch time. Lunch Music starts at 12.30 and will be performed by the Fondazione Arena di Verona.

The exciting new exhibition delving into the creative inspiration and works of one of the world's finest stage directors opens at the Exhibition Hall at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts. The Artistic World of Franco Zeffirelli is an exhibition curated to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Royal Opera House Muscat, honouring a great artist, whose contribution to the world of opera is considerable. The exhibition features details and items from some of his greatest productions, brought together and on display for the first time. The exhibition is open to visitors between 10am and 5pm from the 16th January to the 20th March 2022.

A World Premiere takes place on the 20th January with Giuseppe Verdi's Rigoletto. In a stunning presentation from the master of grand stagings Franco Zeffirelli, the Royal Opera House Muscat's production of this classical masterpiece will be a feast for opera lovers the world over. Co-produced with Fondazione Arena di Verona and the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, featuring a host of stars, conducted by Jan Latham Koenig, the glittering production team has created a production of epic proportions and significance. The story of the court jester whose lashing wit makes him the worst of enemies is a riotous production of colourful characters and cunning schemes for revenge. The show

is on 20th, 21st and 22nd January at the Royal Opera House Muscat, at 7pm. Don't forget the pre-performance talk which takes place at 6pm ahead of the performance, to learn more about the production, the opera and the work behind the scenes.

Giuseppe Verdi is further celebrated on the 23rd January with a concert entitled Verdi's Masterpieces. A composer known and loved the world over for his incredible canon of work, this concert explores the arias and duets which have captured fans throughout the world for generations. Sung by artists from the Fondazione Arena di Verona, with the orchestra of the company conducted by Jan Latham-Koenig.

The 25th of January is a date to mark in your diaries for coffee and dates (7pm) with American artist and star performer Chris Botti ahead of his concerts on the 27th & 28th January. This is the perfect lead into the next fixture of this incredible first month of the 2022, 10th anniversary season: An Evening with Chris Botti. Chris Botti is a musical phenomenon, outstandingly talented as a composer and musician, currently America's bestselling instrumentalist. This evening promises to be brilliant. Botti presents a programme of his greatest hits and inspired renditions of jazz favourites at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts.

Finally, January draws to a close with Absolute Music, a concert dedicated to the sound of the accordion with the acclaimed artist Giancarlo Palena. In Out of the Magic Box, enjoy an hour of soulful sounds of a bygone era in the intimate setting of the House of Musical Arts on January 31st at 7pm.

All performances will take place under the guidelines issued by the Supreme Committee entrusted with taking measures to tackle any developments of COVID-19. Safety measures are in place throughout the opera house to ensure your comfort and safety.

For more information, download the app or visit the ROHM website.



Archaeological exhibition kicks off at Al Baleed site

The Dhofar exhibition includes 24 introductory boards and displays 60 artefacts

SALALAH: The “archaeological discoveries” exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, kicked off on Monday at Al Baleed Archeological Site, the Governorate of Dhofar. The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharusi, the Ministry’s Undersecretary for Heritage. The exhibition, which will be held till 15 February 2022, comes in line with the ministry’s programmes in promoting the heritage and tourism areas in Oman by shedding light on the prominent archaeological discoveries in various governorates. The exhibition includes 24 introductory boards and displays 60 archaeological artefacts.

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Land of Frankincense Meanwhile, the number of visitors to the Land of Frankincense sites in the Governorate of Dhofar last year stood at 43,174, according to data released by the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar. -**ONA**



International Oman Drift Championship on January 20

MUSCAT: The Oman Automobile Association (OAA) yesterday held a press conference to unveil the details of the International Oman Drift Championship and the Rally Oman Sohar International which will be held this month with the participation of contestants from Oman and other countries. The conference was attended by Sulaiman Abdullah Al Rawahi, General Director of OAA, as well as the directors of the two championships. Al Rawahi said that the association has resumed its international activities after a halt caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the two championships will include participants from more than 20 countries, comprising a host of renowned drivers. The events will be held in compliance of preventive measures. In his turn, Fahmi Nasser Al Busaidi, Director of the International Oman Drift Championship said that the competition will kick off on 20 and 21 January 2022 on OAA’s Muscat Arena with 56 participants from 17 countries. Meanwhile, Anwar Ali Al Zadjali, Director of the Rally Oman Sohar International said that the



3-day rally will kick off on 27 January 2022 in several locations in the Governorate of Muscat and the Governorate of South Al Batinah. Al Zadjali added that the rally will see the participation of the international champion and winner of Dakar 2022 Rally Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah from Qatar, the returning Omani veteran driver Hamad Al Wahaibi, winner of the former edition of the Rally Oman Sohar International Abdullah Al Rawahi and the Qatari driver Nasser Khalifa Al Attiyah. -**ONA**

LAND TRANSPORT LAW

Transgression of rules detected by transport ministry

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has detected various instances of transgression and violation of the Land Transport Law (promulgated by Royal Decree No. 10/2016) and took legal action against the perpetrators. The violations included exceeding truck axle weight, manipulating vehicle operation cards and practicing unlicensed land transport activities. Some of the offenders also surpassed foreign land transport procedures like exercising transportation be-

tween two points within the Sultanate of Oman without obtaining clearance to do so and staying in Oman beyond the 7-day period of stay without a license. The breaches were discovered during inspection campaigns aimed at spreading awareness and encouraging commitment to the Land Transport Law and its executive regulation. The campaigns also seek to limit the use of foreign transport and encourage the use of national transport vehicles as a measure to ensure a safe and sustainable transport environment. -**ONA**

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Workshop highlights role of audit units

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance on Monday organised a workshop to discuss a plan to draft the final version of the quarterly report of internal auditing departments at government units. The plan, set to enhance the role of government internal audit units, is being implemented in association with priorities of Oman Vision 2040, aimed to realise a system of legislation, justice and monitoring of financial activities. During the workshop, the Ministry reviewed the quarterly report’s final draft and the best practices endorsed by government units to ensure the imple-



mentation of the budget and detection of financial breach. The workshop was attended by Abdullah Salim Al Harthi, Undersecretary of the Finance Ministry, and representatives of government units. -**ONA**



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 08:00 am Wednesday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/HQ-1/2022	Supply of Pharmaceuticals for the Royal Hospital	27/January/ 2022	16/February/ 2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 105.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-2/2022	Supply & Installation of Respiratory Care Equipment for Directorate General of Specialized Medical Care	24/January/ 2022	02/February/ 2022		R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-3/2022	Supply of Educational Books for Oman College of Health Science	27/January /2022	16/February/ 2022		R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-4/2022	Supply of Reagents and Consumables for Microbiology Laboratory at The Royal Hospital		23/February/ 2022		R.O 25.000 Per set
MOH/HQ-5/2022	Provision of Maintenance Services and Operation of Equipment at Ministry of Health Headquarters		Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Excellent Grade	R.O 250.000 Per set	
MOH/HQ-6/2022	Upgrading of Building Management System at Sur Hospital In South Al Sharqiyah Governorate		Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set	
MOH/HQ-7/2022	Supply & Installation of CCTV IP System for Directorate General of Medical Supplies				

- Tenders should be submitted on line on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> enclose Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.
- For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone: 24402200 , Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

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HIGHEST RATE

Highest rate of US children hospitalisations from COVID

WASHINGTON: US paediatric hospitalisations related to COVID-19 are at the highest level since the start of the pandemic, according to the latest data of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The country is averaging 893 new hospital admissions each day for children 17 years and under, a record high since the CDC started to track the number from August



2020. Most of these hospitalizations are because of COVID-19, although some are children who were admitted for other causes but tested positive for COVID-19 when they were admitted or during their hospital stay, according to the CDC.

The country saw over 90,000 total hospital admissions for children 17 years old and under from August 1, 2020 to January 13,

2022, CDC data showed.

The highest hospitalisation rates among all children are in those ages newborn to 4 years, who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

The Omicron variant does not appear to cause more severe disease in children than other variants of the virus, and the overall rates of pediatric hospitalisations are still lower than in any adult age group, according to the CDC. **ANI**



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LAST DITCH APPEAL

Novak Djokovic leaves Australia after court rejects deportation appeal

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic left Australia on Sunday evening on a flight from Melbourne to Dubai, hours after Australia's Federal Court ruled against the tennis star's last ditch appeal against a deportation order on the eve of the Australian Open.

In a statement released after the court's decision, Djokovic said he was "extremely disappointed by the ruling to dismiss my application for judicial review of the... decision to cancel my visa, which means I cannot stay in Australia and participate in the Australian Open."

Djokovic has won the Australian Open nine times and was hoping to achieve a record 21st major title.

However, his visa was canceled after arriving in Australia, as he has not been vaccinated against coronavirus.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison welcomed Sunday's ruling, saying in a statement the decision will help "keep our borders strong and keep Australians safe."

"It's now time to get on with the Australian Open and get back to enjoying tennis over the summer," Morrison said.

The ATP Tour said that Djokovic's visa cancellation marked the



end of what it called a "deeply regrettable series of events."

In a statement released on Twitter, the association said that matters of public health had to be respected, and that lessons needed to be learned.

"Irrespective of how this point has been reached, Novak is one of our sport's greatest champions and his absence from the Australian Open is a loss for the game," it added.

The ATP also said that it continued to strongly recommend vaccination for all tennis players.

Family and Serbian president defiant

In Serbia, Djokovic's father Srdjan rallied hundreds of fans and at one point said his son had been "crucified," much like Jesus.

"We believe he will come out of this situation stronger and that the time will show what he has been proving beyond any doubt so far, that he is a great champion and a man," the family said Sunday, adding that the ruling had been influenced by "politics and a lot of other interests."

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said the hearing had been "a farce with a lot of lies."

"They think that they humiliated Djokovic with this 10-day harassment, and they actually humiliated themselves. If you said that the one who was not vaccinated has no right to enter, Novak would not come or would be vaccinated," Vucic told reporters. **DW**

WINTER STORM



Powerful winter storm batters southeastern states of US

WASHINGTON: Several US states were taking stock of the damage on Monday while others were bracing for impact, after a major winter storm swept through the region, heavy snow and ice knocking out power and disrupting travel.

The southeastern states of Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina all declared emergencies due to the storm, which hit the area on Sunday.

Winter weather alerts were issued across the eastern US stretching more than 1,000 miles and covering more than 80 million people.

An estimated 130,000 homes and businesses in the Carolinas and Georgia reported power outages by mid-Sunday, according to the website PowerOutage.US.

However, it appeared some households were coming back online by the evening.

Tornado in Florida

The National Weather Service warned of heavy snowfall, freezing rain, and high winds, making its way through the southeast and coastal mid-Atlantic on Sunday before moving up to New England and southern Canada later on Monday.

The highest snowfall was expected at some areas along the Appalachian mountain range, which could see as much as one inch of snow per hour through Monday, the NWS said. Icy conditions could continue to develop through Tuesday, it added.

A tornado with 118 mph (190 kph) winds struck southwest Florida, the weather service said. It was on the ground for more than 2 miles and destroyed 30 mobile homes, while dozens more sustained major damage.

Hazardous road conditions
In North Carolina, some regions saw as much as 10 inches (25 centimetres) of snow, and highway patrols reported hundreds of road accidents.

The North Carolina Highway Patrol responded to at least 300

car crashes and nearly 800 calls for service by mid-afternoon, the agency spokesperson Christopher Knox said.

Two people died on Sunday when they lost control of their car drove off the road and into trees in the state capital Raleigh.

Virginia State Police reported a "multi-vehicle backup," along with minor crashes, that had caused traffic congestion on a major interstate in the southern part of the state.

Flights grounded

More than 3,000 domestic and international flights were canceled on Sunday, and over 8,000 flights were delayed, according to FlightAware data.

More than 90% of flights scheduled at Florida's Charlotte Douglas International airport were cancelled on Sunday.

American Airlines alone saw more than 660 flight cancellations. Customers affected by the weather were allowed to rebook flights without a fee, the airline said. **DW**



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SULTANATE OF OMAN

Ministry of Interior

TENDERS NOTICE

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Interior announces the following tender:

S.N.	Tender No.	Tender Description	Last date for obtainment of tender documents	Last date of bid submission	Tender Document's fee
01	01/2022	Cleaning of the Ministry building No. (2) and some buildings affiliated with the Ministry as follows: 1- The Ministry's Warehouses in Al-Mabilah 2- Vehicle Maintenance Workshop in Ghala 3- Property Survey and Valuation Department in Al Khuwair (33) 4- Human Resources Development Center at the Airport Heights For the year 2022	18/01/2022	07/02/2022	RO 25/-

Interested companies/establishments specialized in the above-mentioned works and registered with the Tender Board may obtain the tender documents of terms and specifications from the Services & Procurement Department (Services Section) at the premises of the Ministry in Al Khuwair, during official working hours, against payment of the abovementioned fees starting from Tuesday 18/01/2022.

Bidders shall enclose an interim warranty in the form of a bank guarantee/cheque, approved by a locally registered bank at 1% of the bid value, addressed to the Ministry of Interior, and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission. Any bid not meeting the required conditions shall not be considered.

Bids shall be submitted, duly signed and stamped, in closed envelopes sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Interior, bearing the tender number and subject with no indication to the name of the bidder.

Bids shall be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the Undersecretary of the Ministry at the premises of the Ministry in Al Khuwair, at 10 a.m. of the last date of bid submission stated above. Representatives of bidding companies /establishments have to attend the envelope opening at 11 a.m. on the last day of bid submission.

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

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE

SPORTS



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No COVID vaccination could mean no Roland Garros for Djokovic

France's vaccine pass law that was approved by parliament on Sunday, will require people to have a certificate of vaccination to enter public places



PARIS: World number one Novak Djokovic could be barred from playing in the French Open after France's Sports Ministry on Monday said that there would be no exemption from the country's new vaccine pass law for the anti-vaccine tennis player.

Vaccine pass

"The rule is simple. The vaccine pass will be imposed, as soon as the law is promulgated, in establishments that were already subject to the health pass," France's Sports Ministry said, Sydney Morning Herald reported quoting Reuters.

"This will apply to everyone who is a spectator or a professional sportsperson. And this until further notice. Now, as far as Roland Garros is concerned, it's in May. The situation may change between now and then and we hope that it will be more favourable. So we'll see, but clearly, there's no exemption," it added.

France's vaccine pass law that was approved by parliament on Sunday, will require people to have a certificate of vaccination to enter public places such as restaurants, cafes, cinemas, and long-distance trains.

ANI

Nadal races into Australian Open 2nd round with 70th win, Shapovalov survives

MELBOURNE: Sixth-seed Rafael Nadal cruised into the second round of the Australian Open after he defeated Marcos Giron at Rod Laver Arena on Monday.

The 2009 AO champion Spaniard thrashed Giron from the USA by 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match that lasted for one hour and 49 minutes. This was also the 20-time Grand Slam winner's 70th win at the Australian Open. In the second round, Nadal will either face Yannick Hanfmann of Germany or Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia.

Earlier in the day, Carlos Alcaraz lived up to his status as a first-time Grand Slam seed with a dominant 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 win over Chilean qualifier Alejandro Tabilo.

Strikingly dressed in a sleeveless shirt and all-red kit, the 18-year-old Spaniard's first-strike tennis proved too much for Tabilo, who was making his second Grand Slam main-draw appearance. In his competitive debut for 2022, Alcaraz put his game and his physique on full display after an offseason of apparent improvement on both fronts.

In the top quarter of the Australian



Open draw—a section ripe with opportunity due to the absence of Novak Djokovic—Alcaraz will take on Dusan Lajovic, who defeated Marton Fucsovics 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-7(6), 6-1.

At John Cain Arena, Denis Shapovalov survived an adventure-filled first-round matchup against Croatia's Laslo Djere. After being two points away from a fifth set, the Canadian advanced in four, 7-6(3), 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(3). Djere had an opportunity to serve for both the first and fourth sets, but each time the No. 14 seed denied him.

Elsewhere at Margaret Court Arena, seventh-seed Matteo Berrettini defeated USA's Brandon Nakashima in the opening round. ANI

FOOTBALL

Real Madrid clinch 12th Spanish Super Cup title

RIYADH : Real Madrid clinched their 12th Spanish Super Cup title in Riyadh after defeating Athletic Bilbao 2-0 on Sunday.

A solid Real Madrid side out-

classed their opponents courtesy of Modric's 38th-minute strike and Benzema's 52nd-minute penalty. Modric gave Los Blancos the lead in the first half with a bril-

liant first-time curling effort into the top corner and in the second-half VAR awarded a penalty for handball against Yeray which Benzema converted into a goal.

Courtois was at his best in the 86th minute to keep out Raul Garcia's penalty, after Militao received a late red card.

ANI

GHALA GOLF CLUB

More than 120 golfers register for Assarain Classic golf

MUSCAT: The 26th Assarain Golf Classic, one of the most prestigious golf tournaments of the Sultanate, will take place at Ghala Golf Club on January 21 and 22.

According to a press statement issued by the organisers, the Assarain Golf Classic, sponsored by Assarain Group of Companies, is a premium golfing event that gives amateur golfers the opportunity to participate in a professional

tournament that meets international golfing standards.

Ibrahim Al Wahaibi, Director, Assarain Group of Companies and the pioneer of the Assarain Golf Classic, said: "We support golf and are committed to help the game flourish in Oman. It is unfortunate that we could not conduct the tournament in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. We look forward to the 2022 edition of the Assarain Golf Classic and

are confident that it will exceed all expectations."

"The 2022 Assarain Golf Classic is a highly anticipated golfing tournament, one that the entire Golfing community in Oman looks forward to. The Classic, to be staged at Ghala Golf Club, will witness the coming together of golfers who will take on the challenge of taming the greens. Open to men, ladies and juniors, the Assarain Golf Classic 2022 is a high-

ly awaited golfing tournament in Oman. I always look forward to this tournament as it sets a new standard every year."

The 36-hole completion is one of the largest golfing tournaments in the region and is open to all players with a verifiable handicap. Another not-to-be-missed attraction will be the colourful presentation ceremony planned for 22 January to felicitate the winners of different categories.



VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT ORGANISED

Being organised for Filipino workers in Oman, the volleyball tournament Phiom was held recently. The tournament organiser thanked all the players for the successful holding of the 23rd tournament. The winner of the tournament was the Slasher team, most valuable player-Darb James, best setter-M. Alex, best spiker-Christina Velasco. First place-Queen Ace, second place-Muscat Blazer, third place- Girl Fighters team (Foxhard). — Times News Service



CRICKET ROUND-UP

Stallions ease past Renaissance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Vinayak Shukla's fluent 51 not out and Karan Sonavale's all-round contribution helped Oman Stallions to a 6-wicket victory against Renaissance in a Premier Division 50-over League game at Oman Cricket Turf 2 in Amerat on Sunday.

Stallions attacked relentlessly reducing Renaissance to 68 for 4 before going on to dismiss it for 159 in the 45th over, Bilal Khan, Mehran Khan, Shakeel Ahmad and Karan Sonavale all taking two wickets each. Asif Khan (35) and Hammad Ifrat (30) were Renaissance's main batters.

Vinayak led the chase with a solid unbeaten fifty as Stallions chased down the target in the 32nd over, scoring 160 for 4. Twinkle Bhandari and Karan contributed 36 not out and 24 respectively.

Vijesh bowls Ideal to victory

Idear Technology rode on Vijesh Vijaykumaran's outstanding 4-over spell in which he claimed 5 for 9 to trounce Denmark by



4 wickets in a D Division T20 match at Muscat Municipality ground 3 in Amerat on Friday.

Vijesh and Arun Kumar (3 for 17) bowled brilliantly to dismiss Denmark for 131 in 18.4 overs, Sankaral Sasidharan topscoring with 35.

Ideal Technology surpassed the total in 16th over, scoring 132 for 6 thanks to Vijesh's top score of 37. Danal Paul and Sankaral bagged two wickets each.

Maheswaran stars in Capital win

Maheswaran Annadurai and Tejesh Shetty were the heroes

of Capital Star's 25 run win over Mazoon Dairy Company in an E Division game at the same venue.

Maheswaran struck superb 77 off 54 whereas Chandra Mohan slammed a 25-ball 45 to lead Capital Star to 185 for 6.

Mazoon Dairy fought well but could manage to score only 160 for 8 in 20 overs, Sakil Khan leading the way with a fighting 48 off 39. Tejesh Shetty was the pick of bowlers, taking 4 for 27 whereas Saravanan Manickam and Kamesh Maharaja took two wickets each.

Shah helps Aflag Group to victory

In another E Division game, brilliant all-round performance by Shah Abbas steered Aflag Group to a comfortable 5-wicket victory against Y Horizon.

Shah Abbas and Arsalan claimed three wickets each, leading to Y Horizon's dismissal for 146 in 16 overs.

Aflag Group raced to the target in 16.2 overs thanks to major contributions by Junaid Iqbal (47), Farrukh Jamal (46) and Shah Abbas (25).

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STARTS 20TH JANUARY

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2022 reaching \$84.94, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.16 from the price of Friday, which was \$83.78. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,216.88 points, down 0.88 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 1.39 per cent at 511.97 points. Al Madina Investment, up 8.89 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Cattle Feed down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman signs agreement with BP to develop renewable energy

Under the Strategic Framework Agreement, Oman and BP will also consider ways to collaborate in a number of areas, including a renewable strategy, regulation, the establishment of a renewable energy hub and the development and reskilling of the local workforce

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals and BP has signed on Monday a Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) and a Renewables Data Collection Agreement, which will support the potential development of world-class renewable energy and green hydrogen development in Oman, by 2030.

The agreement was signed by Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Stephen Willis, BP Senior Vice President in the Middle East.

Dr Al Rumhy said, "This is a proud moment for Oman and a significant step towards delivering our 2040 Vision. In partnership with BP, we will progress the development of world-class solar and wind resources - generat-

ing renewable power for the grid and powering the manufacture of green hydrogen to supply domestic demand and to export to global customers. Over the past 50 years, we've advanced our hydrocarbon production. Yesterday's agreement signals the next step in our energy journey - unlocking the potential for Oman as a low-carbon energy hub."

Under the SFA, Oman and BP will also consider ways to collaborate in a number of areas, including a renewables strategy, regulation, the establishment of a renewable energy hub and the development and reskilling of the local workforce.

As part of the agreement, BP will capture and evaluate solar and wind data from 8,000 km² of land



AGREEMENT: The agreement was signed by Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Stephen Willis, BP Senior Vice President in the Middle East. - OMA

- an area more than five times the size of Greater London.

The evaluation will then support the Government of Oman in approving the future development of renewable energy hubs at suitable locations within this area to

take advantage of these resources. The renewable energy resources could also supply renewable power for the development of green hydrogen, targeting both domestic and global export markets.

BP chief executive Bernard

Looney said, "Today's agreement represents what BP is able to offer as an integrated energy company. These projects will build on our gas business, and bring wind, solar and green hydrogen together in a distinctive and integrated way

supporting Oman's low carbon energy goals. And we're not just investing in energy. We are investing in Oman to create and develop infrastructure, support local supply chains and cultivate the skills and talent needed to usher in this next generation of energy leaders. We look forward to working closely with the Omani government to take this forward."

The UK's Minister for Investment Lord Gerry Grimstone added, "Following the signing last week of the Oman-UK Sovereign Investment Partnership, this investment by BP into Oman's renewable energy sector is a shining example of our countries' joint ambition to facilitate strategic and commercial bilateral investment. The project demonstrates our shared vision for future prosperity through clean growth, further strengthening the partnership between the United Kingdom and the Sultanate of Oman."

Oman has a strong track record in the oil and gas industry, which has grown over recent years. Today's announcement, which is subject to the final agreement of commercial terms, is an important step towards the country's 2040 Vision and an opportunity to become a leading low-carbon energy hub. It would further support the Oman government's goals of diversifying the economy and bolstering investment. - OMA

MEETING

MSX outlines strategic plan to list new companies and to raise liquidity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) held its first meeting of 2022 on Monday.

"The board, since its appointment in April of last year, had a great responsibility that required working with all relevant parties to overcome obstacles and transform challenges into opportunities that would enhance the position of the stock exchange on the investment map and meet aspirations and ambitions and achieve the desired goals," Mohammed bin Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of MSX, said.

Al-Ardhi further stated that the strategy of Monday's meeting focused on the development of the national economy, the attractiveness of the stock exchange, financial technology, the commercial performance of the stock exchange, and the development of the MSX infrastructure and internal affairs.



Mohammed bin Mahfoudh Al Ardhi

The Chairman of the Board of Directors indicated that these pillars launched a set of goals and initiatives to proceed with their achievement during the next five years according to a work plan and timetable with clear performance

indicators to assess the extent of their success.

He added that one of the most important goals that we hope to achieve soon is to upgrade the stock exchange from a frontier stock market to emerging market status, according to the approved rating agencies.

"To achieve this, work will be done to raise the liquidity of the listed shares, raise market values, and focus on facilitating the entry of foreign investments and activating some trading features such as short selling, lending and borrowing of securities and other initiatives that enable the stock exchange to promote it in global indices," he added.

Al-Ardhi stated that there is an agreement with the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) to list a number of government companies during this year, which will support the levels of liquidity, increase the depth of the stock exchange and its investment attractiveness,

in addition to initiatives related to infrastructure development and the inclusion of new investment tools and others related to the technological aspect and projects to improve performance in all aspects in preparation and to transform the stock exchange into a public joint stock company.

Al-Ardhi praised the efforts of the Board of Directors, the executive management and the employees of the stock exchange that were made during the last period.

Stressing that the stock exchange possesses all the ingredients for success and that all parties must join hands to achieve the goals that were set within the strategic plan, which came in line with Oman's 2040 vision, and for the stock exchange, on its part, to contribute to building a diversified economic system with integrated roles, taking advantage of the competitive advantages of the Sultanate to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO continues to pioneer payments as Oman goes cashless

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has been on the journey towards cashless for several years and, in support of Oman's 2040 Vision to promote nationwide digitalisation, its ever-growing portfolio of smart solutions are helping individuals and businesses alike make the switch. From QR Codes to mobile wallets, biometrics and NRI (instant remittance), it is tapping into the world's leading technologies, while its cards offer an ever-expanding range of benefits and rewards that not only exceed its customers' expectations but genuinely improve their lives.

"Oman is fast moving towards becoming a cashless society, bolstered by the government's recent mandate for private sector businesses to start switching to cashless payment channels. The use of cards has been on an upward trajectory for a while and now digital payment modes are also expected to double in popularity by next year, having skyrocketed during the pandemic," said Maha Saud Al Raisi, AGM, Head of Retail Products at NBO. "As we carry this momentum forward, we are ensuring that we are equipped to cater to future demands and at the same time, offer our customers a wholly modern banking experience."

As part of its efforts, NBO has made several additions to its mobile banking app such as a digital remittance service, and a cardless cash service that utilises QR codes for ATM withdrawals. Savvy customers can also take advantage of its multi-purpose banking kiosk, which enables customers to renew and print out their cards on the spot. More recently, it launched the first-of-its-kind Merchant App to help businesses move away from cash. The app allows merchants to receive payments simply by scanning a QR Code on the customer's mobile phone, or even remotely by raising a Static QR Code, which will be sent to the customer via email or WhatsApp. They can then log in to the app, add the amount, and pay.

Meanwhile, with its suite of debit, credit and prepaid cards, the bank offers a range of perks



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Oman is fast moving towards becoming a cashless society, bolstered by the government's recent mandate for private sector businesses to start switching to cashless payment channels

Maha Saud Al Raisi
AGM, Head of Retail Products at NBO

like movie tickets, dining and hotel discounts, free travel insurance, airport lounge access, as well as Nuqati points, while providing a smart, safe choice to pay.

As it looks to the next phase of digital transformation, NBO continues to meet the needs of a rapidly changing market, while finding more ways to make day-to-day banking more rewarding and enjoyable.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUILDING

CIOB signs six training partnerships with firms in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) signed training partnerships with six companies in Oman on Wednesday during a visit to the country by CIOB chief executive Caroline Gumble.

Mace, Turner & Townsend, Atkins, Douglas OHI, TOCO - The Oman Construction Company and Arabian Industries signed up to the partnerships.

Development plan

"CIOB training partnerships are set up with built environment organisations wanting to provide their staff with a bespoke training, learning and development plan, leading towards more Chartered members in their workforce," Gumble posted on LinkedIn.

"It's a commitment to continuous improvement, professional development and raising standards in the industry. I think today is the first time we've signed so many partnerships on one day."

Aaron Hennessy, general manager at Douglas OHI Oman, UAE and KSA, and chairman of the



CIOB Oman Hub, said: "At Douglas OHI, we believe in the power of connection and the power of partnership. To connect and partner with the CIOB strengthens our

shared values and enables better dialogue, raising the volume on key industry matters, in particular the well-being of all that work in the built environment in the

Sultanate of Oman.

"We look forward to developing further this professional relationship and sharing the findings throughout the industry."

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Madina Investment, up 8.89 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Cattle Feed down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,216.88 points, down 0.88 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 1.39 per cent at 511.97 points. Al Madina Investment, up 8.89 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Cattle Feed down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman National Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Ominvest Perpetual Sukuk were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 579 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.64 million, with more than 10.2 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 11 advanced, 13 declined and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close,

foreign investors were net buyers for OMR38,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR38,000 followed by domestic investors for RO 0.26 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6735.03 points, 0.4 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Global Financial Investments, Vision Insurance, Sohar International Bank, and Al Sharqia Investment were up by 8.89 per cent, 1.47 per cent, 1.21 per cent, 0.87 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5960.74 points, 0.91 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, Jazeera Steel Products, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, and Oman Cement were up by 2.38 per cent, 1.49 per cent, 0.46 per cent, 0 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively.— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,248.30	4,215.63	4,216.88	4,240.53	-23.65	-0.56
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,773.24	6,733.91	6,735.02	6,761.90	-26.88	-0.40
Industry Index	8,019.64	5,960.73	5,960.73	6,015.57	-54.83	-0.91
Services Index	1,653.99	1,649.71	1,651.51	1,651.43	0.09	0.01
MSX Shariah Index	519.21	511.42	511.97	519.21	-7.24	-1.39
MSX TR INDEX	5,112.22	5,072.90	5,074.40	5,102.87	-28.47	-0.56

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,282,021	2,643,352	579	22,366,765,945	11	13	23	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 17

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	PWA VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	205,198	83,524	49	0.406	0.410	0.404	0.408	0.402	0.006	1.493	0.404	0.402	0.404	0.100	50,958,368
OM0000003820	VISION INSURANCE	100,000	8,400	4	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	8,400,000
OM0000003388	SOHAR INT. BANK	280,000	30,250	6	0.116	0.117	0.116	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.112	0.116	0.100	846,847,236
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN	193,397	30,737	15	0.158	0.161	0.157	0.159	0.158	0.001	0.633	0.157	0.157	0.161	0.100	37,683,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	277,705	214,375	12	0.768	0.772	0.768	0.772	0.768	0.004	0.521	0.772	0.768	0.776	0.100	579,000,000
OM0000003005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	29,622	12,525	9	0.436	0.444	0.436	0.438	0.436	0.002	0.459	0.440	0.440	0.452	0.100	24,080,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	3,700	1,369	2	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.376	0.376	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.100	37,600,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	107,000	13,604	13	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.100	10,795,000
OM0000003077	AL OMANITA FINIS	5,000	992	1	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.000	0.000	0.131	0.131	0.133	0.100	38,243,507
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	131,000	11,790	6	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.100	8,100,000
OM0000000200	AHLI BANK	952,638	113,384	19	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.119	0.119	0.132	0.100	232,009,238
OM0000003969	COBRED	107,454	39,973	9	0.376	0.376	0.372	0.372	0.376	-0.004	-1.064	0.372	0.372	0.380	0.100	242,151,254
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	78,225	7,203	9	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	216,026	111,469	21	0.516	0.516	0.516	0.522	0.522	0.006	1.149	0.516	0.516	0.516	0.100	1,844,428,393
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	20,000	1,190	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.059	0.001	1.685	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	17,814,487
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	21,050	7,007	5	0.332	0.336	0.332	0.332	0.340	-0.008	-2.353	0.336	0.336	0.346	0.100	20,319,819
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	799,871	566,309	17	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.784	-0.076	-9.694	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.100	11,510,000
Total		3,593,886	1,253,349	198												

Parallel Market

OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	6,000	294	1	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.045	0.004	8.889	0.049	0.043	0.049	0.100	3,430,000
OM0000000740	DHOFAH GENERATING	704,900	47,235	47	0.061	0.069	0.061	0.067	0.063	0.004	6.349	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	14,890,080
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	1,245,924	125,606	84	0.100	0.102	0.100	0.101	0.098	0.003	3.061	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	13,130,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INVEST H.	1,013,503	69,902	45	0.068	0.070	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	13,800,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,000	618	1	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.214	0.214	0.000	0.000	0.206	0.206	0.211	0.100	347,952,520
OM0000001317	HSBC BANK OMAN	270	28	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.106	0.100	208,032,530
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	650	40	1	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.062	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.065	0.100	7,556,250
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	60	54	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.880	0.900	0.100	87,400,000
OM0000002381	TARGET FINANCE	1,064,336	82,829	58	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	19,780,020
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	89,600	6,810	11	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.082	0.100	15,428,970
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	368	34	2	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.096	0.099	0.100	8,158,872
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,000	42	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.042	0.040	0.100	8,282,429
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	298	24	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.072	0.080	0.100	76,383,756
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	52,000	4,888	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	5,000	426	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.000	0.071	0.100	7,100,000
OM0000004925	ALBATTANAH POWER	70,000	3,430	7	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	33,069,484
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	5,000	392	2	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	9,085,911	
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	4,204	673	2	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.000	0.163	0.100	287,105,600
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	832,199	41,610	18	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.052	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	285	96	1	0.336	0.336	0.336	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.336	0.000	0.336	0.100	90,100,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	7,198	626	4	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.087	0.091	0.100	13,532,885
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	350	108	1	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.000	0.000	0.308	0.308	0.310	0.100	21,117,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	18,059	1,783	3	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	8,085,911
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	20,000	2,540	3	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.129	-0.002	-1.550	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	380,536,632
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	231,000	13,480	11	0.060	0.060	0.058	0.058	0.060	-0.002	-3.333	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	20,250,376
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	28,000	1,543	6	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.057	-0.002	-3.509	0.055	0.054	0.056	0.100	6,870,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	372,840	40,286	54	0.106	0.115	0.102	0.108	0.113	-0.005	-4.425	0.112	0.112	0.114	0.100	3,623,717
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	10,000	630	2	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.070	-0.007	-10.000	0.063	0.063	0.075	0.100	5,093,550
Total		5,790,103	446,024	372												

4-STAR HOTEL

Avani Muscat Hotel worth OMR23mn opens

MUSCAT: The 4-star Avani Muscat Hotel, owned by Safari International Group, officially opened in Al Khoudh, the Wilayat of Al Seeb yesterday.

The project, which cost OMR23 million, is managed by the global hospitality group Minor Hotels.

The hotel is built on a space of 20,000 square meters. It contains 206 hotel rooms, 45 apartments, a convention's hall with a capacity of 700 people, several meeting



halls and other facilities.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Issam Saud Al Zadjali, Chairman

of Muscat Municipality.

Eng. Issam affirmed that the hotel is considered an important project in the diversification of the tourism sector and alluring tourists from Oman and beyond.

Ismail Yaqoob Al Toubi, Chairman of Safari International Group said that the strategic location and the quality services offered by the hotel will contribute to meeting the needs of visitors and residents in Oman. -ONA

EXHIBITION

Conference to focus on HSE excellence

MUSCAT: The 8th edition of the Global Health, Safety and Environment Conference and Exhibition under the theme of HSE Excellence - 'Leadership, Sustainability and Technology' will be held from February 13-16 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The conference will stress the importance of health, safety, and environment for the development of human capital and its impact on the economic and social development aligned with the industrial modernisation and production efficiency in Oman.

The conference will include a high profile opening ceremony, 3 high-level keynote address sessions, 4 panel discussions, 16 technical sessions and 7 workshops that will address several important topics, such as process safety management, international HSE management standards, pandemic risk & response management for major industries, energy efficiency & climate change, and successful practical experiences in the areas of health, safety, and environment.

The event is being held under the patronage of Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Energy & Minerals and hosted by Ministry of Energy & Minerals, Petroleum Development Oman, Saudi Aramco, OQ & Opal.

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NATURE HELPS

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DO YOU get negative thoughts and feelings about your body? Don't worry. All you have to do is to increase your exposure to nature. According to a new study, being in nature helps people deal with negative body image by removing some of the triggers of body image anxiety, such as the focus on social media, and strengthening coping mechanisms to keep negative feelings in perspective.

The research was published in the 'Ecopsychology Journal'. The research involved 401 participants from the UK, who were asked to complete a survey about their exposure to nature, "rational acceptance", and body appreciation. Rational acceptance is a coping mechanism, broadly defined as the way people rationalise and keep in perspective any feelings of negative body image that come and go. The study found positive associations between all three measures in both men and women.

The paper, the first to look at how exposure to nature can help the mind cope with temporary feelings of negative body image, concluded that spending time in natural environments provided opportunities for healthy body image coping strategies. This may be due to the physical and mental distancing from the sources of body image threats such as unrealistic appearance standards, mirrors, or social media. Being in nature may also help individuals develop healthier thought processes that allow for more realistic appraisals of body-image threats and their future consequences.

Lead author Viren Swami, Professor of Social Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), said, "There is already evidence that being in nature in itself promotes positive body image, but this is the first study to look at how exposure to nature can help the mind cope with temporary feelings of negative body image that we all experience from time to time, and keep a sense of perspective".

"Being in nature takes us away from some of the triggers for negative body image – Instagram posts, models on billboards, mirrors – that we find in urban environments and gives us opportunities to put things into perspective. The restorative qualities of these natural environments may also promote healthier cognitive processes, including greater self-control and a feeling of time passing more slowly, giving us the chance to rationalise these threats," he added.

"We know that positive body image boosts mental health, and this study adds weight to the growing body of evidence about the importance of exposure to nature, and how we need to ensure as a society that everyone has as much access to natural environments as possible," he concluded. -ANI

WITH BODY



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ROUND-UP

Renault introduces 5 hassle-free ways to book service appointment

As part of this service, customers can be assured of a contactless process

MUSCAT: Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, has announced five hassle-free ways to book a service appointment for its customers. To book an appointment, customers can call toll free number 80050011, SMS Type'Book' and send to 99825454, email appointment@sbig.com, WhatsApp: 97692689 or log on to www.myrenault-me.com.

A spokesperson for SBA said, "All Renault customers can book service appointments through five modes of communication for

added convenience. They don't have to stand in line to book the service. This facility is designed to offer a hassle-free service experience and complete peace of mind to customers."

As part of this service, customers can be assured of a contactless process. It saves their time and gives greater peace of mind and offers quick and easy solutions to suit customer needs.

Customers can become exclusive Renault members by logging on to myrenault-me.com or by downloading the app and enjoying their my_renault ride. Enhancing after-sales services for existing buyers, My Renault App is a one-stop solution with a host of advanced features. Available on Android and iOS platforms, My Renault App has a perceptive design approach making it enormously user-friendly. My Renault App makes life easier by putting everything potential and existing buyers need to know about Renault, in one place. The app offers

many innovative features along with functionality. With enhanced features, My Renault App caters to both sales and after-sales requirements of customers.

With growing new vehicle sales in the region, Renault is focusing on delivering the most convenient and cost-effective aftersales solutions to its customers driven by a vast network of distributors and market proximity. This enables it to offer a range of competitive maintenance packages available in all showrooms and affordable pricing to ensure greater convenience in all service centres.

SBA is largely committed to supporting Renault Oman's growth in the Sultanate through a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of 9 showrooms, 16 service centres & 23 spare parts outlets, SBA has further built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.



BANK MUSCAT

Get up to 3.5% and free life Takaful with Meethaq's savings account

MUSCAT: Since its launch, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has been endeavouring to enhance the role of promoting a healthy savings habit in Oman. Meethaq continues to work to shed light on the importance and benefits of enhancing the saving culture in society for a bright and secure future. In line with its commitment to meet the customers' needs, the Meethaq Savings Account is designed with exciting benefits and it offers attractive Shari'a-compliant profit rates that are based on principles of Mudarabah.

On this occasion, Sami Arfah Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager - Meethaq Personal Banking, said: "I would like to extend my gratitude to people in general and Meethaq's customers in particular for their trust in the innovative services and products that Meethaq Islamic Banking offers. We are working constantly to-



wards developing our products in line with global trends and to provide added value to our customers. The Meethaq Savings Account is designed to meet customers' needs in getting financial benefits that are in line with Shari'a, and based on the Mudarabah contract."

Sami Arfah Bait Rashid stressed that Meethaq will continue work-

ing towards achieving its customer-centric strategy in developing the various products and services that meet customers' aspirations and are based on global Islamic banking trends. He encouraged customers to enjoy the benefits and banking facilities offered by Meethaq starting from opening the account to enjoying Meethaq's unique customer experience.

Customers can open a Meethaq Savings Account via Meethaq's website or by visiting the branch to earn up to 3.5% p.a. and also avail free life Takaful cover upon maintaining a monthly average balance of RO 30,000. Omani customers may visit any Meethaq branch along with their ID card and a copy of any utility bill, while expatriates should provide their resident card, passport and a copy of any utility bill to open their new Meethaq Savings Account.

The Meethaq Savings Account

offers profit at competitive rates, which will be credited to the customer's account every month and there is no minimum balance requirement for profit eligibility. Profit will be credited to customer accounts based on the monthly average balance. All products of Meethaq are designed according to the guidelines set down by the Central Bank of Oman for Islamic banking and they also undergo a thorough process of Shari'a compliance certification by the bank's Shari'a Supervisory Board.

A Savings Account holder provides funds as 'Rabb-ul-maal' and Meethaq invests these funds as 'Mudarib' (the fund manager), and based on this relationship, the depositors and Meethaq become beneficiaries of the profit earned. When the joint investment pool earns profit, it is distributed in a pre-agreed ratio between the depositors and Meethaq.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Alizz Islamic Bank enrolls its staff in Etimad programme

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has enrolled a number of its staff in the National Leadership Development programme (Etimad) which empowers Omanis in middle and upper management positions in the private sector with leadership skills.

The Etimad programme which is considered a real turning point for private sector leaders in several vital fields seeks to extend bridges and build trust between Omani leaders and private sector companies. The well-established programme cooperates with international consultancies and well-known local partners to offer high-quality outputs that reflect a sense of national responsibility, and provide growth opportunities to all parties, whether citizens who receive training, companies that support their human resources with competent Omani leaders or the community that benefits from better job opportunities and private sector capabilities.

Etimad aims to train and empower 10,000 Omanis in middle and senior management positions in the private sector over the next few years. However, the programme initially targeted 500 applicants from several private sector companies to join a training programme that would last from three to six months. Registration in this stage was exclusively open for companies classified as "Excellent", "First" and "International" with a workforce exceeding 500 employees to ensure future career paths for graduates of the program and to increase the percentage of Omanis in middle and senior management positions in

the private sector.

Commenting on the enrolment of some of the bank's staff in the Etimad Programme, Mohamed Al Balushi, Head of Human Resources at Alizz Islamic Bank, said, "We are committed to empowering our young Omani employees to take the lead in the future, whether in Alizz Islamic Bank or other institutions. We urge the employees that were honoured with being selected to do their best to acquire the necessary skills and fulfil the expected objectives. In addition, we will offer them the necessary support and will equip them with the appropriate tools, as a true leader doesn't tell the employee what to do, but rather shows him/her how to do it. In this context, I would like to thank those in charge of the programme as it is considered one of the important pillars in a promising future for the Sultanate. Together with the government, we will spare no effort to support Oman's pioneering role in all respects."

The empowerment of Omani cadres in the private sector, particularly in leadership and supervisory roles, is considered one of the national priorities that the government seeks to fulfil in partnership with the private sector. Therefore, the national leadership development programme upsills and empowers potential Omanis for middle and senior leadership positions in the private sector and is one of the initiatives emerging from the recommendations of the labour market and employment lab of the National Economic Diversification Programme (Tanfeedh).

OFFER

Nissan Altima features expressive styling, uplifting interior and intelligent features

MUSCAT: Nissan Altima, known for its excellent drive, superior handling, fuel efficiency and thoughtful technology solutions, is now available on low EMI. Customers can now avail an exceptionally low EMI rate of OMR 170 on Nissan Altima (terms and conditions apply). EMIs are calculated based on a 20% down payment and 3.25% rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals.

A senior official of Nissan Oman said, "We are delighted to have Nissan Altima which is a premium mid-size sedan like no other, available on low EMI.

Nissan Altima offers effortless power while furthering remarkable fuel economy. Its good looks, a striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior have brought the car a lifetime of fans. Its powerful high-performance engine and a range of other options add to its appeal. Nissan Altima is cherished by owners in Oman for its classy



design, fuel economy, driving performance, safety technology, and comfortability."

Nissan Altima is also cherished by owners in Oman for its good looks, striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior have brought the car a lifetime of fans. The vehicle offers those who drive it an effortless power while furthering remarkable fuel economy.

Nissan Altima has advanced

safety features for those seeking a more focused driving experience. Owners vouch that with its advanced technology and in-built design, Nissan Altima is a pleasure to drive.

The Nissan Altima 2.0L Turbo, which has a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology has been creating waves within the mid-size sedan segment since its launch. The sedan's advanced VC-Turbo engine - the

company's first production-ready variable compression ratio engine - is one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created. Similarly, Nissan Altima 2.5L features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features.

The Nissan Altima 2.0 has the world's first variable compression turbo engine. The engine is so smart that it anticipates what the driver wants. The Altima's shape-shifting VC-turbo engine lets the driver enjoy it a lot. Nissan Altima 2.5 L unlocks the pure joy of driving through its innovative latest technology and Nissan Intelligent Mobility feature that responds to the world around in real-time.

Powered by an innovative 248 horsepower, 2.0-litre, turbo-charged variable compression, four-cylinder engine, Nissan Altima continuously adjusts its compression ratio to optimize power and efficiency.

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ROUND-UP

ESO project combats light pollution for turtles on Masirah Island

The latest project aims to help local coastal communities switch to low glare lighting while raising awareness on the effects of artificial bright lights, which remain one of the main threats to nesting and hatching of turtles

MUSCAT: Building on their long-term efforts to conserve the population of nesting Loggerhead sea turtles on Masirah Island, the Environment Society of Oman (ESO), in collaboration with the Environment Authority (EA) and Future Seas Global SPC (FS), has launched a new initiative to combat light pollution.

Sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Sprint for Oman, the latest project aims to help local coastal communities switch to low glare lighting while raising awareness on the effects of artificial bright lights, which remain one of the main threats to

nesting and hatching turtles.

“Nesting turtles need a quiet, dark beach to lay their eggs, but as Masirah develops, lights from the nearby properties discourage females from nesting. If a female attempting to nest is repeatedly disturbed by recreational activities on the beach, such as movement or artificial light, she will eventually resort to depositing her eggs in the ocean, thus losing all her eggs. The survival outlook for hatchlings is naturally slim and it is our responsibility to secure them a safe nesting and hatching environment,” said Suaad Al Harthi, Executive Director, ESO. “In this case, the



solution is as simple as changing a lightbulb. We're grateful to all of our supporters on the project, but especially the local community, who have been key custodians in our conservation efforts since the beginning of our sea turtle programme. By working together, we are ensuring that our precious

wildlife is still around for future generations to enjoy.”

Dr Andrew Willson, Founding Director of Future Seas Global SPC added, “In addition to disrupting the nesting process, artificial lights can disorient the females after nesting, as well as the hatchlings emerging from the

nests. We have witnessed, on various occasions, an adult female and hatchlings disorientated by lights, wandering inland instead of heading towards the ocean. We also found them crawling on the main coastal road which doesn't usually have a happy ending. With the current declining status of the popula-

tion, it is imperative that we make sure that every hatchling makes it back to sea to support the population recovery. ESO's efforts to conserve the declining loggerhead population on Masirah are essential and we are proud to be a part of the project.”

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the Omani Women's Association, surveyors took to the field to determine the lighting sources posing the highest threat to the sea turtles and the modifications required. To further encourage the project, Sheikh Abdullah Khalifa Al Maajali, member of the Majlis A'Shura, has offered his house to be the first on which lighting modifications can be made.

Being the Sultanate's only non-profit organisation focusing on environmental conservation, ESO has been combating such issues since 2008 as part of the organisation's long-standing Sea Turtle Research and Conservation project, based on Masirah Island. ESO continues to promote a sustainable approach in delivering conservation action while ensuring the involvement of local communities.

MPV



2022 Kia Carnival offers exceptional space and comfort

MUSCAT: Kia Carnival is one of the most preferred vehicles for making the most of family time. Owing to its space, comfort and ability to carry loads of luggage, the Carnival scores well with customers who love to enjoy suite-like experiences on-road.

Based on Kia's new mid-size platform, the Carnival is more refined, roomy, and capable than ever, offering generous space and increased efficiency than its predecessors. It has three-row seating configuration, with room for eight occupants in total.

The new Kia Carnival illustrates the evolution of Kia's design philosophy, offering customers visually stunning, dominating vehicles on the road, with customer-driven, futuristic interior surfaces and finishing. The Carnival's SUV inspired design makes for a stylish and robust presence on the road and within the Multi-Purpose Vehicle (MPV) segment.

The Carnival is as practical as it is stunning. Offering an abundance of space and cargo, the Carnival comes fitted with a modern suite of hi-tech features that cater to the interests and demands of seasoned drivers and passengers of all ages.

The Carnival's cabin provides an immersive luxury experience

that prioritises comfort and convenience first. The design team at Kia has tackled the Carnival through all angles to produce a high-quality product which is unlike any other vehicle in the segment.

The Carnival's exterior profile has an attractive look highlighted by LED headlamps, LED Daytime Running Lights, Electric Folding Mirrors, Roof Rack, Rear Spoiler, LED Rear Combination Lamp, LED Front Fog Lamps and a Symphonic Matt Radiator Grille.

The Carnival's state-of-the-art suite of high-tech features is designed to make life and travel as easy and convenient as possible. The feature include Dual Power Sliding Doors, Theatre seating + 3rd Row AC Vents, Auto Cruise Control, Drive Mode Select, Driver's Seat Height Adjuster, 8" Audio Display, Rear & Front Parking Assist System, Smart Key with Button Start and more.

The new Carnival adopts Kia's latest 'Smartstream' powertrain technologies to enhance efficiency and performance. The Carnival is available with a 3.5L Euro 4 V6 churning 268 HP and 33.8 kg.m. Torque. This is paired to an 8-speed Automatic Transmission offering smooth and swift progress to match the car's unruffled dynamic character.

WINNERS

13 Omani team members of Kempinski Hotel Muscat win at NHI's Hospitality Champions

MUSCAT: This year, 13 Omani team members at Kempinski Hotel Muscat were nominated and were announced winners for NHI's Hospitality Champions of 2021. Participating team members were selected from different departments, such as administrative roles, to guest-facing roles. The award ceremony took place on January 9.

The purpose of this initiative is to raise awareness of the hospitality sector and encourage Omanis to take advantage of training opportunities with the National Hospitality Institute. In addition, it is to highlight and show appreciation to Omanis who have chosen the tourism sector as a profession in the Sultanate and to celebrate and reward those individuals who excel in their roles whilst serving as a shining example to prospective entrants to the industry.

General Manager Carsten



Wiegandt said, “I would like to congratulate all the Omani men and women who participated in this competition for their hard work, and we extend our sincere thanks to all the partners involved that organised this successful annual award competition, especial-

ly the National Hospitality Institute and Apex Media.”

Kempinski Hotel Muscat is honoured to announce the eight participants in the first place and five runners-up.

The names of the winners are as follows:

Ahmed Alabdulsalam – Food Safety & Hygiene Officer, Akif Alkathiri – Loss Prevention Manager, Ali Al Ajmi – Assistant Spa & Recreation Manager, Bushra al Saadi – Demi Chef, Laith Al Ajmi – Assistant Front Office Manager, Maiysa Al Busaidi – Lady in Red Supervisor, Mahmood al Wahaibi – Chef de Partie, Misaad Al Siyabi – Engineering Supervisor.

Names of the runners-up:

Muhammad Al Bulushi – Junior Waiter, Talal AlMazrouai – Senior Account Manager, Firas Al Kiyumi – Senior Sales Manager, Badr Al Amri – Senior Waiter, Hussain Al Riyami – IT Administrator

The National Hospitality Institute visited and conducted interviews with each candidate to understand their past work experience. After many hours of considering the candidates, the judges came to a unanimous decision.

PROMOTION

Special deal on Mitsubishi Xpander High-Line

MUSCAT: To welcome in the New Year, General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has announced a new special deal on the Mitsubishi Xpander High-Line. Under the deal, this versatile 7-seat vehicle will be available at an all-time low price of just OMR6,995. This price is not only inclusive of VAT but also includes six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance.

Commenting on the Xpander, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, “The Xpander is quite easily one of the most versatile vehicles in our model line-up, offering practicality, space, and all-round capabilities of an SUV with high ground clearance, together with the ride, comfort and control of a sedan. Thanks to this New Year Deal, customers can now take home this amazing multi-purpose vehicle at such an attractive price. However, we highly encourage anyone interested in this deal to book their Xpander quickly as stocks are ex-



tremely limited and the current price is only valid on limited stocks.”

The Xpander sports a futuristic look inspired by the Montero Sport. It features a chrome upper grille and incorporates auto LED headlamps as well as LED positioning lamps, together with Mitsubishi Motors' Dynamic Shield signature look. The stylish fenders and strong

character line flow into the rear quarter and L-shaped rear combination lamps, which then extend into the tailgate, completing the Xpander's strong sculpted look.

On the inside, the Xpander features a spacious cabin designed to reflect Japanese hospitality “OMOTENASHI” and provides comfort for all seven adult passen-

gers thanks to supportive seating, convenient amenities, and high-quality materials.

Power is provided by a spirited and responsive 1.5-litre 16-valve Dual overhead camshaft engine with advanced MIVEC - Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control system - making it easy for the Xpander to carry seven adults uphill with ease. Excellent ground clearance for its class provides confidence on rough or flooded roads, while the reinforced suspension, coupled with high-performance shock absorbers and a rigid and lightweight body, ensure stability and comfort.

Safety performance is also significantly enhanced thanks to Mitsubishi Motors' Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution body or RISE. The Xpander also enjoys a variety of active safety features including an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Emergency Stop Signal System (ESS), Active Stability Control (ASC), Hill Start Assist (HAS), and more.

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