

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Dhuhr	12:14 pm
Asr	3:42 pm
Maghrib	6:30 pm
Isha	7:41 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:36 am
IFTAR	
	6:30 pm



Check out **The Guide**:
Our Ramadan special
supplement with
today's edition

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In-person classes resume at Indian schools after 2 years

A3

Oman envoy conveys HM's greetings to NZ Governor General

WELLINGTON: Cindy Kiro, Governor General of New Zealand received here on Wednesday Dr. Mohammed Said Al Busaidi, who presented his credentials as the Sultanate of Oman's extraordinary and plenipotentiary Non-resident Ambassador to New Zealand.

The ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Governor General and His Majesty's wishes of further progress for the people

of New Zealand.

In her turn, the Governor General of New Zealand asked the ambassador to convey her sincere sentiments to His Majesty the Sultan, wishing him continuous health and happiness.

She also wished the people of Oman further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

The Governor-General of New Zealand also wished the ambassa-

dor success in carrying out his duties in promoting the bilateral relations towards broader horizons in all spheres.

The meeting underscored the keenness of Oman in developing the bilateral relations in a manner that serves the joint interests of the two countries' peoples.

The ambassador reiterated that he will exert all his efforts to promote the relations between Oman and New Zealand. -ONA



FLEXIBLE WORK A BOON FOR ALL



Labour Ministry decides to apply 'Flexible Duty' in public sector

During Ramadan, public sector employees can attend office either from 8am to 1pm or from 9am to 2pm

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Flexible work timings in public institutions will help commute comfortably and avoid spending a lot of time during peak traffic hours, people in Oman have said.

Public sector employees can attend office either from 8am to 1pm or from 9am to 2pm during the month of Ramadan, according to a decision taken by the Ministry of Labour.

Suhail, an Omani national, said, "these days, there is too much traffic on the roads at certain times of the day, because everyone leaves from home and work at the same time and also for prayers and breaking the fast around the same time."

"This measure will really smoothen things on the road and make sure we do not spend so much time commuting," he added. "To spend time in traffic is frustrating, more so when you are hungry and thirsty."

Another national, Mariam, added: "these are early days of Ramadan and we can get a bit tired in the morning owing to the need to fast. The revised work schedules make it easier for us to rest for a bit and then go to work - it leaves us refreshed and does not impact our efficiency."

"Alternatively, there might be some people who prefer coming to work early and leaving early, because they may feel tired in the afternoon," she added. "It is not easy to drive when it is so hot outside, particularly when you have

not eaten or drunk anything for much during the day."

The system of 'flexible duty' mandates public sector units to regulate the attendance of their employees during the two shifts in a manner that ensures the smooth flow of work and also better services to the public.

The decision is governed by the Civil Service Law and its Executive Regulation, and ensures that employees' daily tasks are carried out in two overlapping shifts of five hours each, during the current month of Ramadan.

Prior to the start of Ramadan this year, the Ministry of Labour had also announced the official working hours for the month. It was decided that official working hours at units of the State's administrative apparatus and other legal entities during Ramadan would be from 9 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, working hours for private sector employees observing the fast during the Holy Month of Ramadan have been reduced to six hours per day, equivalent to 30 hours per week.

Citizens express their thanks for HM's directives to exempt fines

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Citizens in Oman have thanked His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his directive to reduce labour visa fees and exempt individuals and companies from paying fines due to delay in renewal of residence cards.

On 5 April, the Royal Oman Police said in a statement: "In implementation of His Majesty's Royal directives, establishments and individuals will be exempted from paying fines pertaining to the delayed renewal of residence and resident cards, effective from tomorrow, Wednesday, 6 April 2022, provided that the current situation is rectified before 1 September, 2022."



Ahmed Al Badi from Saham in North Al Batinah said these decisions were

needed owing to the challenging economic conditions brought about by the impact of COVID-19.

"All thanks and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his wise government for serving citizens, individuals and organisations, and the Royal Oman Police for the continuous services they provide."



In this context, **Ahmed Al Junaibi**, a business owner from Duqm in



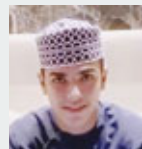
Al Wusta, said business owners were expecting such a decision, as this is the way by which they can benefit greatly, given the current circumstances.

"The impact of high fees is that we are unable to recruit workers, especially when it comes to certain companies and small and medium enterprises," he said. "We are especially pleased with the directives and were eagerly awaiting the announcement of this decision."

"As a company owner, I will benefit greatly from this decision, especially after two years of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic consequences it brought about for all of us," he added. "Companies will benefit from this decision as it will help us address our financial and labour concerns and it will facilitate many positive effects, encourage more investments while aiding the recovery of the local market."

Al Junaibi requested that there should be coordination between all government bodies when it came to implementing

this decision, saying: "We hope this service will be extended to all entrepreneurs and businessmen in the country."

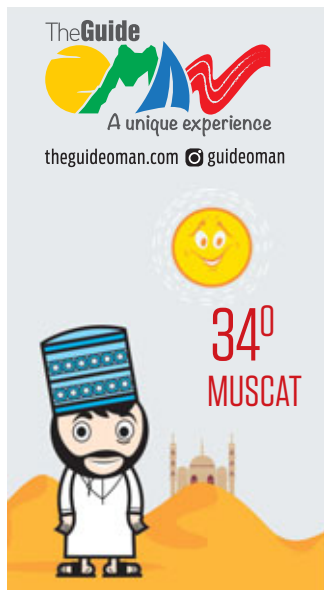


Furthermore, **Moath Al Saeedi** from Khaboura was hopeful that companies

would pass on these savings to consumers, because of the large volume of purchases made by people during Ramadan.

"During this month, the amount of fruits, vegetables and other goods that are bought by people increase," he said. "We went through a difficult period during the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision is a lifeline during challenging financial conditions."

"I would like to thank His Majesty for his interest, wisdom and noble directives that guide the citizens of Oman, and help relieve them from the economic conditions they face," added Al Saeedi. "His government showed consideration for the needs of citizens."



INDUSTRY

Pact signed for OMR20mn vaccine factory in Khazaen

MUSCAT: A vaccine production facility will soon come up in the Sultanate of Oman's Khazaen Economic City with an investment of OMR20 million.

Khazaen Economic City has signed an agreement for the purpose with Opal for biopharmaceuticals and business company.

Under the agreement the company will establish a factory for the production of biological human vaccines with an investment



of OMR20 million. The first phase of the project will be set up on a total area of 37,000 square metres. The agreement was signed by

Eng. Salim Al Thuhli, CEO of Khazaen and Sa'ad Moosa Al Junaibi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Opal for biopharmaceuticals and business company.

Al Thuhli said that this project will be the first vaccines factory in Khazaen Economic City and it targets local and international markets. The agreement, Al Thuhli added, comes as part of Khazaen's efforts in attracting local and international investments. -ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ROP's appeal to follow COVID-19 protocols

1 The Royal Oman Police (ROP) called on citizens and residents to stick to the decisions issued by the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus pandemic, particularly the precautions during the Holy Month of Ramadan. **>A5**

WORLD US okays Patriot ADS sale to Taiwan

2 The United States has approved the potential sale of Patriot Air Defence System (ADS) to Taiwan. **>A6**

MARKET Muscat Governor visits Madayn

2 The Governor of Muscat visited Madayn to explore partnership prospects to support SMEs. **>B1**

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OMAN

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Back to classes at Indian schools

For the first time in two years, students of Indian schools in Oman returned to in-person classes, a move welcomed by many parents in the capital

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Neighbourhoods near Indian community schools in Oman were filled this week with vehicles driven by many parents and bus drivers dropping off children to school for the first time in two years.

In-person classes had been suspended for all children attending Indian schools in Oman during the pandemic, with most lessons moving online.

Although a blended learning system had been instituted for some time across some classes in Indian schools, physical classes are now back in place across all classes in most Indian community institutions in Oman.

Returning to physical classes is a move welcomed by many parents in the capital, Muscat. "Children are at an age where they need to go



to school and develop their mental, analytical and thinking skills, and you cannot do that if you spend all day at home in front of a screen," said Ayush Sharma, a father of two girls who attend school in the capital. "They need to be around their friends, they need to play, there needs to be proper interaction in the classroom...only then will children develop the right way.

“Yes, the pandemic meant that learning online was unavoidable – there was no other way to do it, but now that schools have fully reopened, we are looking forward to our children interacting with their friends again.” With no physical school in place for two years, however, it was hard for some parents to get their children back into their pre-pandemic routines of preparing properly for the next day.

"During the peak of the pandemic, I wouldn't mind if my children slept late, because it was one of the few freedoms we could give them," recalled Dominic Fernandes. "At that time, they could not go out to play, couldn't go to the malls, couldn't even go out to restaurants with us, and so there was pretty much nothing for them to do, but

stay at home.

“There was a bit of an argument last night when my younger son fought with my wife about why he needed to go to bed early: he had forgotten that schools were not online anymore,” he added. “It will take some time to get back to the old routine, but in a way, we are glad that yet another event associated with normalcy is back.”

With the return of physical classes, however, another inconvenience that parents faced before schools shut for the pandemic reared its head once again.

"If there was one thing that gave us pre-pandemic familiarity, it was the traffic outside school, when we went to drop my son and his neighbour yesterday morning, because all the parents and bus drivers drop the kids off at about the same time," said Abdul Monim. "For two years, we had forgotten what that was like...it also meant my wife and I needed to wake up earlier in the morning, and that's not something we've done in a while."

"These are of course small sacrifices all of us need to make...I for one am very glad that our children can go to school again – they have really missed it over these past two years," he said.

“The schools will make efforts to include plans to engage parent community, provide required resources for healthy and safe school environment. There will be a specific action plan to recover learning loss due to remote teaching,” said Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman.

TOASTMASTERS

Club celebrates 200th session

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Meadows Toastmasters Club, Muscat's leading toastmaster club, celebrated its 200th club session with a number of events at the Hotel Golden Oasis.

District 105 Director DTM Gurbinder Singh Punn delivered the keynote address and Toastmaster Nidheesh Mani, President of the Club gave the introductory address.

District 105 PR Manager
DTM Saiju Victor released the
newsletter.

Division C Director DTM Alex Krasta, Area 10 Director TM RajulalRafeeq, Area 12 Director TM AvodaiNayakam, Founder President DTM George Meladan and Club Sponsor DTM Dileep Kumar and former presidents TM PrajeeshVarkey, TM Jeejo Thomas and TM Sunil Kumar addressed the gathering. TM Jaseel shared the Toastmasters new member experience.

Various Cultural activities led by TM Sinoy Jose, JovitaJeejo and Andrea Jeejo were also added colour to the function.

Area Director TM Rajulal Rafeeq presented trophies to the winners of the annual speech competition. TM Zayanuddin delivered the vote of thanks.

Aedes aegypti

Drive against mosquito

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Directorate General of Health Services of Muscat Governorate (DGHS-Muscat) in cooperation with Muscat Municipality and other related authorities launched on Wednesday 'Muscat Campaign to Combat Aedes aegypti mos-

quitos' at Muscat Mall.

The campaign was launched under the theme "Be the Change" and will continue till April 30. Dr. Thamra Said Al-Ghafri, Directorate General of Health Services, Muscat Director General along with a number of officials attended the launch ceremony.



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A story on waiving of fines for delay in renewal of resident cards reached 31,887 people and had 4,582 link clicks on Facebook.



Story on waiving of fines for delay in renewal of resident cards

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

866 VIEWS



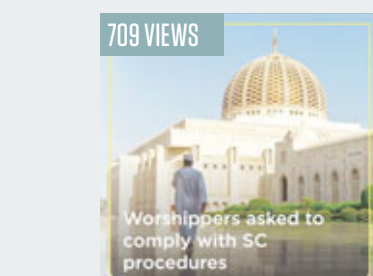
The Maghrib Minute video had 866 views and reached 4,000 people on Facebook.



Maghrib Minute video

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

709 VIEWS





Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on worshippers asked to comply with SC guidelines had 709 views and 64 likes on Instagram.



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DISCUSSION

OCCI ‘Ramadan Evening’ focuses on economic development of governorates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) organised on Tuesday, its first Ramadan Evening for the year. The evening was titled ‘Economic Development of the Governorates: The objectives and social and economic dimensions.’

The evening aimed to discuss the significance of achievement of economic development in all governorates and the mechanisms for achievement of development. The evening stressed that economic development should cover all governorates.

The evening also emphasised the role the Offices of Governors play in setting and putting in place the economic development plans. The evening also stressed the importance of integration and interaction between Offices of Governors and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, represented by its branches in the governorates of the Sultanate.

Economic matters

“OCCI has availed from such evenings to discuss a number of urgent economic matters and to shed light on the concerns of the private sector and the requirements of the current stage of the Blessed Renaissance,” Ridha bin Jumah Al Saleh, the Chairman of OCCI said.

He said that the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on increase of the amounts allocated for the governorates’ development pro-



Ridha bin Jumah Al Saleh, the Chairman of OCCI. — File picture

gramme from OMR10 million to OMR20 million for each governorate during the current Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025), effective from the year 2022, came within the keenness of His Majesty the Sultan for acceleration of the pace of development in the governorates and for creation of projects that contribute to development of business environment in the governorates and contribute to creation of job opportunities to the youth.

He also pointed to that the economic growth in the governorates coincided with the Royal Directives on enhancement of the roles of the Offices of Governors.

Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Nizwa said that distribution of development opportunities among the governorates has a strategic significance in terms of creation of job opportunities to citizens at their respective governorates.

He added that the work nature has changed for Omanis since the beginning of utilising oil from traditional professions including fishing and agriculture to government positions which attracted a big number of citizens.

Sheikh Said bin Rashid Al Qatabi, Director General of Social Sectors at the Ministry of Economy,

HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Follow COVID-19 Supreme Committee decisions: ROP

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) called on citizens and residents to stick to the decisions issued by the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, particularly the precautionary measures during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

ROP added that it will maintain cooperation with the departments concerned to enforce the penalties stated by the decisions issued earlier regarding the violations.

ROP also called to stick to the decisions of the COVID-19 Supreme Committee to protect the health of everyone and to avoid any violation that may lead to the closure of non-compliant mosques. ROP also calls for cooperation to report any violation by calling (1099) around the clock.

The Supreme Committee issued last Tuesday decisions on Ramadan stating that attend-



ance at Taraweeh congregational prayers has to be exclusively limited to worshippers who received two-dose vaccination against COVID-19. Unvaccinated people, including children aged below 12 years, are prohibited to enter the mosques. It also banned mass gatherings for charity breakfast meals (Iftar Sa'im) in mosques and other public places, including tents and public assembly halls.

The COVID-19 Supreme Committee urged the public to continue observing precautionary protective measures, including wearing face masks and maintaining physical distance in closed areas, including mosques. — OMA

ANNOUNCEMENT



MESCO

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Ramadan Iftar Program



The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1443 AH AD 2022

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إعلان مزاد إلكتروني
E-Auction Announcement

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT will establish a public e-auction for government items auctioned in www.mazad.om. Interested auction bidders must examine the following items as per stated below: -

Auctioned items	Examining location	Examining Date/Time
Vehicles	Ministry's main building in Al-Khuwair	10/4/2022 8:00AM - 1:00PM
Furniture + Electronics+ Iron poles, barriers and signboards scraps	N.AlBatinah Governorate (AlGhalil Workshop))	
Iron poles, barriers, and signboards scraps	Roads department in Governorate of Al-Dakhliya(Nizwa)	
Iron poles, barriers and signboards scraps	Roads department in Governorate of N.Al Sharqya (Ibra)	
Hino Water tanker 2000Gallons capacity office furniture	Roads department in Governorate of Al-Dhahira	

The auction will start on Tuesday 12/4/2022 from 8:00AM and ends in Wednesday 13/4/2022 at 12:00pm in accordance to the following conditions:

1 Bidders must register at (www.mazad.om) website

2 Pay 1000 OMR as insurance electronically through auction website

3 Bidders who acquired the actioned item successfully must pay auctioning fee which is 3% of the auctioned item value

4 The Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT and Mazad.om company E-auctioning shall not be liable for any mismatch between auctioned items images and descriptions in the platform and its actual state thus bidders must examine the items onsite in the allocated times for items examining.

5 Bidders who acquired the actioned item successfully must process items full payment through e-auction website within 48 work/office hours.

6 bidders who acquired the auctioned items should dismantle and move the items within a week starting from the date of wining the auctioned item. In case of failing to move the items within the specified time a 5% ground fine will be imposed for each day of delay and the Ministry shall not be liable if anything is lost or damaged.

7 Acquired auctioned items cannot be returned or get a discount and any related request will not be accepted.

8 VAT (5%) is applied on the value of the auctioned item and auctioning service.

9 insurance payment will be confiscated if the following occurred:
-if the bidder did not process full payment for the acquired item within the specified time
-If the bidder did not move or dismantle the acquired items within the specified time.

10 For more information visit www.mazad.om



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US says it will impose sanctions on Putin's two adult daughters

Washington said the new sanctions were in response to "war crimes" committed by Russian forces in Ukraine

WASHINGTON: The US has said it will sanction Vladimir Putin's two adult daughters and apply "full blocking" sanctions on Sberbank and Alfa Bank, Russia's largest public and private financial institutions.

All new US investments in Russia are also now prohibited.

The White House said it will also sanction Putin's daughters, Mariya Putina and Katerina Tikhonova, saying the Russian president's family members are known to hide his wealth.

The sanctions freeze assets Putin's close family members hold in the US and cut them off from the US financial system.

The US also announced sanctions on Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, the wife and children of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and members of Russia's Security Council,



SANCTIONS: Washington has placed full sanctions on Russia's Sberbank and Alfa Bank, along with targeting President Putin's adult daughters.

including former President and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Washington said the new sanctions were in response to "war crimes" committed by Russian forces in Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities call for mass evacuations in eastern provinces

Ukraine's deputy prime minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, has called for residents of Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv provinces to evacuate their homes immediately as Russian forces are said to be repositioning for an assault.

"The head of the military administrations of Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk regions are asking the population to leave these regions," she said on Ukrainian television.

"It is necessary now because later people will be under fire and threatened with death. They will not be able to do anything against it and we will not be able to help," Vereshchuk said.

"It is necessary to evacuate while there is such a possibility. At the moment, it is still there," she added.

The Ukrainian nationalists have shelled the Derhachi settlement in the Kharkiv region, filmed destruction and "many dead" civilians to share this footage with the Western media, the head of the Russian National Defence Control Center, Mikhail Mizintsev, said on Wednesday. Earlier on Wednesday, regional governor for the part of the Luhansk region Ukraine still controls, Serhiy Haidai, warned of more fighting in the region as Russian troops reposition.

-DW



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ELECTIONS

Pakistan President asks poll body to propose date for general elections

ISLAMABAD: Amid the ongoing political turmoil in the country, the President's Secretariat has asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to propose dates for the general elections.

As per a press release shared by Pakistan President Arif Alvi on Twitter, in a letter dated April 5, the President's Secretariat has asked the ECP to propose dates for holding general elections within ninety days from the date of dissolution of the National Assembly, that is April 3, in accordance with the provisions of the country's constitution. "ECP has been conveyed that clause 5 (A) of the Article 48 and clause 2 of Article 224 of the Constitution provide that the President shall appoint a date, not later than ninety days from the date of dissolution of the National Assembly, for holding general elections to the National Assembly," read the release.

It further said that as per the Elections Act 2017, a consultation with the ECP is required



to announce the date of general elections.

On Sunday, Alvi dissolved the Pakistani parliament following Prime Minister Imran Khan's advice. Imran Khan made the proposal minutes after Parliament's Deputy Speaker rejected a motion of no confidence in him as "unconstitutional."

Meanwhile, Imran Khan will continue as the Prime Minister until the caretaker Prime Minister is appointed, said the President as the SC is looking into the matter of National Assembly dissolution. **ANI**

APPROVED

US approves potential sale of air defence system worth \$95 million to Taiwan

WASHINGTON: The United States has on Tuesday approved the potential sale of equipment, training and other items in a deal valued at up to \$95 million (€87 million), according to the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), a part of the Department of Defense.

The package would include training, planning, fielding, deployment, operation, maintenance and associated equipment for the Patriot Air Defence System, according to the Pentagon.

Raytheon would be the primary contractor for the sale, said the Pentagon. There was no indication that a contract had been signed or negotiations had concluded.

"This proposed sale serves US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," said a note by the Pentagon to the US Congress.

"The proposed sale will help to sustain the recipient's missile density and ensure readiness for air operations. The recipient will use this capability as a deterrent to



regional threats and to strengthen homeland defense," it added.

The independent island of Taiwan is claimed by China and has expressed concern over increased military pressure from Beijing to accept its rule.

The United States does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is bound by law to protect its sovereignty.

"Taiwan will continue to demonstrate its determination to defend itself, and continue to deepen cooperative partnerships with the United States and other like-minded countries," said Taiwanese presidential office spokesperson

son Xavier Chang.

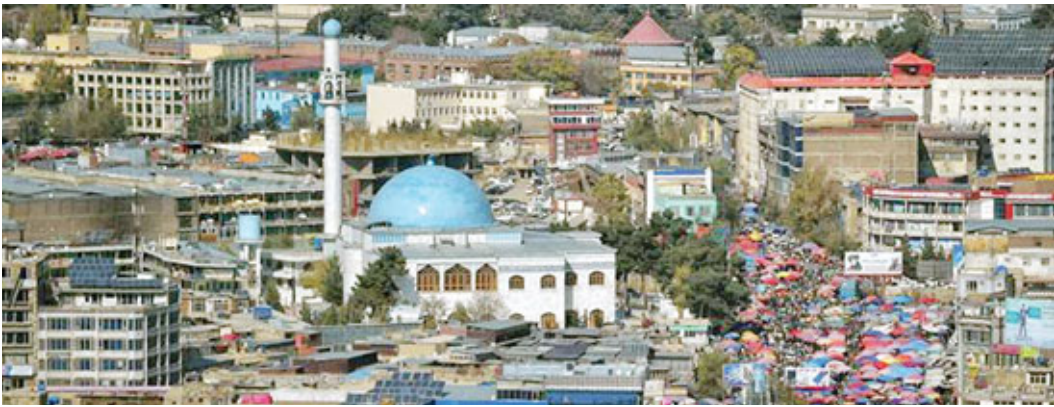
Taiwan's Ministry of Defence said the deal is expected to "become effective" within a month.

DSCA said the proposed sale would help sustain Taiwan's missile density and ensure readiness for air operations.

"The recipient will use this capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen homeland defence," the organisation said in a statement.

The proposed sale would be the United States' third arms package to Taiwan since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021. **DW**

HANDGRENADE



Six people injured in blast at major Kabul mosque

KABUL: At least six people were left injured after someone threw a hand grenade into the largest mosque in Kabul during afternoon prayer on Wednesday, an Afghan police spokesperson said.

Kabul police said one person was in custody after the attack on the 18th century Pul-e-Khishti mosque in the Afghan capital.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. It comes days after a similar incident when a grenade was thrown into the middle of a market, killing one person and injuring 59 others. The Taliban blamed thieves for that attack.

The Pul-e-Khishti mosque is located in a heavily populated

part of the city, German press agency DPA reported.

Violence continues under Taliban rule

The Taliban's takeover of power last August failed to bring an end to insurgent violence in Afghanistan, with the local group of the so-called IS continuing a campaign of attacks against the Taliban and civilians.

Violence in Afghanistan increased in the lead-up to the US withdrawal from the country after a two-decade-long occupation. Attacks targeted government troops as well as officials, journalists and civilians in general.

The clashes were not only between the Taliban and the US-backed government in Kabul, but also between the Taliban and IS. The latter considers the archconservative group to not be radical enough.

Following the Taliban's takeover, the security situation initially stabilised but has since worsened. Other anti-Taliban groups, including former government supporters have joined in the fight.

Since the Taliban took power, they have found themselves in the position of trying to snuff out an insurgency and protecting those who were once the targets of their own attacks, such as the Hazara minority group. **DW**

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EMERGENCY REVOKED

Sri Lankan President revokes State of Emergency

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday issued a notification revoking the proclamation issued declaring the State of Emergency, as the island nation continue to stare at the countrywide protests over the severe economic crisis.

The State of Emergency was revoked from midnight of April 5,

2022, the English language newspaper Daily Mirror reported. Earlier, Rajapaksa had announced an emergency in the country to ensure “public security and maintenance of public order.”

Anti-government protests continue to take place in the island nation, demanding solutions to the current economic crisis. An emer-

gency health situation has been declared in Sri Lanka today, due to a severe shortage of medicines in the country. Sri Lanka is battling a severe economic crisis with food and fuel scarcity affecting a large number of the people in the island nation. The economy has been in a free-fall since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sri Lanka

is also facing a foreign exchange shortage, which has, incidentally, affected its capacity to import food and fuel, leading to the power cuts in the country. The shortage of essential goods forced Sri Lanka to seek assistance from friendly countries. On Sunday, 26 Sri Lankan Cabinet Ministers resigned en masse from their positions amid

rising public anger against the government over the economic crisis. All 26 of them signed a general letter, consenting to resign paving the way for a new Cabinet to be formed, Daily Mirror reported.

The United States on Tuesday said it is deeply concerned about the economic situation in Sri Lanka. “We are deeply concerned

about the economic situation in Sri Lanka. All have the right to peacefully protest and voice their views. We urge authorities to exercise restraint and to avoid social media blackouts and arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in response,” US State Department spokesperson Ned Price tweeted. **ANI**

DOCKED

Migrant rescue boat allowed to dock in Italy after waiting for days



MILAN: The German migrant rescue organization Sea-Eye said on Wednesday that one of their rescue boats had finally been given permission to dock at the Italian port of Augusta in Sicily after waiting for almost a week at sea.

Some 106 migrants were on the Sea-Eye 4 boat, according to a tweet from the group.

“We are expected to reach Augusta on Wednesday afternoon,” they wrote, adding that they hope this brings the rescued migrants “a life of security, dignity and freedom.”

Rescue operations

The Sea-Eye 4 picked up migrants from a container ship that had previously rescued them as they tried to cross the Mediterranean Sea. A second pick-up included 75 people — including 22 children — who were found

According to the UN, 417 people have gone missing trying to cross the central Mediterranean route so far this year, making it the most dangerous route across the sea

crossing in a rubber dinghy. Some of those rescued have been stuck on the ship since last Wednesday.

Sea-Eye is one of several private rescue teams present in the maritime region to save those who run into trouble while making the journey.

The island country of Malta

had previously blocked the Sea-Eye 4 from docking. The group said authorities had told them they were not responsible for providing a safe harbor.

Most dangerous Mediterranean crossing

The crossing is one of the more common routes for people fleeing poverty, the impacts of extreme weather and conflict. But it is also a very dangerous route. Some 90 people drowned at the weekend following a boat accident.

According to the UN, 417 people have gone missing trying to cross the central Mediterranean route so far this year, making it the most dangerous route across the sea.

The official UN figure for people who have gone missing trying to cross the central route since 2014 is over 19,000. The actual figure is likely much higher. **BW**

GOLDEN PASSPORT

EU threatens legal action over Malta’s ‘golden passport’ scheme

VALLETTA: The European Commission on Wednesday said it sent Malta an official notice to end its so-called “golden passport” scheme.

The practice of selling citizenship to rich individuals, also referred to as investor citizenship, has been most lucrative in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta.

But the Commission noted that both Bulgaria and Cyprus had moved toward ending the scheme.

“The Commission considers that the granting of EU citizenship in return for pre-determined payments or investments, without any genuine link to the Member State concerned, is in breach of EU law,” the bloc’s executive said in a statement.

Malta has two months to reply to the official notice sent from Brussels. “If the reply is not satisfactory, the Commission may bring this matter before the Court of Justice of the European Union,” the statement added.

Scheme suspended for Russians and Belarusians

Malta is among several Euro-

pean countries which have suspended the investor residence schemes for Russian and Belarusian nationals.

The move is part of a wider EU response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“While this was a positive step, Malta continues to operate the scheme for all other nationals and did not express any intention to stop it,” the Commission said on Wednesday.

The EU said the scheme’s “inherent risks” were highlighted in light of the war in Ukraine, as some Russian and Belarusian nationals who were targeted by EU sanctions were holders of such passports.

“Every person that holds the nationality of an EU Member State is at the same time an EU citizen. EU citizenship automatically gives the right to free movement, access to the EU internal market, and the right to vote and be elected in European and local elections,” the Commission said.

Malta is believed to have raised €1.1 billion (\$1.2 billion) since 2013 by offering “golden passports.” **BW**

Times of Oman's

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Liverpool are 14 games away from quadruple

Jürgen Klopp's side are just 14 games away from winning the English Premier League



LIVERPOOL: Following their 3-1 victory away at Benfica, Liverpool are close to clinching qualification to the UEFA Champions League semi-finals, which would bring them one step closer to an unprecedented quadruple.

Liverpool have already clinched the Carabao Cup this season, and Jürgen Klopp's side are just 14 games away from also winning the English Premier League (EPL), the Champions League and the FA Cup - a target that seems difficult to achieve, but also feasible.

The EPL team that came closest to securing the quadruple was Manchester United, who won the treble after securing the EPL, FA Cup and Champions League in 1988/89.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City won the league, FA Cup, Carabao Cup and Community Shield in 2018/19, but they failed to clinch the Champions

League trophy.

"No, it's not [a realistic target] and it never was," Klopp told BT Sport when asked about the possibility of winning the quadruple. "You cannot plan it and the schedule makes it really difficult."

"We won the first competition, that's why we are the only ones who can win the quadruple. But Man City are probably favourites for the treble, that's how it is."

Manchester City and Liverpool could face each other up to three times in the remainder of the season in the event they both reach the Champions League final.

Liverpool are trailing Manchester City by one point with eight games to go until the end of the EPL season. The two teams face each other at the Etihad Sta-

dium on Sunday, which could end up being a title decider.

The Reds were 14 points behind the Sky Blues in January, but they have gone 11 games without losing to close the gap to the EPL leaders, registering 10 wins in a row and keeping eight clean sheets in the last 10 games.

After taking on Manchester City, Liverpool will also have to face Manchester United, Everton and Tottenham Hotspur.

After winning all their six of their group-stage games - beating Atletico Madrid, Porto and AC Milan - Liverpool qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League, where they knocked out Inter 2-1 on aggregate to secure their place in the quarter-finals.

The Reds were lucky to avoid

a tough draw in the next round, beating Benfica 3-1 on the road in the first leg of the quarter-finals. Should they qualify, Klopp's side will face the winner of the tie between Bayern Munich and Villarreal. Liverpool will face Manchester City in the FA Cup semi-finals after eliminating Shrewsbury Town, Cardiff City, Norwich City and Nottingham Forest in the previous rounds. Should they beat the Sky Blues, they will take on the winner of the other semi-final between Chelsea and Crystal Palace.

After knocking out Norwich, Preston, Leicester City and Arsenal, Liverpool qualified for the final and then beat Chelsea on penalties to win a record ninth Carabao Cup trophy. -**ONA**



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T20I

Australia conclude historic Pakistan tour with three wickets triumph



LAHORE: Australia produced a world champions-like performance when they wrapped up their historic tour of Pakistan with a three-wicket victory in the one-off T20I at the Gaddafi Stadium on Tuesday.

Aaron Finch finally produced a player of the match performance after three consecutive 50-over failures to hit 55, his 16th T20I half-century in 89 matches. Josh Inglis hit a 15-ball 24, Travis Head clubbed three fours and a six in a 14-ball 26, Marcus Stoinis belted five fours in a nine-ball 23 and Ben McDermott scored a 19-ball 22 not out as Australia achieved the 163-run target in 19.1 overs. Finch faced 45 balls and hit six fours. He put on 40 runs for the first wicket with Head, another 44 runs for the second wicket with Inglis, while his sixth-wicket partnership with McDermott yielded 29 runs.

In their run-chase, Australia had a couple of minor blips. They were first reduced from 83 for one to 129 for five and then lost two wickets in the penultimate over as they required four runs off the last over. But McDermott ensured there were no late twists to the tale.

Australia needed just over eight runs per over from the very outset and were always ahead of the target. They scored 63 runs for one

wicket in the PowerPlay overs, 95 for two at the halfway stage and 138 for five after 15 overs.

For Pakistan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jnr and Usman Qadir picked up two wickets apiece conceding 21, 30 and 33 runs, respectively.

Earlier, Pakistan threw away a 67-run opening start in 7.3 overs to slip to 148 for eight in 18.2 overs before finishing at 162 for eight.

Hard-hitting Fakhar Zaman (0), Iftikhar Ahmed (13), Khushdil Shah (24) and Asif Ali (3) collectively contributed run-a-ball 40 runs between them as Pakistan managed only 82 runs in their last 10 overs, including 50 runs in the last five overs.

Pakistan will be thankful to No.10 batter Usman Qadir to help them cross the 160-run mark. The left-hander slapped two fours and a six in a rapid six-ball 18 not out.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam was once again his side's top-scorer with a brilliant 46-ball 66 that included six signature fours and two sixes. This was Babar's 26th T20I half-century in 74 matches.

Mohammad Rizwan scored 23 off 19 balls with a four and a six. For Australia, fast bowler Nathan Ellis was the pick of the bowlers. Playing only his third match, Ellis returned figures of 4-0-28-4. -**ANI**

CC ODI WORLD CUP 2023

Oman Cricket announces 4-match UAE tour

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The next leg of Oman's qualification run for the ICC ODI World Cup 2023 in India will begin on 10th April, 2022 with a tri-series against PNG and Scotland in the United Arab Emirates. A double-round robin format will be followed, with the matches being played as part of the ICC Men's CWC League 2 2019 - 2021/22.

Head Coach and Chief Development Officer Duleep Mendis



said, "As a team, we are very excited to get started with these next set of games in the CWC League 2. Our last trip to the UAE was a successful one and we will look to deliver at a similar level this time around too."

The boys have played some great cricket on the domestic circuit recently and look hungry and sharp for this tour. Scotland and PNG are both good sides and I look forward to some competitive and high-quality cricket over the next two weeks."

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LINCOLN

TENNIS BALL TOURNEY

Danube cricket tournament begins



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Danube cricket tournament 2022 organised by the Al Hail Cricket Club was held on 4 April 2022.

In the first game, Muscat Thunders team won the match by 9 wickets by beating Aramax Muscat. Muscat Thunders captain Farhan won the toss and elected to field first.

The Aramax team was able to score 20 runs for the loss of 4 wickets. The Muscat Thunders team chased the target in 5 overs for the loss of one wicket. Mohammed Zeeshan top scored with 8 runs, other useful contributions came from Raja with 7 runs and Irfan with 6 runs.

For Aramax Muscat, Imtiaz took a wicket giving away 13 runs. Farood of Muscat Thunders was declared man of the match.

In another match, Lions XI defeated Super Sunraisers by 9 wickets and qualified for the next round. Top scorer of Lions XI was Jose who scored 18 runs in 12 balls and was declared man of the match.

Ibrahim from Ayan International presided over the match as the chief guest.



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,143.02 points, up by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.32 per cent at 476.33 points. Dhofar Generating Company, up by 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down by 4.26 per cent, was the top loser.

Partnership prospects explored to attract investments, support SMEs

Cooperation in several areas related to the development of industrial cities in Muscat governorate was discussed during the meeting

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, accompanied by Mohammed bin Sulaiman Al Kindi, Deputy Governor of Muscat, and Sheikh Ibrahim bin Yahya Al Rawahi, Wali of Seeb, visited the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) to explore partnership prospects between public bodies and highlight the complementary roles played by these bodies to achieve development, attract investments, and support SMEs and enhance their contribution to the national economy.

During the visit, Hilal Al Hasani, CEO of Madayn, discussed cooperation prospects in areas related to the development of industrial cities in the Muscat governorate. Al Hasani emphasised that Madayn aims at creating world-class business cities while retaining the Omani identity to contribute to comprehensive and sustainable



MEETING: Madayn officials elaborated on the vision of Madayn in enhancing the Sultanate's position as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, ICT, innovation and entrepreneurship excellence, and its mission in attracting industrial investments and providing continued support, through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value-adding services, and easy governmental processes. - Supplied picture

economic and social development.

Madayn officials elaborated on the vision of Madayn in enhancing the Sultanate's position as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, ICT, innovation and entrepreneurship excellence, and its mission in attracting industrial investments and providing

continued support, through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value-adding services, and easy governmental processes.

The officials also briefed on the investment opportunities available in Madayn Investment Complexes in Sur, Samail, Sohar and Al

Buraimi Industrial Cities.

Objectives

The officials then highlighted the objectives of the newly formed Industrial Innovation Academy, which aims at promoting a diversified and sustainable economy based on technology, knowledge

and innovation.

Sayyid Al Busaidi then visited Al Rusayl Industrial City to get familiarised with the completed and ongoing projects implemented by Madayn. Al Busaidi also visited the Nafith@Madayn control room, which presents an integrated system aimed at managing and faci-

tating the entry and exit of vehicles to/from the current and future industrial cities of Madayn. Nafith@Madayn project embodies a key pillar of the infrastructure development strategy of the industrial cities to keep pace with the technology trends and provide value-adding services.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY



Course on advanced anti-money laundering organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) organised an Advanced Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing Terrorism programme in collaboration with the International Compliance Association.

The first course of the programme was organised from February 10 -15 for compliance officers of the regulated entities in the capital market sector via Zoom teleconferencing.

The programme, which comes within the CMA's endeavours to enhance the anti-money laundering and combating financing terrorism, comprised five workshops and the 27 participants took a test at the end of the programme and obtained a professional certification.

It is worth noting that the programme is part of the anti-money laundering and combating financing terrorism programmes and workshops executed by the CMA represented by the Anti Money Laundering and Combating Financing Terrorism Department.

The second course will be conducted for compliance officers of insurance companies and brokers in September 2022.

ISLAMIC BANKING SERVICES

Maisarah appoints new Sharia Supervisory Board



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The announcement was followed by an inaugural meeting of the new board comprising Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Shihri as Chairman, Sheikh Azzan bin Nasser Al Amri as Deputy Chairman, Dr Abdul Rub bin Salim Al Yafai, Dr Amin Fateh and Sheikh Hilal bin Hassan Al Lawati as members of the board. - Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services - BankDhofar's Sharia-compliant window - has appointed a new Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) during the Annual General Meeting held recently.

The announcement was followed by an inaugural meeting of the new board comprising Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Shihri as Chairman, Sheikh Azzan bin Nasser Al Amri as Deputy Chairman, Dr Abdul Rub bin Salim Al Yafai, Dr Amin Fateh and Sheikh Hilal bin Hassan Al Lawati as members of the board.

During the meeting, the new board members, jointly with Maisarah's management and Sharia teams, emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest Sharia standards throughout the design to the delivery of all Maisa-

rah's products, services and financial solutions. The meeting also reviewed Maisarah's offerings since the inception of its operations in 2013 and discussed Maisarah's business development and updates throughout 2021.

Compliance system

The board members expressed their satisfaction with the internal Sharia review and compliance system applied by Maisarah and hailed its commitment to comply with Islamic banking guidelines.

Showing impressive growth since the launch of its operations in 2013, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services has demonstrated a high degree of product innovation with an extensive range of Sharia-compliant financial solutions that cater to the needs of its retail and corporate customers in different parts of Oman.

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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Generating Company, up by 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down by 4.26 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,143.02 points, up by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.32 per cent at 476.33 points. Dhofar Generating Company, up by 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down by 4.26 per cent, was the top loser.

Galfar Engineering & Contracting was the most active in terms of the number of units traded and Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 710 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.36 million, with more than 18.6 million shares changing hands.

Out of 50 traded securities, 12 advanced, 15 declined and 23 remained unchanged.

Financial Index closed at 6,636.84 points, up by 0.03 per

cent. Prices of Sohar International Bank and Bank Muscat were up by 1.83 per cent and 1.16 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Ahli Bank and Al Sarqia Investment were down by 2.06 per cent, 1.69 per cent and 1.08 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,998.93 points, unchanged over the previous close. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products and Al Anwar Ceramic were up by 1.55 per cent and 0.47 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics and Oman Cement were down by 1.68 per cent and 0.43 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.010 per cent before closing at 1,615.81 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, National Gas and Oman Investment & Finance were down by 2.41 per cent, 0.72 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,147.25	4,133.95	4,143.02	4,137.46	5.56	0.13
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,648.12	6,625.32	6,636.84	6,634.81	2.03	0.03
Industry Index	6,008.30	5,992.99	5,998.82	5,998.93	-0.11	0.00
Services Index	1,615.81	1,609.99	1,615.81	1,615.61	0.19	0.01
MSX Shariah Index	477.87	476.33	476.33	477.87	-1.54	-0.32
MSX TR INDEX	5,224.22	5,207.47	5,218.90	5,211.89	7.01	0.13
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,950.63	6,926.80	6,938.84	6,936.72	2.12	0.03
SERVICES TR IDX	1,665.03	1,659.04	1,665.03	1,664.83	0.20	0.01
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,235.60	6,219.72	6,225.77	6,225.88	-0.12	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
18,679,837	3,362,807	710	22,157,229,186	12	15	23	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000398	SOHAR INT. BANK	130,000	14,430	2	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.002	1.835	0.111	0.112	0.115	0.100	331,896,914
OM0000000176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	435,000	170,633	48	0.394	0.396	0.388	0.392	0.386	0.006	1.554	0.388	0.388	0.390	0.100	48,960,000
OM0000000796	BANK MUSCAT	2,364,678	1,236,677	48	0.518	0.530	0.518	0.522	0.516	0.006	1.183	0.530	0.530	0.538	0.100	1,659,169,633
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	167,500	72,025	6	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.428	0.002	0.467	0.430	0.426	0.436	0.100	94,600,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	4,179	1,463	5	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.388	0.388	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.350	0.370	0.100	38,800,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	286	290	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.720	0.720	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.710	0.100	113,400,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	32,389	5,322	6	0.164	0.167	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.164	0.170	0.100	32,800,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	11,690	3,717	3	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.000	0.000	0.318	0.310	0.316	0.100	212,540,205
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	97,942	5,877	7	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	18,428,780
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	104,297	88,763	20	0.860	0.864	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.000	0.000	0.860	0.860	0.864	0.100	845,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	97,500	40,915	11	0.420	0.420	0.418	0.420	0.415	0.000	0.000	0.422	0.418	0.422	0.100	99,292,200
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	4,002	1,321	6	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.334	0.100	214,811,596
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	295,500	68,683	24	0.232	0.234	0.230	0.230	0.231	-0.001	-0.433	0.234	0.230	0.234	0.100	76,100,723
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	25,300	3,542	5	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.141	0.140	-0.001	-0.709	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.100	33,180,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	23,985	3,320	3	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.138	0.139	-0.001	-0.719	0.140	0.139	0.150	0.100	11,730,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	175,000	16,110	10	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.100	8,280,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	62,000	29,026	5	0.470	0.470	0.468	0.468	0.478	-0.010	-1.681	0.468	0.468	0.478	0.100	25,740,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	32,818	3,809	2	0.118	0.118	0.116	0.116	0.118	-0.002	-1.695	0.116	0.116	0.118	0.100	228,160,266
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	760,565	72,085	38	0.096	0.096	0.094	0.095	0.097	-0.002	-2.062	0.095	0.095	0.098	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	557,292	167,788	107	0.290	0.290	0.280	0.283	0.290	-0.007	-2.414	0.284	0.284	0.290	0.100	17,320,859
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	503,100	52,826	12	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.109	-0.004	-3.670	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	10,500,000
Total	21	5,887,970	2,049,519	369												
Parallel Market																
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	5,300	318	3	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.055	0.005	9.091	0.060	0.056	0.060	0.100	13,334,400
OM0000002028	GULF INT-CHEM	12,100	1,204	3	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.091	0.008	8.791	0.100	0.095	0.100	0.100	2,079,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	31,928	1,469	4	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.001	2.222	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.100	9,183,238
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	12,054	1,429	4	0.117	0.125	0.116	0.119	0.117	0.002	1.709	0.125	0.117	0.125	0.100	18,510,488
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,409,808	230,042	33	0.095	0.099	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.097	0.096	0.098	0.100	33,168,719
OM0000003521	GULF ENGINEER	6,873,896	656,389	130	0.094	0.097	0.093	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	18,486,699
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	675,130	65,098	20	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.096	0.104	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	26,000	3,250	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.124	0.001	0.806	0.125	0.123	0.125	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	2,800	290	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.096	0.112	0.100	3,424,288
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,000	111	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.113	0.100	222,034,720
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,500	405	1	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.258	0.270	0.100	8,271,144
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	619	28	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.042	0.046	0.100	7,723,536
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SR.	400	217	1	0.542	0.542	0.542	0.560	0.560	0.000	0.000	0.542	0.542	0.548	0.100	100,708,944
OM0000003281	TAGEEER FINANCE	2,000	166	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.081	0.087	0.100	20,351,606
OM0000003861	VOLTAIR ENERGY	173	21	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.120	0.126	0.100	10,175,344
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	5,962	231	2	0.039	0.039	0.037	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.037	0.039	0.100	8,619,390
OM0000004420	BALFAH POWER	307,200	29,798	15	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	20,984,444
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALIN.	590	65	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.100	10,758,238
OM0000004735	SEMBOP SALALAH	36,383	2,983	4	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	78,274,904
OM0000004925	ALBATRAH POWER	60,000	2,880	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	117,000	5,683	11	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	400	39	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.091	0.097	0.100	19,400,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	79,401	8,328	13	0.105	0.106	0.104	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,126,000	222,948	24	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.200	-0.002	-1.000	0.198	0.190	0.205	0.100	321,937,378
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	81,000	6,675	6	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	10,359,375
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. II	818,900	62,901	33	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	32,472	3,513	14	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.112	-0.004	-3.571	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.100	12,960,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	69,160	6,224	9	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.094	-0.004	-4.255	0.090	0.090	0.093	0.100	11,250,000
Total		12,787,134	1,313,188	340												

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Zubair EDC signs agreement to empower entrepreneurs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) one of the Zubair Corporation initiatives in social responsibility signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MTI Consulting.

The MoU was signed by Said bin Salim Al Sahib, Director of Zubair EDC on behalf of the Centre and Hilmy Cader, CEO of MTI on behalf of MTI Consulting.

This agreement aims to strengthen the relations between the Zubair EDC and MTI to empower entrepreneurs who own businesses in Oman.

“Zubair EDC is committed to providing comprehensive support to Oman’s promising small and medium enterprises to enable them to succeed and grow in a sustainable manner. We believe that this collaboration with MTI will enable both parties to progress and achieve the targeted objectives,” stated Director of Zubair EDC, Said Al Sahib.

MTI CEO, Hilmy Cader said,



Said bin Salim Al Sahib

“MTI has a strong presence in the Middle East since establishment and we look forward to working with Zubair EDC to continue the growth of our presence and support the development of businesses in Oman.”

Zubair EDC is an organisation founded in 2013 and is one of the initiatives which emanated from

the Zubair Group’s strategic vision toward Omani society. It reflects the Zubair Group’s belief about the great importance of small and medium enterprises in enhancing the national economy and spreading its benefits.

Zubair EDC’s vision is to provide comprehensive support to Oman’s promising small and me-

dium enterprises to enable them to succeed and grow in a sustainable manner.

Today, Zubair EDC is a professional body that capitalises on its high professionalism, diversified offered knowledge, a wide range of accumulated expertise, and its own global and local network and strategic partners, and builds on The Zubair Corporation’s strengths to lead positive change in the local business environment, which supports small businesses and promising initiatives in the Sultanate of Oman.



STUDY FINDS HOW CANCER TREATMENT AFFECTS NUTRITION

Researchers have found that individuals living with cancer often experience nutrition-related side effects from cancer treatment, including changes in taste and smell, nausea, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and pain during eating.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Nutrients'.

Led by researchers from Drexel University's College of Nursing and Health Professions, the study explored individuals' and their family caregivers' experiences with cancer treatment side effects, including the way they manage these side effects and the resulting changes in food preferences and behaviours.

Participants - individuals living with cancer, who were undergoing cancer treatment (patients), and their caregivers - completed surveys and interviews reporting on treatment side effects. The surveys included questions that asked about treatment side effects and the extent to which they influenced eating and drinking, ability to cook and food preferences and aversions.

The interviews focused on the presence and management of nutrition-related treatment side effects, such as altered taste and flavour, how those changes influenced food preferences and the extent to which they interfered with a patient's quality of life. Interviews with caregivers also asked about caregivers' own nutrition goals and how the cancer experience impacted their diet.

From the interviews, six themes were identified by the research team: the spiral of side ef-



fects, the pain of eating, the burden of eating, loss of taste/change in taste, symptom management, and solutions.

"With the implications for food and nutrition practise, we concluded that moving beyond traditional recommendations of what to eat or avoid, it is vital to consider the overall patient and caregiver experience," said Brandy-Joe Milliron, PhD, an associate professor in the College and co-author of the publication.

Jonathan Deutsch, PhD, a professor in the College and co-author, said that understanding the

With the implications for food and nutrition practise, we concluded that moving beyond traditional recommendations of what to eat or avoid, it is vital to consider the overall patient and caregiver experience

experiences of both people with cancer and their family caregivers regarding cancer treatment side effects can yield multiple benefits, such as health care providers becoming better versed in helping patients and caregivers to anticipate and prepare for treatment side effects.

If patients and their caregivers are better at anticipating and managing cancer treatment side effects, it can help both groups achieve improved nutrition and related health outcomes. Lastly, effective interventions to reduce or alleviate treatment side effects

in people with cancer, as well as approaches to increase caregiver preparedness and ability to manage side effects, are needed and should be further investigated.

The researchers noted that considering their high sense of responsibility in alleviating side effects, caregivers should be engaged by health care professionals during patient care. Developing and testing interventions that improve caregivers' nutrition and long-term health and increase their capacity to provide high-quality care is a top priority. But future research is needed to develop nutrition and culinary interventions - for both patient and caregiver - that harness the influential role that each person holds, while simultaneously being responsive to their unique needs.

While nutrition was the entry point of their work, Milliron and her colleagues said open communication among patients, caregivers and cancer care providers is a prerequisite to person-centred care and should be inclusive of patient preferences and their use and interest in CAM.

They recommend that providers be transparent about anticipated side effects and their management.

Providers should also share experiences of patients and caregivers to be transparent about the severity of side effects and to reassure the patient or family that they are not alone or unique in their struggle.

"While referred to as side effects, the experience of these effects can be torturous and should be integrated into treatment rather than seen as an adjunct issue to the treatment protocol," said Milliron. - ANI



FEATURE



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THE WORLD IN PICTURES



Easter eggs painted with traditional motifs on display
Easter eggs painted with traditional motifs are on display as the traditional pre-Easter exhibition of huge Easter eggs is opened in Koprivnica, Croatia.
Xinhua



Argus Bike Festival held in Austria
A biker performs stunts during the Argus Bike Festival in Vienna, Austria.
Xinhua



People across China enjoy spring view during Qingming Festival
People enjoy the spring view at a park in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province. Qingming Festival, a traditional Chinese holiday for people to pay tribute to the dead and worship ancestors.
Xinhua



People shop at historical bazaar in Istanbul
Picture shows an interior view of the Spice Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey.
Xinhua



People pay tributes to the deceased on Tomb-sweeping Day
People visit a columbarium to pay tributes to the deceased on Tomb-sweeping Day at Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
Xinhua



People visit market during the Holy Month of Ramadan
People visit a market during the Islamic Holy Month of Ramadan in the West Bank city of Hebron.
Xinhua



Bollywood actor Ranvir Singh at the 'Beautiful Indians 2022'
Bollywood actor Ranvir Singh speaks to media at the 'Beautiful Indians 2022' event presented by Femina and Mamaearth, in Mumbai on Wednesday.
ANI Photo



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ROUND-UP

Meethaq launches special offer on home, auto and personal finances

The offers will be available from April 1 to June 30 and applicable on a wide variety of Meethaq financing options including home finance, auto finance, personal goods finance, education finance, marriage finance, travel finance, and takeover finance

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision, Meethaq Islamic banking from Bank Muscat has launched a number of exclusive financing offers on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The offers will be available from April 1 to June 30 and applicable on a wide variety of Meethaq financing options including home finance, auto finance, personal goods finance, education finance, marriage finance, travel finance, and takeover finance.

Customers can take advantage of an attractive profit rate of only 4.99 per cent per annum. Customers who apply for any of the products will benefit from quick processing and minimal documentation. Meethaq customers are eligible for up to 80 per cent financing for home or auto financing while 100 per cent financing is available for travel, marriage, education and personal goods finance. Applications may be submitted at any



“We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued customers for their deep confidence and belief in Meethaq’s innovative and customer-centric services and facilities and look forward to serving them better, every day

Sami Bait Rashid
Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking

of Meethaq’s 24 state-of-the-art branches across the Sultanate. Speaking on the occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking, expressed his best wishes to Meethaq customers for the

holy month of Ramadan. He said, “Meethaq is always delighted to listen to its customers and offer them various services and facilities which are aligned to their needs and global trends, thereby helping them realise their dreams.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued customers for their deep confidence and belief in Meethaq’s innovative and customer-centric services and facilities and look forward to serving them better, every day.”

In line with its commitment to offering a world-class Islamic banking experience to customers across the country, Meethaq has established the largest Islamic network in Oman consisting of 12 branches in the Governorate of Muscat and 12 branches across other governorates. Meethaq also has a dedicated network of over 40 ATMs and CDMs and provides free access to more than 740 plus ATMs and CDMs of Bank Muscat across the country for customers to conduct their banking transactions with ease. Meethaq Islamic Banking, which has been recognised as the Best Islamic Bank in Oman by Islamic Finance News in 2019, has adopted the best global practices in Islamic banking and finance to combine a robust model, which protects customers and complements the Islamic banking industry. Every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

SPECIAL SCHEME

Drive home new Nissan X-Terra with season’s unique offers

MUSCAT: Nissan Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), is offering a wide range of deals for the patrons of Nissan X-Terra, the vehicle specially designed for adventure and the outdoors. A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), said, “The X-Terra is a catalyst for new experiences, allowing owners to connect with the people in their lives. The vehicle delivers a robust four-wheel-drive system, including a four-wheel lock, brake limited slip differential and electronic locking rear differential – while leading the class in interior room and comfort. This is a good time for potential buyers to check out the Nissan X-Terra which is available with valuable benefits.” The offer, which is available on models purchased for personal use, will go on till May 19. As part of the special scheme, Nissan Oman is offering a free periodic vehicle service package, free insurance, assured gift voucher, free registration for Nissan X-Terra buyers. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan X-Terra is OMR 209. EMIs are calculated on the price of the base model with 20% down payment, 3.5 % rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals. All customers purchasing Nissan X-Terra during this scheme period will be eligible for free periodic maintenance service package for three years / 60,000 km (whichever is earlier), limited to six services only. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km. All customers buying Nissan X-Terra during this scheme will be eligible for Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers up to OMR 100. Voucher can be redeemed for purchase of any consumables, value-added service products, ser-



vices contracts and Parts at SBA service centres. The gift voucher offer is subject to terms and conditions: VAS voucher will have to be utilized fully in one go and cannot be fragmented. Any additional expenses on top of the voucher amount will be paid by the customer separately. VAS Voucher will have a limited validity period and will have to be consumer before October 31. VAS Voucher is transferable. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the Voucher amount cannot be discounted in cash. All customers purchasing Nissan X-Terra during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle insurance (Oman and UAE only). All customers purchasing Nissan X-Terra during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration. **Nissan X-Terra: Exciting drive** Designed for adventure and the outdoors with a roomy interior and advanced technologies Nissan X-Terra ensures safety and comfort. It is equipped with an active safety suite, which comprises blind-spot warning, lane departure warning, intelligent driver alert, and intelligent forward collision warning.

The SUV also has multiple airbags and a digital rear-view mirror. Powering the X-Terra is a 2.5-liter four-cylinder petrol engine with a seven-speed automatic transmission. The petrol engines deliver 124kW / 165 hp and 241Nm of torque that ensures an exciting drive of speed and acceleration. The X-Terra delivers a robust four-wheel drive system, including a four-wheel lock, brake limited slip differential and electronic locking rear differential – while leading the class in interior room and comfort. Built on 70 years of unmatched Nissan SUV expertise, the Nissan X-Terra reflects the evolution of four-wheel adventure travel and a growing consumer desire for connection. It effortlessly combines impressive strength with bold new design and built-for comfort roominess. Underlining this is breakthrough engineering and a suite of cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility (NIM) technologies to offer a superior driving experience and adventure-ready confidence for drivers to explore new places. The SUV’s rugged frame facilitates its durability and practicality, while the future-forward aesthetics are exhibited in the quad LED projector lamps and a bold new V-motion grille. The revised rear and new LED taillights add to the X-Terra’s athletic look, reflecting the Nissan Design team’s dynamic and modern philosophy. The styling of the X-Terra was developed at the Global Design studio in Japan. At 4.9m in length, 1.9m in height and just over 2.1m in width – with a ground clearance of 243 mm – the X-Terra looks right at home next to its bigger sibling, the Patrol, and borrows some design elements. The front face resembles the Patrol with the powerful new V-motion grill, with its thick frame contrasting with the refined horizontal chrome bars within. The proportions of the X-Terra are strong and bold. The hood is tall and horizontal, the body is muscular, and the driver sits up high for a commanding road presence. The overall image is imposing and rugged, but designers have also added expressions of sophistication and technology. This is underlined by the unique C-shaped LED signature headlamps, similar to those of the Patrol, but evolved and interpreted in a new way for the X-Terra. The quad LED projector lamps, like ice-cubes, have a high-tech vibe. Each one is intricately framed in its own bezel, showing off an attention to detail.

BRIEFS

ISD students win Lifology Global Fellowship



MUSCAT: The Guinness World Record winning & ISO certified guidance organisation conducted, ‘Lifology Global Fellowship – The Future 10000’, the World’s first and largest Fellowship Programme for school students. Bhavika Biju of Class XI, Indian School Darsait got selected as one of the winners ‘under 18’ category of the Lifology Global Fellowship Programme which brought together some of the super intellectuals in the world from the United Nations, World Bank, WHO, Harvard University, Stanford University and London School of Economics. Following students brought accolades to the school in this prestigious global event. Rithesh Rajeevan - XI, Manasvi Sudha Praveen - X, Sivasankar Sreedharan - XII, Nalija Ismail - XII, Aditya Chandra Mohan - XII, Navaneet Chandran Krishnalayam - XII, Rabiya Khalid - X, Rhea Elizabeth Varghese - X, Sameha Khan Pathan - X, & Jemimah Shibu Daniel - IX.

Annual Day celebrations organised virtually



MUSCAT: Indian School Darsait (ISD) organised its 29th Annual Day Celebrations on a virtual platform with great fervour and gusto. Various programmes were organised on this occasion. Dr Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman was the Chief Guest while Sirajudeen Nhelat, Academic Chair, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman was the Guest of Honour. Niranjana Pramod Nair, Head Girl delivered her welcome address while Blessy Diana Shijin, Vice President, School Management Committee addressed the virtual gathering by sharing and recalling the celebration of annual day in her school days with pathos and nostalgia. Addressing the ISD fraternity, Sebastian Chungath, President, School Management Committee congratulated everyone who contributed in some way or other for the development of the school over the years. He called upon the teachers to mould the children to become global citizens and useful human beings for the society. He further requested the parents to continue their unstinted support to the school. The President also acknowledged the service of all those who had contributed to the development of the school. Amar Srivastava, Principal made a digital presentation of the Annual Report for the year 2021-22. It highlighted the continued march of yet another glorious year of success.



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Powerful Chevrolet Tahoe RST 2022 introduces new performance package

The RST (Rally Sport Truck) is designed for customers who want a street performance look without losing out on the capability of increased performance

MUSCAT: The Chevrolet Tahoe has always been a powerful, spacious SUV and the 2022 Tahoe RST (Rally Sport Truck) is as accommodating with lots of interior space. In addition, it comes with a new Performance Package that includes a 420-hp, 6.2L V-8 engine with 460 lb-ft of torque; Magnetic Ride Control with performance calibration and an all-new Hydra-Matic 10L80 10-speed automatic transmission



for sharper and safer handling.

The RST is designed for customers who want a street performance look without losing out on the capability of increased performance. It is extremely comfortable with decent towing capacity and a look that is aggressive and

sporty at the same time.

Among the most visible changes in the 2022 RST are the body-colour grille surround and door handles; gloss-black grille and mirror caps; black roof rails, window trim, badging and Chevy bowties.

It also includes exclusive 22-

inch wheels wrapped in Bridgestone P285/45R22 tyres.

Available upgrades for Tahoe RST include a Cat-Back performance exhaust system that offers a 28 per cent improvement in exhaust flow, providing a 7-10-horsepower gain for the rear wheels. An

available brake package features massive front red Brembo six-piston, fixed aluminium callipers with brake pads clamping on larger-than-stock 410 x 32mm (16.1-inch x 1.3-inch) Duralife rotors coupled with an 84 per cent increase in brake pad area and a 42 per cent increase in rotor area to increase system thermal capacity. Duralife rotors feature a hardened surface to reduce corrosion and provide quieter braking with less vibration.

The engine features three state-of-the-art technologies — direct injection, Dynamic Fuel Management and variable valve timing — to make the most of power, torque and efficiency across a broad range of operating conditions.

The 6.2L V-8 is paired with an all-new 10-speed automatic transmission that maximises engine power under acceleration. With a wide 7.39 overall gear ratio spread and lower numerical top gear ratio, the transmission also improves efficiency by reducing engine revolutions at highway speeds.

The Tahoe RST is a worthy companion for towing, offering a towing capacity of 8,400 pounds and acceleration of 0-60 mph in less

than 6 seconds.

Magnetic Ride Control is an active suspension that reads the road, triggering damping changes in the electronically controlled shock absorbers in as less as 5 milliseconds. As a result, the suspension delivers both improved body-motion control during cornering and a more comfortable ride while cruising. The new performance calibration included in the Tahoe RST Performance Package increases body control for even higher levels of responsiveness and comfort.

“A strong performer, the Chevy Tahoe RST rides and handles better than it ever has, offering an upgrade for those who need more of everything. It is refined and spacious with exceptional ride comfort and interior quietness,” states Mandeep Singh, General Manager – Chevrolet.

Chevrolet has been the best-selling full-size SUV brand.

The Tahoe RST has a serious curb appeal that you cannot help but notice. Exclusively distributed by the OTE group, the 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe RST is available across OTE showrooms distributed across the Sultanate.

PROMOTION

Toyota Fortuner now available with ‘Biggest Excitement’ benefits



MUSCAT: The Toyota Fortuner is now even more exciting to own with ‘Biggest Excitement’ benefits. The benefits include 1 Year Insurance or Cash Gift in lieu of Insurance from OMR250 up to OMR300. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply.) The campaign is valid up to May 19. Visit the showroom for exact details.

The powerful Fortuner is equipped with Petrol Engines that include a 2.7 Litre Four Cylinder Engine producing 164 HP & 25.0

Kg-m of Torque. For even more exciting experiences, the 4.0 Litre V6 Engine churns-out 235 HP along with 38.3 Kg-m of Torque. The 6-speed Automatic Transmission, available as a standard option, provides thrilling acceleration.

Rugged and adroit, the Fortuner also is known for its high standards on the inside. Premium Leather Seats, Leather and Wood finished Steering Wheel with Paddle Shifts, Cool Glove Box, Cruise Control and a whole bunch of other goodies augment its interior ambience.

Toyota Fortuner has a powerful Air Conditioner. Other innovative

touches include a Navigation System. The Rear View Camera ensures peace of mind when Reverse Parking. The 6-speaker Audio System enhances its harmonious ambience. And to add to the convenience, there is a Power Back Door System which adds to the sheer convenience.

The Fortuner is equipped with Comprehensive Safety Systems to protect its occupants. These include Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) that prevents the tyres from locking during braking. The Fortuner is equipped with SRS Driver Airbag, SRS Front Passenger Airbag, Side Airbag, Curtain Airbag

and SRS Knee Airbag (driver only). In terms of seatbelts, a three-point Emergency Locking Retractor seatbelts are equipped. When impact is experienced during a collision, the Seatbelt Locks to restrain the passenger. Other reassuring safety features include the Vehicle Stability Control and the Tyre Pressure Monitoring System.

In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota’s outstanding product quality. No wonder that today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT



ISD organises graduation ceremony for Class XII

MUSCAT: Indian School Darsait (ISD) organised graduation ceremony for its outgoing batch of Class XII 2021-22 at a solemn function held on March 27 in the Senior School Auditorium.

Vinoba M P, Senior Principal & Education Advisor, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman was the Chief Guest while Ajit Vasudevan, Convenor & Head, Academic & ICT Subcommittee, SMC graced the function as the Guest of Honour. The Graduation Ceremony commenced with an invocation song, followed by the welcome address by Alexander Gee Varghese, Vice Principal, Senior section.

The Class Teachers of various sections of class 12 introduced their classes to the audience. Benson Binu Philip and Niranjana Pramod Nair, Head Boy & Head Girl respectively enumerated their invaluable experiences and reflections. Representing their classes Ria Thanmayee (12 A), Anna Clement (12 B), Saurav Vinod Nair (12 C) and Angel Maria Tarson (12 D) shared their reminiscences of rather an exclusive and most extraordinary learning mode that they have encountered.

Sebastian Chungath, President, School Management Committee addressed the young minds to achieve great heights in any field, while remembering to be humane, to be considerate to the society, to take care of fellow citizens, and above all to be simple and humble.

He further thanked the parents for their support to achieve laurels and congratulated the graduates on this occasion and urged them to follow the path of justice at point in their lives.

Felicitating the students, the Chief Guest, Vinoba shared with the students the golden Mantras of success and also shared chosen anecdotes from his experience by confiding that he had a concept in life to work as a team to achieve success. He said, “Learning and hard work are the keys to success and are very much required for improving your professional career and life as there is no shortcut to it”. He further encouraged the students to choose their career according to their passion and interest and with a right attitude but not by pressure from society.

Ajit Vasudevan’s words of perspicacity motivated the aspiring graduates as they were entering a new threshold of life. Besides, he shared words of wisdom regarding embracing of change, staying committed to one’s vision, to be strong and to stay focused.

Delivering the farewell message, Amar Srivastava, Principal called upon the students to be always ready in life. Further he administered the institutional oath to the graduates exhorting them to be the brand ambassadors of ISD and to know the technological world in a wider sense and to use their knowledge for the betterment of our society.

MAJAN ELECTRICITY

Workshop held for contractors taking part in Unit Rate tender



MUSCAT: Majan Electricity Company conducted a workshop for contractors who participated in the Unit Rate tender for Dhahirah and North Batinah governorates.

The workshop aimed at clarifying the tender terms, conditions and requirements. Further, the team responded to contractors’ inquiries

regarding the tender and clarified all the queries regarding the topic.

This initiative will contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of network extension works to customers and network improvements and ensure on-time implementation of projects with higher quality and efficiency.





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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:30 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:14 pm
Asr	3:42 pm
Maghrib	6:30 pm
Isha	7:41 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:36 am









» IFTAR RECIPE

CREAMY CHICKEN BROCCOLI
CASSEROLE WITH
WHOLE-WHEAT PASTA



- INGREDIENTS**
- 13.25 to 16 ounces whole-wheat spiral-shaped pasta
 - 1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts, all visible fat discarded, cut into 1-inch pieces
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt-free Italian seasoning blend or 3/4 teaspoon dried thyme
 - 16 ounces frozen broccoli, thawed
 - 1 15.25-ounce can, no salt added, whole-kernel corn, rinsed and drained, or 16 ounces frozen whole kernel corn, thawed
 - 8 ounces fat-free cream cheese, softened
 - 1 cup fat-free, plain yogurt

- PREPARATION**
- Preheat the oven to 350 degree F. In a large pot, cook the pasta according to package directions, omitting the salt. Drain well in a colander. Return the pasta to the pot. Cover and set aside.
 - In a large skillet, cook the chicken over high heat for 5 minutes, or until no longer pink in the centre, stirring frequently. Reduce the heat to low. Stir in the Italian seasoning blend, broccoli, corn, cream cheese, yoghurt. Cook for 5 minutes, or until the cream cheese has melted.
 - Transfer the chicken mixture to the pot with the cooked pasta, stirring to mix well.
 - Transfer to a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish. Bake, covered with aluminum foil, for 15 minutes, or until heated through.

» HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

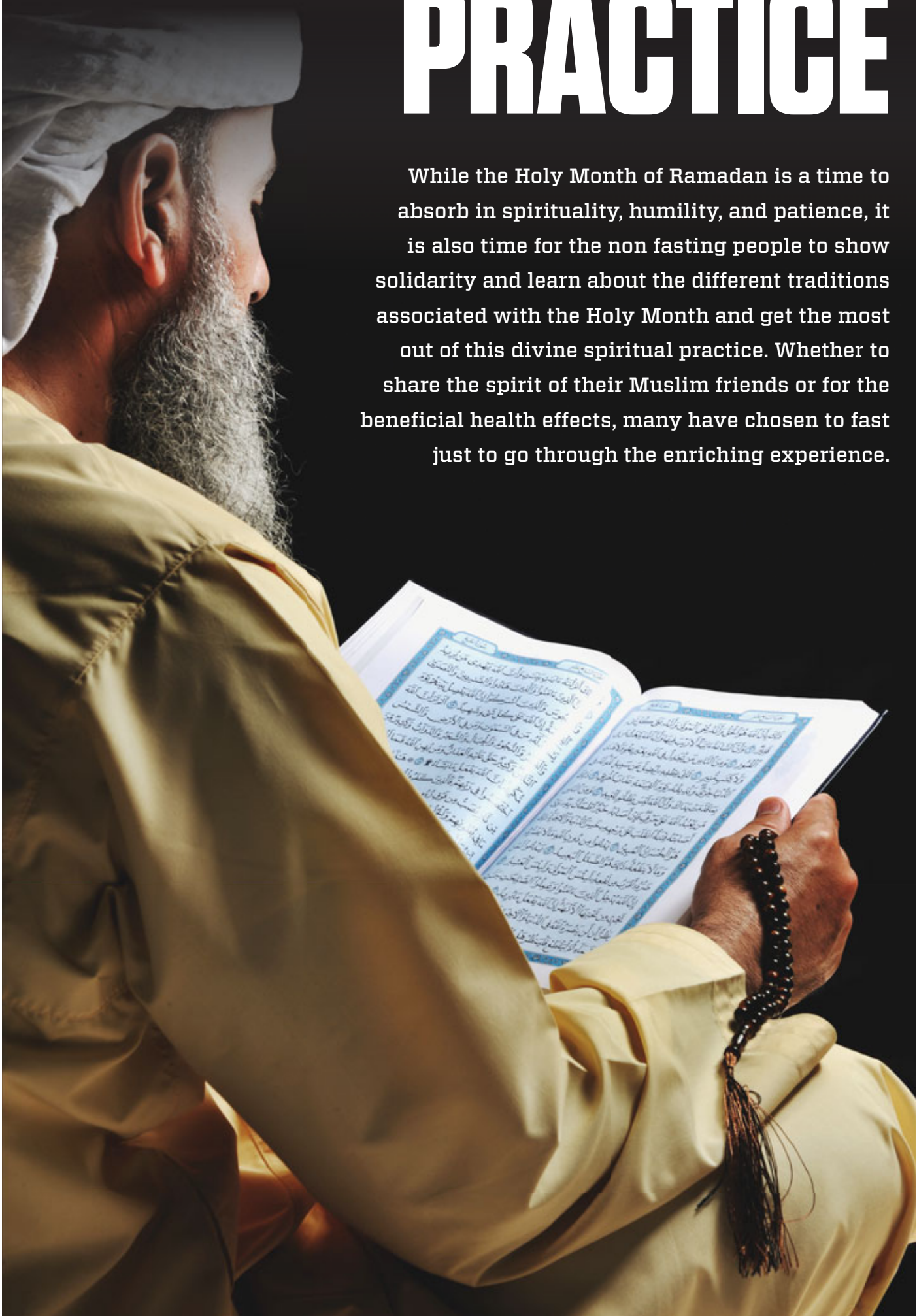
FASTING HEALTH TIP

Diabetic patients in Oman who are fasting during Ramadan must get themselves continuously checked during the Holy Month to see if their bodies can withstand the stress brought about by fasting.



» GOOD DEEDS

GET THE MOST OUT OF THE DIVINE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE



While the Holy Month of Ramadan is a time to absorb in spirituality, humility, and patience, it is also time for the non fasting people to show solidarity and learn about the different traditions associated with the Holy Month and get the most out of this divine spiritual practice. Whether to share the spirit of their Muslim friends or for the beneficial health effects, many have chosen to fast just to go through the enriching experience.