

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr 12:12 pm
Asr 3:40 pm
Maghrib 6:32 pm
Isha 7:45 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:29 am
IFTAR 6:32 pm



6 085010 120010

HM CONGRATULATES PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Shehbaz Sharif on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to Prime Minister Sharif to achieve aspirations of the people of Pakistan towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries further development and welfare. **-ONA**



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432.4%

122,000 PEOPLE CAME TO OMAN IN FEBRUARY 2022, COMPARED TO JUST 23,000 THE YEAR BEFORE, A 432.4 PERCENT RISE IN ARRIVALS TO THE COUNTRY.



16MN

THREE-TO-FIVE STAR RATED HOTELS EARNED OMR16 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 2022, COMPARED TO OMR7 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 2021, POINTING TO AN INCREASE OF OVER 125 PERCENT IN EARNINGS.

ARRIVALS TO OMAN SKYROCKET 400% IN 2022

More arrivals into Oman also meant a positive impact on revenue of hotels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of people arriving in Oman has shot up by more than 400 percent in February 2022 compared to the same month a year ago.

122,000 people came to Oman in February 2022 compared to just 23,000 in 2021, reflecting a 432.4 percent increase in arrivals to the country, according to figures published by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). In both January and February put together, some 230,000 people came to Oman while 606,000 left the country.

Nationals of the other five Gulf Cooperation Council countries (UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain) accounted for 45,148 people (36.9 percent) entering Oman, while Indian nationals accounted for 12.7 percent of the arrivals. Citizens of



France (4.2 percent) and Britain (four percent) also formed a portion of the incoming people.

In February, 305,000 people left Oman with Omani nationals accounting for 61.7 percent of all people departing the country. The number of people departing from Oman in February 2022 rose by 198,000 individuals, compared to the same month in 2021.

More people arriving into the country also meant a direct positive impact on revenue earned by hotels this year: Hotels rated three-to-five stars earned OMR16 million in February 2022 compared to OMR7 million in February 2021, pointing to an increase of over 125 percent in earnings.

Furthermore, 162,000 guests stayed in these hotels in the second month of 2022, compared to 90,000 for the same period last year. As a consequence, the occupancy rate rose in these hotels to 52.5 percent, up from 39.1 percent in February 2021.

More flights to India by the end of the month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People planning to travel from Oman to India will have even more options to choose from, when more airlines resume operations by the end of April.

Among those resuming flights are low-cost Indian carrier Spice Jet, which will connect passengers to Ahmedabad in Gujarat from where they can take connecting flights to other destinations in India, if needed.

Resuming flights

"Spice Jet is resuming flights from Muscat to Ahmedabad effective 27th April," said the airline. "Flights are loaded in the system and open for sale. As always, we look forward to your continuous support at all times."

The first flight following resumption of operations will depart Ahmedabad at 9:45pm on the 26th and arrive in Muscat at 11pm. It will then take off from Muscat 10 minutes after midnight, arriving in Ahmedabad at 4:20 in the morning.

Flights will operate from Muscat on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and from Ahmedabad, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The airline will also offer connecting flights to Patna in Bihar.

Another low-cost airline, IndiGo, will operate daily flights from Muscat to both Kochi and Mumbai, starting from 25 April.

Flights from Mumbai to Muscat will depart at 9:45pm local time and arrive in Muscat at 10:55pm. **>A3**





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CONSUMER PROTECTION

Shops in Oman told to display list of VAT exempted items

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Shop owners in Oman have been told by the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) to clearly label or mark those items that are in the zero percent value added tax list so as to not confuse customers or try to trick them into paying more for such goods.

"We direct all the commercial centres and shops across the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman to affix labels mentioning all goods exempt from value-added tax," said the CPA in a notice. Most items considered staples for day-to-day life are exempt from VAT.

Exempt items

Food grains such as wheat, rice, barley and corn, as well as flours made from them; milk products in their various forms, i.e. plain milk, milk powder, cheese and yoghurt; various varieties of breads; water; salt and sugar; fruits and vegetables; meat, fish, and poultry; and



coffee and tea are exempt from VAT. Other items including some medicines and baby products are also on the list.

Financial services, healthcare

and education and all related services, sale of undeveloped lands, resale and rent/lease services provided towards residential properties and local passenger transport services are also among those exempt from VAT.

Similarly, all items used by diplomatic missions, international organisations, the armed forces and emergency services do not have VAT levied on them.

The belongings of passengers arriving to Oman for the first time are also free of value added tax, as are gifts received by them. Purchases considered vital for people with special needs are also VAT-free.

Inspections

Earlier, the CPA had told shops in individual governorates to prepare lists of items under zero VAT. The CPA conducts both regular and surprise visits to shops to make sure they operate in accordance with regulations.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Two killed in road crash in Oman

1 Two people have died in a collision involving three vehicles on Aqabat Baushar-Amerat Road in Muscat Governorate. On account of the accident and consequent heavy traffic, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) advised people to take an alternative route. "Please take the Wadi Uday-Amerat road to avoid congestion," ROP said in a statement. **>A3**

WORLD

Russia's actions in Ukraine genocide: US

2 US President Joe Biden on Tuesday called Russia's actions in Ukraine "genocide" as he attempted to explain the rising inflation in the country. **>A7**

MARKET

Khazaen Dry Port unveils new service

3 The service of partial shipment solutions will provide support for various industries, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs). **>B1**

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Key roads to cut congestion, make traffic safer



The roads are being built in line with the planned urban expansion in a busy commercial area in Bausher

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Internal roads are to be constructed in Bausher as part of upgrades to the existing infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population in the area.

The roads are being built in line with the planned urban expansion in a busy commercial area in Bausher, according to the Directorate General of Projects at Muscat Municipality.

“The project will feature construction of 12km of internal

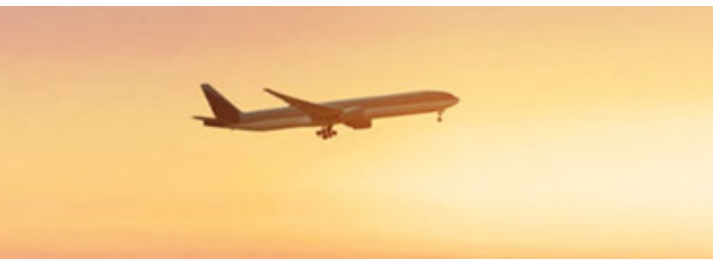
roads, parking lots and building-side protection to some roads, where needed, while transferring current service lines that overlap existing tracks,” said Muscat Municipality in a statement.

TRAVEL

<FROM
A1

More Oman-India flights

The return flight will take off from Muscat an hour later, arriving in Mumbai the next morning at 4:10am. Flights from Kochi will depart at 11:25pm and arrive in Oman at 1:40am. Those wishing to board the return flight from Muscat need to note that the plane departs from Muscat at 2:40am, landing five minutes before 8am.





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ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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148,676 REACH



Story on electronic vehicle ownership transfer in Oman reached 148,676 people and had 9,047 link clicks on Facebook.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

5,300 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video in Hindi reached 5,300 views and reached 18,800 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

501 VIEWS



Morning Minute video on Water Tanker colours reached 501 views and 23 likes on Instagram



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» IFTAR TIMING

6:32 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:12 pm
Asr	3:40 pm
Maghrib	6:32 pm
Isha	7:45 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:29 am



» RAMADAN WORDS

“O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous” — Surat Al-Baqarah 2:183

» IFTAR AROUND THE WORLD

MALAYSIA

Around the world, each culture has its own Iftar customs and traditions.

IN MALAYSIA, Iftar is called ‘berbuka puasa’, which can be literally translated “to open the fast”. After breaking the fast with traditional dates and water, people indulge in bandung drink, sugarcane juice, soybean milk mixed with grass jelly, nasi lemak, laksa, ayampercik, chicken rice, satay and popiah. Night markets are also popular dining spots after sunset, open to all, serving the masses as they break the daylong fast with affordable street food feasts. So feast and indulge in your favourite Iftar delicacies this Ramadan as it is very important to replace the energy lost during the day and to start the next day of fasting well-hydrated.



» FASTING HEALTH TIP

DATES ARE MUST

Rich in Vitamin K, dates are helpful to make your body cells store fluids as they are a natural source of glucose. It is also a tradition to include them in the meals. Dates are also rich in copper, selenium and magnesium.



» GOOD DEEDS

GIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND WILFULLY

The Holy Month is about self-reformation and abstention and to give, whole-heartedly and wilfully to those in need, while appreciating the blessings of life. It is all about taking baby steps. You cannot expect to become a philanthropist overnight just in the Holy Month of Ramadan. However, you certainly have the power to make a small difference that may lead to a greater good.

Distribute Iftar meals whomever you feel need the most. You could either (preferably) cook the meal yourself or buy it from outside and package it well to make it a proper Iftar meal. If you know any of the underprivileged families, you can give it to them. Or else you could just drive to the villages and go door-to-door distributing meals. Go out with your friends and family and plant at least one tree every week

or clean the beautiful beaches of Muscat. Keep away your phones and laptops and every other electronic gadgets and strengthen your interpersonal relationships. Make time to visit your relatives and spend more quality time with family and friends. Learn about their past, ask them for their whims and desires, and make a mental note to fulfil at least one of them at some point soon.





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CABLE

HM congratulates King of Jordan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the success of the surgery he

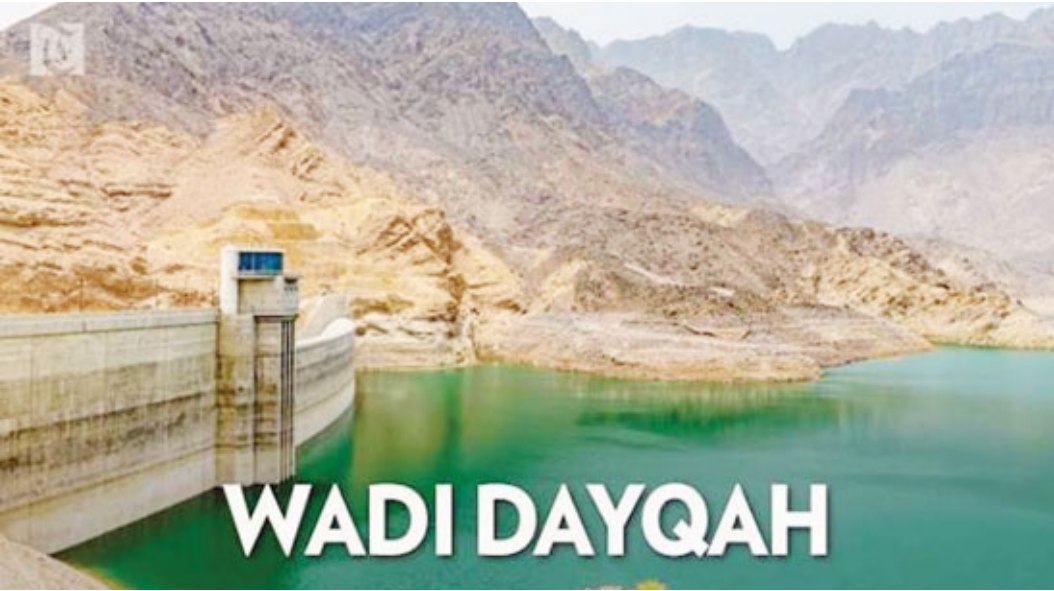
underwent recently. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to King Abdullah II.

His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty to grant him

good health, well-being and a long life to continue achieving aspirations of the people of Jordan towards further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

— OMA

MINISTRY CIRCULAR



WADI DAYQAH

Wadi Dayqah Dam gate to open from 14 to 27 April

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture has announced the opening of the Wadi Dayqah dam gate during the period from 14-27 April 2022 to drain about 20 million cubic metres of water.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources announced the opening of the Wadi Dayqah dam gate to drain about 20 million cubic metres of water during the period from 14-27 April 2022.

Underground reservoir

A ministry circular explained that the aim of opening the dam's gate is to feed the underground reservoir for the farms of the people of the Daghamr and Hail Al Ghaf regions.

The Ministry called on citizens to stay away from the valley and abide by safety instructions.

It is worth noting that the Wadi Dayqah Dam has a storage capacity of 100 million cubic metres and a height of 75 metres.



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To augment the expansion programme, the company is on the lookout for competent professionals in the following domains.

1. HVAC Technician

ITI/Diploma with minimum 7 years experience in operation, repair, troubleshooting, overhauling & maintenance of all types of chillers, chilled water systems, fan coil units, air handling units, compressors, refrigerators, cold rooms, freezers, ice makers, split/window/package A/C units etc. Shall be able to read and interpret AC circuit and wiring diagrams.

2. LV Electrician

ITI/Diploma with minimum 7 years experience in operation & maintenance of HV/LV Electrical Distribution Systems, substations up to 33kv, transformers, feeder pillars, lighting, electrical installations and all other electrical works.

3. Instrument Technician

ITI/Diploma in Electronics / Instrumentation with minimum 07 years experience in operations and maintenance of various instruments of plant, tools and equipment. Shall be able to calibrate and adjust electrical or mechanical metering & safety devices, gauges, timers, thermostats, charts recorders, differential pressure regulators & controls, back flow preventors, actuators, fuel injectors, pneumatic controls, etc. and other related instruments used in operating plants and equipment. Shall be able to work independently to analyze electrical and mechanical faults as well as can read related electrical & PB circuit diagrams.

4. Kitchen Equip Technician

ITI/Diploma in Mechanical/Electrical with minimum 07 years experience in operation, maintenance & repair of heavy duty and domestic kitchen equipment in 5-star Hotels, large Hospitals / Establishments. Shall be able to work independently to analyze and troubleshoot electrical and mechanical faults in kitchen equipment and be able to read and interpret equipment control circuits and wiring diagrams.

5. Technician - Laundry

ITI/Diploma in Mechanical/Electrical with minimum 07 years experience in operation & maintenance, overhauling and repairs of domestic, commercial and industrial laundry equipment such as Hydro extractor, Spin Dryer, Tumble dryer, Washing Machines Make IPSO -73, IPSO-75, Primus and Fagor. Should be able to work independently to analyze and trouble-shoot electrical and mechanical faults of laundry equipment. Preferably exposed to Neil & Spencer Units and washing machines up to 220 kg capacity.

6. Mechanical Technician

ITI/Diploma in Mechanical with minimum 07 years experience in repair, troubleshooting, overhauling and maintenance of Pumps, Compressors, Make - Atlas Copco, Compare, Ingersoll-Rand- Vacuum plants Make - Ingersoll-Rand, water softening plants, Water Distiller, Hydraulic Lift, Hydraulic systems, water & gas pressure reducing stations, gas fired water boilers, Gas and Airline Valves, seals, impellers, diaphragms, pipe work and the like. Small scale arc/gas welding is essential. Shall be able to work independently to analyze and troubleshoot electrical and mechanical faults

7. Motor Winder

ITI/Diploma in Electrical with minimum 07 years experience in rewinding different types of AC-DC motors from domestic to commercial or industrial use. Shall be able to rewind various types of transformers and coils and preferably be exposed to operation and maintenances works. Shall able to work independently to analyze and trouble shoot faults.

8. Plumber

ITI Mechanical/Plumbing with minimum 7 years experience in repair, maintenance and installation of water distribution system, drainage lines, sanitary ware and fittings and all other plumbing works.

The candidate shall comply with the qualification and the minimum experience as stated in the above job specification. Salary and other benefits shall commensurate with qualification and work experience and will not be a limiting factor for the right candidate. If you possess the drive and ambition to contribute effectively, you may please send a detailed Resume within 7 days from the date of release of this advertisement to teamhc.oman@gmail.com stating the job position on the subject line of your email.



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03 Middle School Level (Classes V – VIII) - TGT Social Studies Qualification: B.A/ M.A., M.Sc. in Social Studies with B.Ed. Minimum Experience: 2 – 3 years in CBSE curriculum.	01
04 Middle School Level (Classes V – VIII) - TGT French Qualification: A Bachelor's / Master's Degree in French. Minimum Experience: 2 – 3 years in CBSE curriculum.	01

Eligible candidates may Email their detailed Resume, Academic / Experience Certificates, Passport size recent photographs, Contact number in India & Oman, latest by 21st April 2022 to 'The Principal, Indian School Al Seeb' and mail to info@indianschoolseeb.com

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Tender No	Description of Project / Service	Fee (Non Refundable)	Tender Fee remittance	Submission	
				Last Date	Place
ISAS/TEND/04/2022	Sports Consultancy Service - School Ground, Multipurpose play area developments and shade for the school parking	10/-	14.04.2022 to 21.04.2022	25.04.2022	Indian School Al Seeb

Note: The Consultants representatives are requested to remit the fee at the school office on or before 21.04.2022, date of joint site visit with the Management will be informed thereafter.
Please contact the School's Operations Manager (GSM:91260068) during the office hours (8am -2pm) for more information. The tender to be addressed to **The Chairman, Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb**, must be submitted in a plain envelope sealed with red wax, indicating the tender reference on the envelope and without showing any identity of the company on the envelope. The school reserves the right to reject any Tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

ONGOING INVESTIGATION

New York Police identify 'person of interest' in Brooklyn subway shooting

NEW YORK: New York City police named a person of interest in the shooting on Tuesday morning aboard a subway train in Brooklyn.

"This is Frank James. He is a person of interest in the shooting that took place on the N train in Brooklyn Tuesday morning. Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to call @NYPDTips at 1-800-577-TIPS," the police department said in a Tweet. Meanwhile, the police department has a description of the suspect and a person of interest is being sought by police, according to New York Police Department Commissioner Keechant Sewell.

"The suspect is a dark-skinned male and was wearing a neon-orange vest and a grey-coloured sweatshirt," Sewell said during a press conference on Tuesday. "We have a person of interest in this investigation."

The suspect had opened smoke



grenades on the train and fired his gun 33 times, striking at least 10 people on Tuesday morning, according to NYPD Chief of Detectives James Essig.

Later at the scene, investigators found a Glock handgun, three extended magazines, two detonated smoke grenades, two non-detonated smoke grenades and a hatchet, Essig added.

None of the injuries to the victims appears to be life-threatening, NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell said. **ANI**



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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
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DEEPER TIES

India-US ties essential for addressing 21st century problems, says Blinken

WASHINGTON: Highlighting the "deeper academic" ties between the United States and India, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday said that the partnership is absolutely crucial and pertinent for addressing the problems of the 21st century.

Speaking at Howard University for India-US Education Collaboration, Blinken said that at least 200,000 Indian students are studying in US universities.

"US-India strategic partnership, I'm convinced, is absolutely crucial, essential for addressing the problems of the 21st century and your work is at the heart of that relationship," he said while interacting with students, and faculty during an event.

Howard University
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also delivered remarks and participated in a conversation with students, faculty, and leadership of Howard University.

Blinken and External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar interacted with Indian students, scholars, and researchers who have worked in the United States, and US students, scholars, and researchers who have studied, worked, or conducted research at an Indian higher education institution.

The Secretary of State also said that this institute has a history of building bonds between India and the US. — **ANI**



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Ramadan Iftar Program

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WORLD



UKRAINE CRISIS

Joe Biden calls Russia’s actions in Ukraine ‘genocide’

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday called Russia’s actions in Ukraine “genocide” as he attempted to explain the rising inflation in the country.

“In fact, we’ve already made progress since March inflation data was collected. The family budget, your ability to fill up your tank, none of it should hinge on

whether a dictator declares war and commits genocide and half a world away,” Biden said while delivering remarks on infrastructure in Iowa. Biden later told reporters that meant to refer to the situation as genocide, and although it seems that way to him, the US will let lawyers decide whether or not it qualifies.



“It’s become clearer and clearer that Putin is trying to wipe out the idea of being Ukrainian. The evidence is mounting. It looks different than last week,” Biden said on the tarmac after saying “yes” when specifically asked if he intentionally used the term genocide.

“More evidence is coming out literally of the horrible things

that the Russians have done in Ukraine... we’ll let the lawyers decide internationally whether or not it qualifies but it sure seems that way to me.”

Earlier, the US President had said that he had not seen any indications of genocide in Ukraine during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Biden added that his ad-

ministration is doing everything possible to lower prices in the US and to address “Putin’s price hike.”

On February 24, Russia launched a “special military operation” in Ukraine, which the West has termed an unprovoked war. As a result of this, the Western countries have imposed several crippling sanctions on Moscow. **ANI**

PROTEST AGAINST GOVT

Sri Lanka’s opposition leader Sajith signs impeachment and no-confidence motion

COLOMBO: The leader of the Opposition, Sajith Premadasa, on Wednesday signed the impeachment motion against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the no-confidence motion against the government.



The signatures were placed at the Opposition Leader’s Office in Colombo in the presence of other Samagi Jana Balwegaya (SJB) MPs, reported *Daily Mirror*. Earlier on Monday, Premadasa Dismissed the possibility of a no-confidence motion like Pakistan in Sri Lanka, saying that they will use their constitutional provisions to change the government.

Speaking to ANI, the Opposition leader had said, “Pakistan has its own method of conducting democratic politics while we have our own Constitutional provisions and we will not be following anything else other than the Constitution of our country.”

Premadasa further said, “we have homegrown problems and we need a homegrown solution. We will represent hundreds of thousands of citizens and will have an organic uprising but will ensure that this will be a peaceful uprising. We’ll use all methods available through constitutional procedures to achieve the expectations of the people.”

Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe’s statement over the huge bilateral loans that Sri Lanka has to pay, Premadasa said that the country has not only taken bilateral loans but also taken multi-lateral loans from various international monetary markets and also have ISBN.

Meanwhile, in Colombo, Sri Lankans continue to protest against the government as the country faces an economic crisis. “This protest will not end until this govt is brought down. We will stay here for months, years. It’s not about a single-family but the entire corrupt system,” says a protester

Earlier, on April 9, Sri Lanka’s main opposition party Samagi Jana Balwegaya announced that it will move a no-confidence motion against President Gotabaya Rajapaksha if it fails to provide immediate relief to the people of the island nation adversely impacting the economic crisis. **ANI**

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Al Kamil Black Eye Beans	1 kg 1
Al Kamil Harees Whole	1 kg 1
Deyafa Instant Drink	2.5 kg 1
Milk Powder	900 gm 1
Tea Loose	250 gm 1
Dates Khalas	1 kg 1
Red Kidney Bins Tin	400 gm 1
Baked Beans Tin	400 gm 1
Table Salt	1 kg 1
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Vermicelli	400 gm 1
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MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,274.28 points, up by 0.62 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.17 per cent at 488.16 points. Sohar Power, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 4.62 per cent, was the top loser

Khazaen Dry Port unveils partial shipment service



BOOSTING BUSINESS: This service will contribute to the competitiveness of Oman and it will enhance its position on the global trade map. - ONA

The service of partial shipment solutions will provide support for various industries, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing high-quality logistic solutions with minimum cost

MUSCAT: Khazaen Dry Port launched the partial shipment solutions service through various commercial ports and land ports in the Sultanate of Oman.

Juma Ibrahim Al Maskari, CEO of Khazaen Dry Port said that the service of partial shipment solutions will provide support for various industries, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing high-quality logistic solutions with minimum cost.

This service will contribute to the competitiveness of Oman and it will enhance its position on the global trade map.

Khazaen Dry Port, which began its operations in 2021, is considered the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman.

The dry port is operated by Asyad, Oman's leading developer of the logistics sector. - ONA

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION



WTO downgrades forecast for global GDP growth in 2022 to 2.8%

GENEVA: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has downgraded its forecast for global GDP growth in 2022 to 2.8 per cent from the previously expected 4.1 per cent, according to a fresh report released on Tuesday.

"World GDP at market exchange rates is expected to grow by 2.8 per cent in 2022, down 1.3 percentage points from the previous forecast of 4.1 per cent. Growth should pick up to 3.2 per cent in 2023, close to the average rate of 3.0 per cent between 2010 and 2019," the report said.

The decline in the GDP of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), excluding Ukraine, will be 7.9 per

cent this year, with regional imports expected to drop 12 per cent as a result.

CIS exports, on the other hand, will not be affected by the crisis in Ukraine, the WTO said. "Exports should grow by 4.9 per cent as other countries continue to rely on Russian energy," the report read.

On February 24, Russia launched a military operation in Ukraine after the breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk appealed for help in defending themselves against Ukrainian provocations. In response to Russia's operation, Western countries have rolled out a comprehensive sanctions campaign against Moscow. -ANI

DATA

China's foreign trade sustains upward momentum

BELJING: China's foreign trade maintained its growth trajectory in the first quarter of 2022 despite increasingly complex internal and external challenges and risks.

The country's total imports and exports expanded 10.7 per cent year on year to 9.42 trillion yuan in the first three months, data from the General Administration of Customs (GAC) showed Wednesday.

In US dollar terms, total foreign trade came in at \$1.48 trillion in the period, up 13 per cent year on year, the data showed.

Exports surged 13.4 per cent year on year to 5.23 trillion yuan, while imports rose 7.5 per cent to 4.19 trillion yuan during the period, leading to a trade surplus of 1.04 trillion yuan, the data showed.

In terms of goods types, exports of mechanical and electrical products expanded by 9.8 per cent to account for 58.4 per cent of the total, while exports of labour-intensive products increased 10.9 per cent in the first quarter, GAC data showed.

"China's foreign trade has sustained growth momentum and posted positive year-on-year expansion for seven consecutive quarters, which shows its great resilience and potential," Li Kuiwen, a spokesperson for GAC, said at a press conference.

China's imports and exports with its major trading partners - ASEAN, the European Union and the United States - gained 8.4 per cent, 10.2 per cent and 9.9 per cent from a year ago, respectively, in the first three months.

China's trade with Belt and Road countries saw an impressive jump by 16.7 per cent from a year ago to 2.93 trillion yuan in the January-March period.

Trade between China and the 14 other members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership expanded 6.9 percent year on year to 2.86 trillion yuan, accounting for 30.4 per cent of China's total foreign trade in the period.

Li attributes China's stable growth in imports and exports to the country's resilient economy and increasing global demand for Chinese goods amid recovery. "The overall recovery trend of the world economy remains unchanged, and the global demand for Chinese products is still expanding," Li said. -Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

Asian shares mostly rise on interest rate, inflation hopes

TOKYO: Asian shares were mostly higher yesterday after new data showed inflation in the US, while still at a 40-year high, was not as bad as some analysts had expected.

Benchmarks rose in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Australia. US futures were also higher, while oil prices were little changed.

Shares fell in Shanghai after the Chinese government reported that exports rose nearly 16 per cent in March 2022 from a year earlier while imports were flat.

The easing of a COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai was another encouraging factor. Shanghai released 6,000 more people from the central facilities where they were under medical observation to guard against the coronavirus, the government said today, though the lockdown of most of China's largest city was being maintained in its third week.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 jumped 1.9 per cent to finish at 26,843.49. Australia's S&P/AS 200 added 0.3 per cent to 7,479.00. South Korea's Kospi surged 1.9% to 2,716.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.3 per cent to 21,382.96, while the Shanghai Composite shed 0.6 per cent to 3,194.92.

In Tokyo trading, shares of Shionogi dropped 11 per cent after the Japanese pharmaceutical company reported that animal tests for its experimental oral drug to treat COVID-19 showed it may be a risk for fetal development. Japanese media reported the drug won't be prescribed to pregnant people or



TRADING REPORT: The indexes initially rallied following the release of the report, which showed inflation last month was again at its highest level in generations, driven by soaring gasoline prices in particular. - ONA

those who may be pregnant. Stocks ended slightly lower on Wall Street on Tuesday after investors weighed the inflation data for March 2022, although overall it remained at its highest level in 40 years. Some analysts urged caution. The S&P 500 fell 0.3 per cent

after having been up 1.3 per cent earlier in the day.

The pullback extends the benchmark index's losing streak to a third day, reflecting investors' worries about the potential economic collateral damage as the Federal Reserve tackles high inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq composite each fell 0.3 per cent after shedding early gains.

The indexes initially rallied following the release of the report, which showed inflation last month was again at its highest level in generations, driven by soaring gasoline prices in particular. Still, the reading was relatively close to economists' expectations.

The measure known as "core inflation," which excludes highly volatile costs of food and fuel, moderated to its slowest month-on-month change since September.

In energy trading, benchmark US crude added 10 cents to \$100.70 a barrel. It climbed 6.7 per cent to settle at \$100.60 yesterday (Tuesday), keeping the inflation pressure. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 25 cents to \$104.89.

Consumer prices rose 8.5 per cent in March 2022 from a year earlier, accelerating from February's 7.9 per cent inflation rate and the highest since 1981.

In currency trading, the US dollar edged up to 126.03 Japanese yen from 125.37 yen, the euro cost \$1.0835, up from \$1.0827. -ONA

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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Sohar Power, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 4.62 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,274.28 points, up by 0.62 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.17 per cent at 488.16 points. Sohar Power, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 4.62 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Muscat Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,111 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.62 million, with more than 24.13 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 21 advanced, 9 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR75,000 while foreign investors for OMR9,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,785.08 points, up 0.63 per cent. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Muscat Finance, Ahli Bank, Al Sharqia Investment, and Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 3.45 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 2.54 per

cent, 2.11 per cent, and 1.18 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, United Finance, and Bank Muscat were down by 1.00 per cent, 0.97 per cent, and 0.37 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,214.22 points, up 0.5 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Fisheries, National Aluminium, and Galfar Engineering were up by 9.33 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 2.13 per cent, and 2.04 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement and A'Saffa Foods were down by 2.55 per cent, and 0.91 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.09 per cent before closing at 1,663.6 points. Prices of Sohar Power, OIFC, National Gas, Barka Desalination, and Oman Telecom were up by 9.52 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 2.10 per cent, 1.37 per cent, and 0.45 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Oman National Engineering, Al Jazeera Services, and Renaissance Services were down by 4.62 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.32 per cent, and 0.92 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,274.28	4,247.08	4,274.28	4,247.82	26.46	0.62
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,785.07	6,738.23	6,785.07	6,742.84	42.23	0.63
Industry Index	6,222.25	6,183.41	6,214.22	6,183.41	30.81	0.50
Services Index	1,667.08	1,662.60	1,663.60	1,662.02	1.57	0.09
MSX Shariah Index	490.08	487.99	488.16	488.99	-0.83	-0.17
MSX TR INDEX	5,384.24	5,349.97	5,384.24	5,350.90	33.34	0.62
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,093.82	7,044.84	7,093.82	7,049.66	44.16	0.63
SERVICES TR IDX	1,717.87	1,713.25	1,714.28	1,712.86	1.62	0.09
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,457.65	6,417.34	6,449.31	6,417.34	31.97	0.50

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
24,135,897	3,617,325	1,111	22,377,961,454	21	9	18	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001590..... MUSCAT FINANCE	5,970,217	446,960	161	0.074	0.077	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.002	2.740	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	23,035,974
OM0000001525..... OMAN INVST & FIN.	1,614,085	248,417	57	0.152	0.155	0.152	0.154	0.150	0.004	2.667	0.155	0.154	0.156	0.100	36,498,000
OM0000002200..... AHLI BANK	456,618	55,171	28	0.118	0.123	0.118	0.121	0.118	0.003	2.548	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.100	235,908,559
OM0000002168..... AL ANWAR CERAMIC	427,000	196,420	18	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.450	0.010	2.222	0.460	0.430	0.460	0.100	101,300,000
OM0000002440..... AL SHARQIA INV	367,000	35,433	26	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.095	0.002	2.105	0.096	0.093	0.097	0.100	8,730,000
OM0000001160..... NATIONAL GAS	342,074	49,882	30	0.143	0.149	0.143	0.146	0.143	0.003	2.098	0.144	0.146	0.147	0.100	12,410,000
OM0000001746..... OMAN CEMENT	70,640	16,646	11	0.234	0.236	0.234	0.236	0.234	0.002	0.855	0.236	0.235	0.236	0.100	78,085,960
OM0000005005..... ALMAHA CERAMICS	668,494	349,406	41	0.524	0.530	0.518	0.522	0.518	0.004	0.772	0.530	0.524	0.530	0.100	28,710,000
OM0000002176..... JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	405,500	163,024	22	0.400	0.404	0.398	0.402	0.400	0.002	0.500	0.398	0.398	0.400	0.100	50,208,980
OM0000003026..... OMAN TELECOM	463,800	417,419	32	0.900	0.900	0.896	0.900	0.896	0.004	0.446	0.896	0.884	0.900	0.100	675,000,000
OM0000001772..... ALANWAR INVESTMENT	854,018	92,875	86	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000003000..... AI MAHA MARKTING	29,002	19,837	6	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.000	0.000	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.100	47,196,000
OM0000003968..... OOREDOO	2,200	748	2	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.338	0.338	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.336	0.342	0.100	220,019,150
OM0000003620..... VISION INSURANCE	100,000	11,000	6	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000002796..... BANK MUSCAT	397,349	215,063	33	0.536	0.542	0.536	0.542	0.544	-0.002	-0.368	0.540	0.490	0.540	0.100	1,002,034,233,604
OM0000003224..... RENAISSANCE SER.	404,646	174,053	17	0.428	0.432	0.428	0.430	0.434	-0.004	-0.922	0.430	0.420	0.430	0.100	101,656,300
OM0000002226..... ALJAZEERA SERVICES	29,873	8,984	9	0.298	0.304	0.298	0.300	0.304	-0.004	-1.316	0.300	0.300	0.304	0.100	18,361,282
OM0000001438..... RAYSUT CEMENT	18,170	3,466	8	0.193	0.193	0.190	0.191	0.196	-0.005	-2.551	0.190	0.190	0.200	0.100	38,200,000
Total	18	12,620,686,249,804	593												

Parallel Market

OM0000003711..... SOHAR POWER	69,979	3,219	7	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.042	0.004	9.524	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.100	10,166,460
OM00000001301..... DHOFAR CATTLE	129,932	10,618	13	0.081	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.075	0.007	9.333	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	6,629,700
OM0000002549..... BANK DHOFAR	155,600	18,598	8	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.116	0.004	3.448	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.100	359,562,172
OM0000001568..... OMAN FISHERIES	1,450,478	133,791	81	0.090	0.095	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.002	2.222	0.094	0.094	0.098	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000001319..... ALUMINIUM PROD.	600,970	87,854	56	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.128	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	3,222,859
OM0000003521..... GALFAR ENGINEER	3,537,900	354,548	98	0.099	0.101	0.099	0.100	0.098	0.002	2.041	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	20,288,645
OM0000003661..... VOLTAMP ENERGY	26,131	3,182	10	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.122	0.120	0.002	1.667	0.122	0.120	0.122	0.100	9,931,136
OM00000038710..... BARKA DESALINATION	306,388	45,373	18	0.145	0.150	0.145	0.148	0.146	0.002	1.370	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	11,177,256
OM0000001681..... OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,055,319	91,181	58	0.085	0.089	0.085	0.088	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000001483..... NATIONAL BANK OMAN	10,000	2,000	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.198	0.002	1.010	0.200	0.195	0.200	0.100	325,189,271
OM0000003281..... TAGEER FINANCE	506,316	50,592	21	0.097	0.101	0.097	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.099	0.101	0.100	25,866,180
OM0000001426..... OMAN REFRESHMENT	125	219	3	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	0.000	0.000	1.750	0.000	1.750	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000001517..... HSBC BANK OMAN	353,625	39,960	12	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	226,035,345
OM0000001962..... AL MADINA INV.	31,000	1,424	3	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.100	3,723,536
OM0000002275..... SHELL OMAN MKK	3,381	2,980	2	0.880	0.884	0.880	0.884	0.884	0.000	0.000	0.884	0.000	0.884	0.100	83,880,000
OM0000002648..... NATIONAL FINANCE	86,632	10,402	5	0.124	0.124	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.121	0.100	64,947,654
OM0000003125..... GLOBAL INV. H	818,743	67,246	29	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000004420..... BANK NIZWA	460,464	45,182	26	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000004726..... SEMBOURP SALLAH	4,910	388	1	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.079	0.081	0.100	77,320,328
OM0000004933..... AL SUWADI POWER	185,000	9,251	7	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.049	0.055	0.100	35,720,317
OM0000005963..... PHOENIX POWER	222,429	11,100	12	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000006912..... OMAN REFINANCE	22,785	6,804	3	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.296	0.296	0.300	0.100	30,000,000
OM0000007084..... MCT DESALINATE	4,448	520	4	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.120	0.100	18,199,397
OM0000002804..... ASAFFA FOODS	7,491	818	2	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.109	0.110	0.100	13,080,000
OM0000002374..... UNITED FINANCE	1,155,000	117,430	23	0.106	0.103	0.100	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.100	35,612,730
OM0000004768..... MADINA TAKAFUL	238,665	22,747	8	0.096	0.100	0.096	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	17,233,000
OM0000001152..... OMAN NAT. ENG.	21,600	2,381	3	0.113	0.113	0.110	0.110	0.112	-0.002	-1.786	0.110	0.110	0.112	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000007407..... DHOFAR GENERATING	20,500	1,273	2	0.065	0.065	0.062	0.062	0.065	-0.003	-4.615	0.062	0.060	0.065	0.100	13,778,880
Total	28	11,485,211,112,120	516												

INVESTMENT

Google to invest \$9.5 billion in US offices, data centres this year



FULL-TIME JOBS OPPORTUNITIES: Google said the investment will create at least 12,000 full-time jobs in 2022 and focus on data centres in several states including Nevada, Nebraska and Virginia. -BNA

Counter-intuitive step

“It might seem counter-intuitive to step up our investment in physical offices even as we embrace more flexibility in how we work. Yet we believe it’s more important than ever to invest in our campuses...” Google said in a statement.

Google has been trying to bring

back its employees to some of its offices in the United States, the UK and the Asia Pacific by mandating working from the office for about three days a week, a step to end policies that let employees work

remotely because of COVID-19 concerns. Google will continue to invest in offices in its home state of California and support affordable housing initiatives in the Bay Area as part of its \$1 billion housing

commitment.

Last year, Google helped provide \$617 billion in economic activity for US businesses, creators and developers, according to its 2021 economic impact report. -BNA

GARTNER REPORT

Worldwide PC shipments declined 7.3% in first quarter of 2022: Report

DUBAI: Worldwide PC shipments totalled 77.5 million units in the first quarter of 2022, a 7.3 per cent decrease from the first quarter of 2021, according to preliminary results by Gartner, Inc. A sharp drop in Chromebook sales significantly contributed to the overall market decline.

“After an unprecedented Chromebook surge in 2020 and early 2021, driven by demand from the US educational market, Chromebook growth has tempered,” said Mikako Kitagawa, research director at Gartner. “It was a challenging quarter for the PC and Chromebook market to achieve growth, as this time last year the PC market registered its highest growth in decades.”

Excluding Chromebooks, the worldwide PC market grew by a modest 3.3 per cent year over year. In addition to weakened Chromebook sales, slowed consumer demand contributed to the market’s downward trend, as discretionary spending shifted away from devices. Business PCs, however, saw growth in the first quarter of 2022 as hybrid work and the return to offices created demand for desktop devices.

The top three vendors in the worldwide PC market remained unchanged in the first quarter of 2022, with Lenovo maintaining the No. 1 spot in shipments at 23.6



Mikako Kitagawa, research director at Gartner

per cent market share.

Lenovo and HP both experienced significant impacts from declining Chromebook sales in the first quarter. Lenovo was affected by slowed US Chromebook sales, but that decline was moderated by its growth in Latin America and the Asia Pacific. HP prioritised Chromebooks in recent years but decreased its Chromebook focus in the second half of 2021, leading to a significant decline in overall shipments of the first quarter of



REGULAR CYCLING CAN IMPROVE MOBILITY IN PATIENTS WITH MUSCLE DEGENERATION

A new study led by McMaster University has found that regular cycling can greatly improve mobility in patients with myotonic dystrophy (MD), which is a genetic disease that causes muscle degeneration.

The results of the study were published in the journal, 'Journal of Clinical Investigation'.

Senior author Mark Tarnopolsky said that cycling for 35 minutes three times a week for 12 weeks led to a 32 per cent increase in overall fitness in people with MD.

Patients who took part in the study also saw a 1.6-kilogram increase in their muscle mass and a two per cent reduction in body fat. They were also able to walk an extra 47 metres in six minutes when tested by researchers at the end of the 12-week trial.

Tarnopolsky's team recruited 11 patients with MD to examine how effective cycling was in restoring and maintaining their physical



health. Researchers also studied the underlying molecular mechanisms through which exercise strengthens the skeletal muscles, which can be severely weakened by MD.

"Exercise really is medicine - we just need to get the message out," said Tarnopolsky, a professor

of the departments of paediatrics and medicine at McMaster.

"Myotonic dystrophy is a progressive condition that will impair your mobility and can put you in a wheelchair. There is no cure for it and only regular exercise helps you achieve better function," he added.

He also said that some patients with MD are even advised by their doctors not to exercise, for fear of making their condition worse, but that is now proven false.

The study authors said previous research on mouse models showed a range of similar physiological benefits from regular exercise.

Tarnopolsky said that MD is the most commonly diagnosed type of muscular dystrophy in adults and the second most prevalent of all muscular dystrophies.

MD's main symptoms include severe skeletal muscle atrophy, general muscle weakness, reduced lung capacity and impaired heart function. Other symptoms may include cataracts, endocrine disorders including diabetes and gastrointestinal disorders. Roughly 19,000 Canadians live with either MD or another type of muscular dystrophy, Tarnopolsky said.

"MD itself is really a form of accelerated ageing," concluded Tarnopolsky. - **ANI**





IN PICTURES



IFTAR FEAST AT KEMPINSKI

Enjoy an iftar feast fit for a king at Bukhara at the Kempinski hotel in Muscat. Diners can savour both vegetarian and non-veg fare this Ramadan.



THE WORLD IN PICTURES

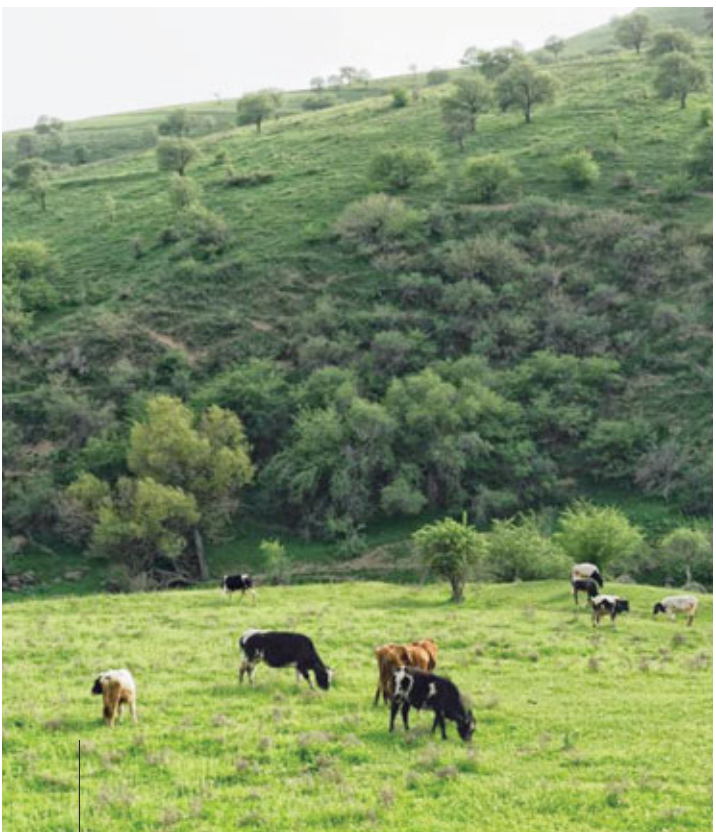
China playing vital role in safeguarding Cambodia's UNESCO listed Preah Vihear Temple

Tourists visit the Temple of Preah Vihear in Preah Vihear province, Cambodia. [Xinhua](#)



Myanmar's traditional water festival kicks off

Dancers perform during the water festival in Yangon, Myanmar. Myanmar's traditional water festival kicked off across the country on Wednesday morning. [Xinhua](#)



Spring view of mountains in Tashkent region

Picture shows the spring view of mountains in Tashkent region, Uzbekistan. [Xinhua](#)

Daily life in Khartoum, Sudan

A man dives into the River Nile to cool himself in Khartoum, Sudan. [Xinhua](#)



Historic monuments in Dengfeng, central China

Aerial picture shows Zhongyue Temple in Dengfeng, central China's Henan Province. The historic monuments of Dengfeng in the 'Centre of Heaven and Earth' include the ancient architectural complex at Songshan Mountain in Henan, central China. [Xinhua](#)



Tea garden in Assam, India

Workers pick tea leaves at a tea garden in Nagaon district of India's northeastern state of Assam. [Xinhua](#)



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ROUND-UP



Enjoy special Ramadan offer on inspiring SUV Renault Koleos

A great combination of power and refinement, the Koleos makes its presence felt with large shoulders and muscular side panels



MUSCAT: Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, has announced an attractive offer on Renault Koleos as part of its exclusive Ramadan promotion for the benefit of its customers.

A great combination of power and refinement, the Koleos makes its presence felt with large shoulders and muscular side panels that are further enhanced by a robust front-end; broad, smart-looking tyres; and a distinctly large wheel-base. Well-defined edges make the overall profile of the 2022 Koleos appear solid and athletic and are one of the most prominent features in this new version.

As per the Renault Oman special scheme, customers who buy Renault Koleos can enjoy free registration, free insurance, three years/100,000 manufacture warranty, free periodic vehicle service package, AAA/road assistance card and reference programme among others. Social media users who participate in the Ramadan promotional campaign will also be eligible for attractive prizes.

The Renault Ramadan promotion which has already begun will go on till May 19, 2022.

The unique Ramadan offer

boasts a host of advantages for customers purchasing Renault Koleos. All customers purchasing Renault Koleos from Suhail Bahwan Automobiles LLC will be eligible to participate in the Ramadan campaign scheme. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for a taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme.

A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “We are pleased to announce a special

Ramadan offer on Renault Koleos. It is engineered to demand attention and make heads turn. Offering off-road capability with its all-wheel-drive transmission, Renault Koleos stands out with its assertive exterior design and enhanced interior comfort.”

All customers purchasing Renault Koleos PH2 during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration.

All customers purchasing Renault Koleos PH2 during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle insurance (Oman & UAE only).

All customers purchasing Renault Koleos PH2 during this scheme period will be eligible for Free Periodic Maintenance Service Package for 5 Years / 100,000 km (whichever is earlier). This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000 km.

Social Media users who will participate in the Ramadan promotional campaign and other Online Challenges on @renaultoman Instagram will get fuel voucher worth of OMR 50 (3nos.) and Renault branded Sterilizer cum wireless charger (2 nos).

3 Years/ 100000 Kms Manufacturer Warranty

All customers purchasing Renault Koleos PH2 during this scheme period will be eligible for three Years/100,000 kms mileage warranty (whichever is earlier).

All customers purchasing Renault Koleos during scheme period will receive Free AAA assistance card for first year only.

Renault will generate references of people looking to buy a car. This reference will be generated from existing Renault customers. The same person cannot refer himself but can refer to multiple names. If any of the referred persons buys a Renault car, then the person who referred him will get 50RO Gift Voucher. This Gift voucher can be redeemed during vehicle service at SBA workshop. Purchase of consumables from SBA counters, Purchase of parts and accessories from SBA counters. All such Gift Voucher winners will be declared on an ongoing basis. This Gift voucher is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for credit. The Gift Voucher will be valid for 6 months from the date of issue. The voucher needs to be redeemed fully all at once. Part redemption will not be allowed.

All Renault existing owners and their immediate family members [father, mother, son(s) and unmarried daughter(s)] will be eligible for the following additional benefits on purchase of another Renault vehicle. An additional PMS Service (applicable only on the new vehicle and not to other family members) of 10,000 kms will be given to gold member (2-3 vehicles in family), 20,000 kms to Diamond Member (4-5 vehicles in family) and 30,000 kms to Platinum Member (6 & above vehicles in family). Gold member will get trade-in additional benefit (applicable to all family members) of OMR 50, while diamond members will get OMR 75 and platinum members will get OMR 100. IHF Interest Rate for gold and diamond members is 5 per cent and platinum is 4.75 per cent.

BANK MUSCAT

Najahi customer meetings organised in Dakhiliyah and North Al Batinah

MUSCAT: In line with its vision “To serve you better, everyday”, and commitment to supporting and developing the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) sector, Bank Muscat’s Retail Enterprises Unit (Najahi) recently hosted 2 iftars for Najahi customers in the governorates of Al Dakhiliyah and North Al Batinah.

The event provided opportunities for bank officials to exchange greetings with MSME customers on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan as well as to get feedback and suggestions from them regarding the bank’s products and services for the sector.

Speaking on the occasion Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Deputy General Manager – Customer Segments, said: “We take this opportunity to welcome and thank all our Najahi customers who have gathered here to celebrate Iftar with us on this blessed occasion. Events like these provide the bank with a great opportunity to meet our valued customers and get their feedback and suggestions on the various financial and non-financial products and services provided by Bank Muscat. This will help us to further fine-tune our



products and services and ensure enhanced customer satisfaction. The bank is also happy to update its customers about its plans and strategy for the future as it seeks to further support the sector, especially Micro and Small enterprises in their growth and development to becoming bigger players in the Sultanate’s economy. We look forward to similar meetings with our customers in other governorates too in the near future.”

The bank has always been an enabler of opportunities for budding entrepreneurs to bring about sustainable development. Recently, Najahi organised a seminar on successful marketing by Ahmed Al-Mutawa, CEO of Mubader

Company and a business consultant to the MSME sector in line with the bank’s customer-centric vision and also its commitment to promoting the MSME sector through both financial and non-financial services. The seminar covered a range of important topics such as starting and marketing successful businesses, the latest marketing tools and the best businesses to market. It must be noted that the non-financial support offered by Bank Muscat’s Najahi includes training sessions and mentoring programmes, which help young Omani entrepreneurs to guide their business through some of the most critical phases of growth and development.

Bank Muscat set up the Najahi (Retail Enterprises) unit in 2014 as part of a major initiative to support the MSME sector. Over the years, Najahi has been growing from strength to strength in expanding the various products and services to MSMEs. Today, the beneficiaries of Najahi’s products include businesses operating in retail, trading, services, manufacturing, processing, construction, hospitality, travel and tourism, mining and agricultural sectors.

GUTECH

Workshop on ‘Climate change and sustainable development goals’ held

MUSCAT: A workshop entitled ‘Climate change and sustainable development goals in Oman’ was organised in cooperation between GÜtech and German Brandenburg University.

The DAAD-funded project “Oman Rosin” is a joint activity between the Engineering Department at the German University of Technology in Oman (GÜtech) and the Department Public Law in particular Environmental and Planning Law at Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus -Senftenberg, Germany on climate change and sustainable development.

BTU and GÜtech are working on a project in Oman, intending to establish a “Green Village” in the Star-light Reserve within the Al Khitaym locality.”

Prof. Albrecht (BTU) pointed out that climate change is already one of the biggest challenges these days and requires fast action on phasing out fossil fuels and transformation of the economy in sustainable use of resources and energy.

Also, Adaption to the changing climatic conditions is necessary. And this was the central objective



of the current workshop, including the involvement of rural communities in the Djebel Shams in terms of the “Village” initiative.

“Climate change and sustainable developments are among the main challenges of the 21st century. There is an urgent need to realise how the activities within communities can sustainably be adapted to meet the environmental standards. This workshop is part of the approved DAAD programme that we are running in collaboration with our partner BTU Cottbus -Senftenberg, Germany,” said Dr Eng. Najah Al Mhanna, the project manager at Engineering Department at GÜtech.

Prof Ibrahim (BTU) explained at a stakeholder meeting, involving the Sheikhs of the villages as well as the head of the communities’ administration and representatives from the local tourism sector the idea of sustainable and climate-resilient village development. This initiative GÜtech and BTU was very welcomed and led to the agreement on a detailed public participation process, carried out by GÜtech and BTU students. The results will help to continue working on this project.

PROMOTION

Own stylish and sleek Lexus NX with exclusive benefits



MUSCAT: Own the Lexus NX and benefit with Service 5 Years / 50,000 kms (whichever is earlier), and 1 year free registration. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

The stylish and sleek Lexus NX is designed to draw all attention. Inspired by the shape of a diamond, the NX is a brilliant combination of luxury, contemporary design and enjoyable driving dynamics.

The all-new Lexus NX’s hallmark spindle grille plays an integral role in its design. The front design features 3-eye LED headlights incor-

porating Lexus’ first slim Adaptive High-beam System. In contrast, the L-shaped daytime running lights positioned above the headlights have a fade-in function when the driver activates the indicators. On the tailgate, the Lexus emblem has been replaced with the ‘LEXUS’ name to create a modern, simple look that further strengthens the vehicle’s visual identity.

The all-new NX is the first model to feature Lexus’ Tazuna concept for the driver’s cockpit. Tazuna focuses on delivering direct, intuitive control of the vehicle by

following the principle of ‘hands on the wheel, eyes on the road.’

The all-new NX’s interior includes a new 14-inch touchscreen multimedia system – a Lexus first – that is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a 7-inch colour multi-information display, a wireless charging system for smartphones, and a Climate Concierge to ensure the cabin temperature is precisely adjusted to suit each occupant.

The vehicle also offers Smart Access with a push-button start, a 10-speaker premium surround

sound system, a panoramic roof with movable outer sliding glass for the front section, and an extended rear section to provide more light for rear-seat passengers. Additionally, the 2022 Lexus NX adds the convenience of a hands-free electrically powered backdoor, which is activated via a foot-operated system that can be used when the user’s hands or arms are full.

The all-new NX is equipped two powertrain options. A newly developed inline 4-cylinder, 2.4 L turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 430 nm of torque.



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Ahli Islamic offers auto Takaful for all vehicle owners this Ramadan

The offer will be applicable for individual saloon cars and 4WD private vehicle owners

MUSCAT: Sharing Ramadan blessings with its patrons and customers, Ahli Islamic has announced an irresistible Ramadan Auto Takaful offer through its Takaful Insurance partner 'Al Madinah Takaful Insurance', providing a comprehensive rate of 1.4% for vehicle owners who have a claim-free record during the past one year, and for vehicles up to 6 years from the date of first registration.

Effective to the 31st of July 2022, this special holy month offer will be applicable for individual saloon cars and 4WD private vehicle owners. It will also be extended to clients who utilise the exclusive offer to book their policy in advance during the campaign period.

Exciting opportunity
Customers availing of this exciting



ing opportunity will benefit from the policy's extended dealership repair for an additional premium, and the waiving of excess amount

for the first claim. Besides, the third-party rate, starting from OMR 40, will be a bonus for customers seeking easy and convenient

motor insurance policies. Commenting on the significance of the scheme for vehicle enthusiasts and the bank's growing customer

base, Yousuf AlRawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of Ahli Islamic, said, "The Ramadan Auto Takaful offer resonates with the sharing and caring spirit of the Holy Month. It reflects our commitment to going the extra mile to create opportunities that are in sync with the sentiments of our customers. We have structured the campaign to specifically fulfil the immediate and future needs of our customers, who are constantly seeking easy and convenient avenues to insure their prized possessions.

"As has been observed over the years, the likelihood of our customers purchasing cars during Ramadan is much greater than during other times of the year. We are enhancing their purchase plans with a comprehensive insurance policy that will not only help embolden their decisions but also assure them the sense of security that an effective policy confers. We would like to urge vehicle owners to take advantage of this offer and enjoy the spirit of the season in the true sense of the word," Al Rawahi added.

With no excess amount for the first claim and extended dealership repair for an additional premium, the offer is a cinch for both old and new vehicle owners. The limited period campaign, however, will be available only for drivers above the age of 25 and for vehicle owners who have made no claims during the past year.

OFFICIAL PARTNER

ABQ provides excitement leading up to Al Mouj Muscat Marathon

MUSCAT: ABQ Education Group is an official partner of this year's Al Mouj Muscat Marathon to reiterate the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle amongst school children.

With the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon now being held on the weekend of 11th and 12th November 2022, participants have the opportunity to train even more for this year's race and it also gives them the option to level up by taking on a longer distance. ABQ Education Group is the race category partner for this year's 1, 2 and 3km kids' races which are open to children aged 7 to 12, aimed at the Sultanate's younger runners.

With a few months to go before the race, ABQ Education Group, in association with Al Mouj Muscat Marathon, will be hosting an online competition from 14-27 April 2022 applicable to the kids' category participants. The competition entrants must name their favourite sports hero and give a reason for their answer. Three children will be selected to win an Acer Chromebook, based on their answers. Participants who have signed up for Al Mouj Muscat



Marathon will receive the competition details from the organisers, but more information can also be found at www.abq.edu.om or on ABQ's social media pages. ABQ Education Group Chief Executive Officer, Humayun Kabir says, "In a time where students

rely more on technology to complete their schoolwork, this is the ideal prize for anyone now completing the final months of their current school year.

"The pandemic has inspired new ways of learning and it resulted in a very exciting time for technology and education. With all students back on campus, digital platforms should be seen as an extension of the excellent traditional forms of learning available."

The marathon organiser, Sabco Sports' Managing Director, Nic Cartwright, says, "This is an opportunity for Al Mouj Muscat Marathon children to express their passion towards fitness and get rewarded for their efforts. This is a great initiative by ABQ Education Group to bolster the importance of health, sport and fitness among the youth of Oman at the grassroots level."

STRATEGIC SPONSOR

Oxy Oman sponsors inaugural Oman Pavilion at Venice Biennale

MUSCAT: Oxy Oman representatives recently attended the ceremony honouring the Sultanate's first participation in the upcoming Venice Biennale, where Oxy Oman is serving as the strategic sponsor. The Oman Pavilion at Venice Biennale is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

The event was held at the Avani Hotel Muscat under the auspices of Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth. Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager of Oxy Oman, attended the event, along with other senior representatives of the company.

The Venice Biennale is an international arts festival that hosts artists from countries around the world for an exhibition throughout the city. This year, the exhibition will host Oman's first pavilion



space, which will display notable artwork by Omani artists. The festival will be held from May until November and is expected to be attended by thousands of local and international visitors.

"Oxy champions Oman's culture and heritage as a key social responsibility pillar, and we're immensely proud to contribute our support towards the Sultanate's first appearance at the Venice Biennale.

We look forward to the unveiling of Oman's pavilion with celebrated Omani artists, and hope that it promotes Oman's art history and cultural mark for a global audience at Venice," said Kelly.

Oxy Oman has been a key sponsor of many initiatives and projects over the past years, under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth, including Camel Races, the Oxy Sports Days programme and the Youth Center.

This sponsorship falls under Oxy Oman's umbrella of strategic partnerships and continuous collaboration with key stakeholders and is part of Oxy Oman's endeavour and long-term commitment to support programs that enhance economic growth and sustainable development and that yield positive impacts in the neighbouring communities.

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE



MCBS celebrates 28th graduation

MUSCAT: In three joyful days, the Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) celebrated the 28th graduation for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The achievements of 1,352 male and female students from various disciplines and academic levels from the associate degree, bachelor's, and master's degrees were celebrated in an event that took place at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Muscat.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from MCBS's affiliate Franklin University, Dr Munir Al-Maskari, college founder and Executive Chairman of the Modern College of Business and Science, and Dr Moosa Al Kindi, Dean of the College, Members of the Board of Governance, as well as senior members of the community, students, parents, faculty members and college administrative staff.

In a series of motivational speeches, the chief guest, Ambassador Dr Adnan Al Azri, Chair of the Commission on the Limits of The Continental Shelf at the United Nations, delivered an uplifting speech and shared his personal experience and learning journey with the students and encouraged them to continue keeping their high spirits and never give up on their dreams. Throughout these jubilant days, the graduates expressed their delight, enthusiasm, and high sense of achievement, especially after they had experienced exceptional circumstances since the outbreak of the pandemic that took over the world in 2020.

MCBS recently celebrated its silver jubilee and enjoys a reputation of being one of the most important and leading educational institutions in the Sultanate of Oman. It continues to ensure the diversity of its academic and training programmes and provides high-quality educational services in various disciplines to meet the needs of the labour market in the Sultanate and globally. Its mission is to guarantee the highest quality of education by providing a team that is highly specialised and trained to support the comprehensive development of the national economy and equip its graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills that will enable them to work efficiently and effectively.



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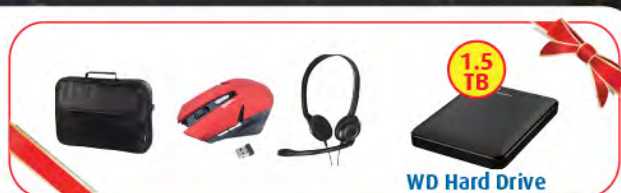
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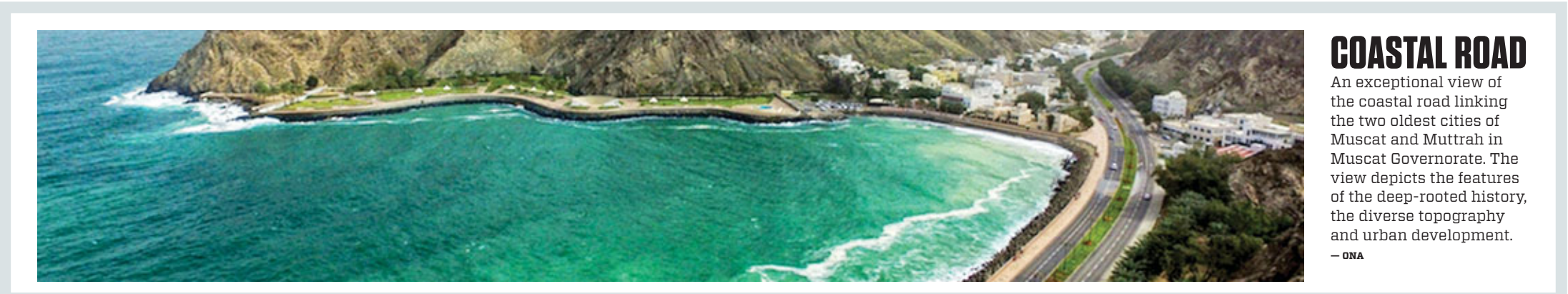
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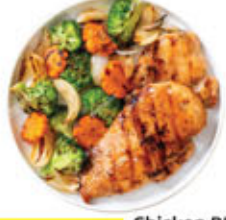
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 RIAL 3.950 Easter Celebration Cake Medium	 RIAL 0.590 Easter Cup Cake per pc	 RIAL 3.900 Easter Mousse Cake Medium	 RIAL 2.100 Tomex Frozen Whole Duck per kg
 RIAL 2.250 Doux Frozen Whole Turkey per kg	 RIAL 3.190 Sadia Tender Chicken Breast 2 x 1 kg	 RIAL 2.450 Indian Frozen Bobby Veal 2 x 900 gms	 RIAL 3.990 Australia Beef Steak Cubes / Mince per kg
 RIAL 1.325 Lulu Beef Slices 900 gms	 RIAL 1.990 Jordan Smoked Beef Mortadella Assorted per kg	 RIAL 2.890 Indian Veal Boneless / Mince per kg	
 RIAL 1.880 Defrosted Shrimps Small per kg	 RIAL 2.400 Beef Dry Fry 500 gms	 RIAL 1.500 Mutton Stew 500 gms	 RIAL 1.500 Chicken BBQ with Vegetables 500 gms
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AQABAT BAUSHAR-AMERAT ROAD



— Times file picture

Accident claims 2 lives in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Two people have died in a collision involving three vehicles on Aqabat Baushar-Amerat Road in Muscat Governorate. "For users of the Aqabat Baushar-Amerat Road, there was a col-

lision between three vehicles and a fire broke out in one of them, resulting in two deaths, injuries and heavy traffic in both directions. Please take the Wadi Uday-Amerat road to avoid congestion," Royal Oman Police (ROP) said in a statement.

OCO-NRAA



Pact for archiving documents signed

MUSCAT: The Omani Charitable Organisation (OCO) on Wednesday signed an agreement for document indexing, classification and archiving with the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) at its head office in Muscat. The signing ceremony was executed by Dr. Hamad bin Mo-

ammed Al Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority and Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of Oman Charitable Organisation. The signing of the agreement aimed to develop the work system of the NRAA and in consistent with the Documentation and Archiving Law. — ONA

FOR SELLING MELAMINE DISHES

Fine imposed on commercial establishment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An administrative fine has been imposed on a commercial establishment in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate for selling prohibited melamine dishes.

"The Consumer Protection Authority seized a commercial establishment in the Wilayat of Al Kamel and Al Wafi that sells the prohibited melamine dishes. The



products were withdrawn and confiscated, and an administrative fine was imposed," the Authority said in a statement.

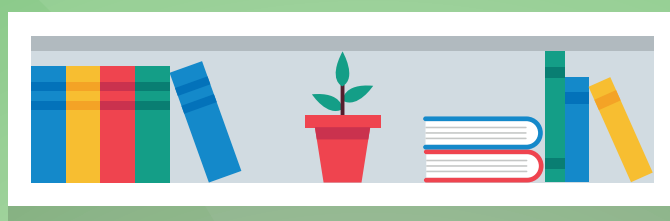


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