

**DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM
MUSCAT TO ANTALYA TO
BEGIN NEXT MONTH**

Starting 29 April, passengers will be able to fly directly from Muscat to Antalya, a region on Turkey's southern coastline famed for its clear, blue waters and pristine sandy beaches. **>A2**



OMAN PARTICIPATES IN INVESTOPIA SUMMIT AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, took part in the Investopia Summit, held at Expo 2020 Dubai on Monday. **>A5**



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NEW HOPE, GREATER ZEAL AS RAMADAN APPROACHES



*Ministry invites
public to look for
Ramadan crescent
moon in Oman*

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs (MERA) has invited people to look for the Ramadan crescent on Friday, April 1, 2022.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs calls on everyone to search for the sighting of the crescent of Ramadan for this year, on Friday evening, 29th Sha'ban 1443, which corresponds to April 1, 2022 with the need to adhere to the instructions issued by the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19," the ministry said in a statement.

People are hopeful that they will be able to observe the traditional customs during the Holy Month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Following the announcement that Tarawih prayers can once again be performed in the

mosques this Ramadan, those observing the Holy Month in Oman are hopeful that they will be able to observe the other traditional customs as well.

With some Ramadan traditions put on hold for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic and with doctors still asking people to follow the COVID protocols, people were apprehensive that they would not be able to observe events typical of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Moath Al Saeedi, an Omani from Wilayat Khaborah, is looking forward to this year's Ramadan for not just one, but two reasons: after performing his Tarawih prayers this time, he will go to play football and basketball with his friends...

something he has not done in two years. "What makes Tarawih special is that this is a prayer that adults and children, people both old and young, perform as one," he said. "When you hear the prayers in the mosques through the loudspeakers, it is a very wonderful feeling. During Ramadan, we fast in obedience to our Creator, and we feel joyful as we gather with family and relatives to eat with them at sunset.

"During Ramadan, there are certain foods that are cooked that are not prepared during the rest of

the year," he added. "Even the food tastes better during this month, because it is very special to us."

Rashid Al Sudairy from Wilayat Yanqul said the feeling of returning with family and relatives for Tarawih prayers would be wonderful, after a two-year hiatus.

"After Tarawih, I would love to take my family to visit my parents and brothers, and then go for a picnic to enjoy the Ramadan atmosphere," he further said.

"When we heard the news that we would be able to perform Tarawih prayers once again, we

honestly believed it was a blessing for us ahead of Ramadan," said Balgees bint Suleiman Al Hassani, the head of wellbeing at Al Sahwa Schools. "During the last two years, we were unable to properly observe this tradition, which is a very important part of our faith, and of Ramadan." "When you are praying alongside your fellow worshippers in the mosques, there is a feeling of oneness and peace that you really cannot experience anywhere else, and that is when you experience the true spirit of Ramadan," she added. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Muscat on bucket list of global must-see places

1 Oman's capital, Muscat, has been named on a list of must-see locations around the world where people can travel to unwind from the stresses of daily life and reconnect with nature. **>A3**

WORLD

**Myanmar military
rules out talks**

2 Myanmar's military leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Sunday said the military will not negotiate with "terrorist" opposition groups. **>A6**

MARKET

**Omantel okays cash
dividend of 55 baisas**

3 Omantel shareholders on Sunday approved a proposal to distribute cash dividend of 55 baisas per share to registered shareholders as of March 27. **>B1**



Japan Film "Drive My Car" Wins Best International Feature at Oscars

B5

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

**Postage stamp issued to mark
10th anniversary of ROHM**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) has inaugurated a postal stamp to commemorate its tenth anniversary.

"The Opera House is pleased to announce the inauguration of its postal stamp in cooperation with Oman Post at the House of Musical Arts on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Royal Opera House Muscat, and in commemoration of the achievements, concerts and

international musical performances hosted by the House during the past decade," ROHM said in a statement.

The stamps will be available for purchase from 31st March at the box office, the gift shop and at the Oman Post shop at Opera Galleria.

The Royal Opera House Muscat is the leading arts and culture organisation in the Sultanate of Oman. Located in Muscat, Oman, the vision of the Opera House is to serve as a centre of excellence in global cultural engagement.

SULTAN QABOOS COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CARE AND RESEARCH CENTRE

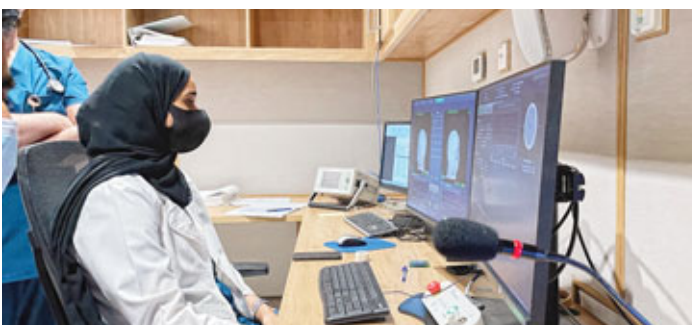
First-ever radiotherapy surgery to treat Trigeminal Neuralgia performed in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Radiotherapy team at Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre has successfully performed the first radiosurgery in the Sultanate to treat "Trigeminal Neuralgia" (TN) using the CyberKnife S7 System.

Dr. Layth Mula-Hussain, Consultant Radiation Oncologist at SQCCCRC said, "The Radiation Oncology team performed the first radiosurgery to treat a patient who was suffering from trigeminal neuralgia, which is a chronic pain condition that affects the trigeminal or 5th cranial nerve."

Although, the patient had taken several drugs and had undergone two previous surgeries (Radio-Frequency Ablation), the pain persisted. Dr. Furqan Hashemi, Senior Specialist in Radiation Oncology, explained that "the recovery rate for these cases using stereotactic radiosurgery is more than 80% and patients may begin feeling



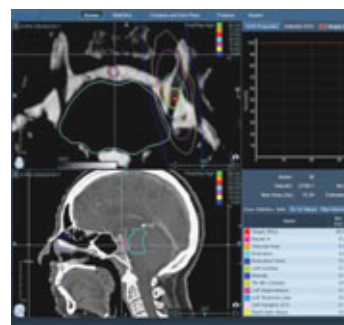
better within a day after the surgery, while others may take up to 6 months for recovery. The patient also stated that the pain was significantly reduced within an hour of the surgery and we will continue to monitor her condition to ensure that the treatment is effective."

Mahmoud Al Fishawy, Medical Physicist, said: "The radiosurgery was performed by directing a very high dose of 6000 cGy into a small area ranging from 3 mm to 6 mm, close to the brainstem from a distance of at least 3 mm, which requires high accuracy in direct-

ing radiation beams to reduce the pain.

"CyberKnife S7 surgery is commonly used for the treatment of brain tumours, especially deep brain tumours that are hard to remove during surgery, as well as treating non-cancerous conditions such as trigeminal neuralgia. Indeed, we have started treating a number of cases using the device since mid-January," Dr. Iqbal Al Amri added, the Radiation Oncology Medical Physicist.

Jaishan Jalalhan, Radiation Therapist, mentioned that in ad-



dition to high accuracy, treatment using radiosurgery does not require inserting internal fixators into the skull, and usually a treatment session lasts about 30 minutes, while in the previous versions of radiotherapy devices, the treatment lasts about an hour.

"We are happy to provide this advanced and safe treatment service to all patients in the Sultanate who are suffering from trigeminal neuralgia, instead of sending patients abroad to receive treatment," Amna Al Ajmi, Radiation Therapist added.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

20 e-services launched by Ministry

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development on Monday launched the first phase of the ministry's digital transformation project, which covers social security and social support services, comprising a total of 20 sub-services.

Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the launch of the first phase of e-services is considered a vital step due to the wide range of services provided by the ministry to citizens.

Many challenges

Al Najjar added that the ministry is looking forward to launching another phase of its project which will cover social security services and other services for people with disability. She further said that the ministry faced many challenges in providing social services due to the nature of each case, social variables and the occurrence of changes and modifications to systems, regulations and laws. **-ONA**

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29th
MUSCAT



Yasin Battal



Direct flights from Muscat to Antalya begins from April 29

The B2B workshop enabled travel agencies from Muscat to get in touch with hotels and incoming travel agencies from Turkey, who travelled to Oman for the event

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Starting 29 April, passengers will be able to fly directly from Muscat to Antalya, a region on Turkey's southern coastline famed for its clear, blue waters and pristine sandy beaches.

Turkish Airlines will operate two flights a week on Fridays and Sundays, departing from Muscat at 7:25am and arriving in Antalya at 11:25am. The return journey will begin 55 minutes past midnight and end at 6:25am in Muscat. The schedule will run until 28 October.

The announcement regarding Turkey's flag carrier operations were made at an event in Muscat on Sunday, 27 March.

During the event, Turkish Airlines hosted a B2B workshop and gala dinner yesterday with its trade partners. The B2B workshop enabled travel agencies from Muscat to get in touch with hotels and travel agencies from Turkey who came to Oman for the event.

Present at the event were Sami

Aydogan, general manager of Turkish Airlines operations in Oman and Orhan Ayrac, interim charge d'affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Muscat. A presentation was made during the event by Yasin Battal, sales manager (Oman) for Turkish Airlines. Three lucky winners were awarded free tickets to fly to Antalya during a raffle draw.

A plethora of locations are available for passengers to Antalya. Among them is Tazi Canyon, set in the Koprulu Canyon National Park. Tazi Canyon has become rather popular in Antalya, especially for rock climbing, rafting, trekking, and camping. Do note that if you plan to camp, this is an area better suited for more experienced campers.

Kekova, a small, uninhabited island in the Demre district of Antalya, is just 4.5 square kilometers. Despite its tiny size, the island features historical ruins and a sunken city. Visitors are permitted to swim and dive only in certain locales around this fascinating island, which was declared a protected area in 1990. On Kekova, visitors will find churches and chapels, towers and ancient harbours from the Hellenistic period, as well as ruins from the Roman and Byzantine eras. Guided tours are also available.

Çıgllkara Forest is one of the most beautiful cedar forests not only in Türkiye, but also in the world. The suppleness, durability and scent of cedar wood are renowned, and are the most well-known characteristic of the Lebanon Cedars found in the Çıgllkara Forest. This wood was supposedly used by Antalya's shipbuilders to craft the ancient world's most beautiful and fastest ships.



Orhan Ayrac



Sami Aydogan



HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Hotels, restaurants once again keen to welcome guests

"One of the biggest lessons we have been taught by the COVID-19 pandemic is that we must learn to appreciate things, and not take anything for granted.

"One of the most important tenets of our society and our communities – especially during Ramadan – is to be mindful of our fellow beings, and I would like to remind everyone that while things are improving, we must still continue to take precautions against the COVID-19 pandemic," said Al Hassani.

"Let us spare a thought for the doctors, the nurses and other members of our society who were not able to always get time off over the last two years because they

were treating COVID patients.

"We have experienced the impact of complete and partial lockdowns, and I am sure we do not want to see such measures again. So let us be thankful for being able to celebrate Ramadan with family and friends once again and at the same time not ignore the importance of staying safe from COVID-19," she went on to say.

One of the aspects of Ramadan, Al Hassani is most looking forward to is sharing the values this month holds for us with her children and extended family and seeing those values in action on a daily basis.

"This Ramadan, my son will be standing outside the mosque with

a bottle of perfume to freshen his hands of all those going inside for prayers," she revealed.

"Charity does not just mean receiving money from your parents and giving it for a good cause, but doing good through everyday actions. I look forward to teaching my children the importance of our values and of Ramadan."

Meanwhile, Dr A Basheer, a senior internist and diabetologist at Badr Al Sama'a Hospital in Ruwi, said that although many COVID restrictions had been withdrawn or eased, it is important that people continue to follow the protocols such as wearing of masks indoors and sanitising their hands.

"The most important thing, however, is to voluntarily stay away from large-scale gatherings if you have COVID-like symptoms, because that could spread to other people, and could have quite serious consequences," he said. "We have just emerged from a rather tough phase, and I am sure nobody wants to go back to that."

"Infection rates in Oman are low right now and it is up to us to keep them that way," he added.

"Follow the protocols laid down for indoor rooms, wear a mask and keep your hands sanitised. Do not become lax in following the rules, and if you see others who ignore them, please remind them of their

importance. I foresee that protocols such as mask-wearing will be in place at least for another year or so."

Diners' safety

After two years of Ramadan sans iftar and suhoor events – an intrinsic part of Ramadan – hotels and restaurants are once again keen to welcome guests. Firas Rashid, director of sales and marketing at Kempinski Hotel Muscat, said a number of measures have been planned to ensure diners' safety.

"You look at the events that have taken place over the last few weeks and they have been very well attended...I think it shows how

happy and relieved people are to attend public events after so long," he said.

"We will continue to maintain the sanitisation protocols required of us, and for Ramadan we have put up clear safety barriers in front of our buffet stations to make sure our guests are safe."

"We have also made sure there is enough space between tables and will provide masks and gloves to all our guests who will be joining us so that they can serve themselves safely," he added. "It is the first time since 2019 that we are able to organise such events, so we are looking forward to really celebrate this year's Ramadan."



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Muscat on bucket list of must-see global tourist spots

The list, put out by resort chain Shangri-La, features a smattering of cities sprinkled around the world



CURATED LIST: Together called the 2022 Shangri-La Bucket List, the list has been curated with different travellers in mind.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s capital, Muscat, has been named on a list of must-see locations around the world where people can travel to unwind from the stresses of daily life and reconnect with nature.

The list, which has been put out by resort chain Shangri-La, features a smattering of cities around the world, including Abu Dhabi, Bengaluru, Delhi, Dubai, Istanbul, Jeddah, London, Mauritius, Muscat, Paris, Toronto and Vancouver. Together called the 2022 Shangri-La Bucket List, the list has been curated with different travellers in mind, so that there is an experience for everyone, whether driven by a desire to get out to nature, to seek out epicurean experiences or to create family memories together.

“Nature-lovers will be able to rediscover the great outdoors with simple walks in city parks to escaping to a private island, riding a horse at golden hour, kayaking beneath towering cliffs or simply soak it all up on one of Shangri-La’s sandy beaches,” said

the resort chain. “Adventurists will have plenty of new horizons to explore, whether it’s the soft adventure of a sunset desert safari in Abu Dhabi or the thrill of exploring British Columbia’s ice caves on a private helicopter tour.”

“After so many months of lost time, families will be able to create new travel memories together, from skiing in the Canadian Rockies to splashing in Jeddah’s Red Sea waters, floating down Muscat’s only lazy river or exploring Toronto by bike,” added the organisation.

With wellness at the core of Shangri-La, seekers looking to soothe body and mind after the past turbulent months, experiences include a traditional hammam in Istanbul, Ayurveda in Delhi, meditation in Bengaluru and many more.

“It’s also time to claim back all those missed celebrations. From engagements to birthdays, weddings to anniversaries or just celebrating the joy of finally being back together again, Shangri-La has settings, experiences and skill

to make every celebration even more meaningful this year,” added the resort chain.

“From exceptional Chinese cuisine at Shang Palace restaurants to Michelin stars in Paris, sky-high dining in London, floating breakfasts in Dubai and Shangri-La insiders’ favourite spots in local markets, foodies’ appetites will be fed at every turn,” the company said. For a high-brow holiday, culture connoisseurs will enjoy wandering to some of the world’s greatest museums in London, exploring Istanbul’s cutting-edge galleries and private ateliers or spotting the latest haute-couture at Paris Fashion Week.

With making a difference through travel being so important these days, Shangri-La hotels and resorts around the world offer a variety of programmes that let guests make a difference. Whether it’s learning about the local environment, discovering protected wildlife or taking part in sustainability-based activities, there are plenty of ways to make a change.

Resumption of low-cost airlines of India a huge relief for business, leisure travellers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The first low-cost airline has resumed operations between Oman and India following the latter allowing international travel since 27 March.

India had signed air-bubble agreements with certain countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, but with those agreements coming to an end on Sunday, low-cost carrier Go First resumed flights from Kannur to Muscat.



HUGE RELIEF: The first flight from the airline arrived at Muscat International Airport on Sunday from Kannur with 136 passengers on-board. — Times file picture

The first flight from the airline arrived at Muscat International Airport on Sunday from Kannur at 10:05 in the morning.

Go First will resume services to Oman from Mumbai from April 3 with four flights a week on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. It will fly three times a week from Kannur on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

The services to Kannur have been restored after almost one-and-a-half year interruption due to the COVID.

The resumption of these services will come as a huge relief to thousands of travellers who fre-

quent the country for business or leisure.

Speaking on the development, Kaushik Khona, Chief Executive Officer, Go First, said: “The Relationship between India and Oman dates back to several millennia. The countries have a rich history of trade and it has grown manifold over the years. We at Go First are delighted to resume direct flights to Oman and this move will benefit both the countries and further strengthen bilateral ties.”

Go First has always been at

the forefront in connecting India with the Middle East. It recently resumed direct services to Oman. These services will further augment Go First’s presence in the region.

“We are extremely delighted to inform you that we have resumed our international operations starting from 27 March 2022,” said Go First in a statement. “Our operations commenced from 27 March, 2022 and we operated the first flight from Kannur to Muscat with 136 passengers on board,” the statement added.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA



28,039 REACH Oman

Shell Oman's Lamees becomes the first Omani female Chief Financial Officer in downstream history

Story on Shell Oman's Lamees becoming the first Omani female CFO

A story on Shell Oman's Lamees becomes the first Omani female Chief Financial Officer in downstream history reached 28,039 people and had 1,106 link clicks on Facebook.



823 VIEWS

Organ donation app to assist patients seeking urgent care (transplant)

Morning Minute video on organ donation

The Morning Minute video on organ donation app had 823 views and 40 likes on Instagram.



2,400 VIEWS

Organ donation app to assist patients seeking urgent care (transplant)

Maghrib Minute news update

The Maghrib Minute news update in Hindi had 2,400 views and reached 9,205 people on Facebook.



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SCENIC WATERFALL, SPRINGS AND LAKE OF WADI DARBAT

ONE OF THE most popular tourist destinations in Dhofar governorate is Wadi Darbat. Among many other things that this scenic place has to offer, the most popular are its waterfall, lake and springs. This wadi carves its way through hills and highlands until it reaches Khawr Ruri, where it empties into the Arabian Sea.

The wadi is distinguished by its thick botanical cover, in addition to a natural spring and a number of caves. The wadi's water is the source of the water filling Teeq Cave's cells.

Camels, cattle, and other livestock graze the abundant grass on the banks, while birds nest in the wetland areas.

Families from all around the region come to revel in the magic of the annual summer rains here.

Located in the northeast of Taqah state, the Darbat Valley is well connected to the historical area of Samharam.

The wadi is located about 42km away from Salalah and is home to one of the most important water springs in Dhofar Governorate, in addition to a waterfall.

Darbat Lake, at the heart of Wadi Darbat, is a favourite picnic spot, with visitors taking short boat rides or barbecuing near its shores. A 30-metre waterfall feeds the lake during monsoon season.





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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman and France discuss food security cooperation

MUSCAT: Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, met on Monday with Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The two sides explored areas of cooperation related to food security. They also discussed developing the bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Veronique Aulagnon, French Ambassador to Oman and the delegation accompanying the guest.

— OMA



ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Workshop on combating drugs

DUBAI: The Sultanate, represented by Royal Oman Police participated in the regional workshop, organised by the GCC Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs. The three-day workshop discussed a number of experiences of the GCC States on combating drugs as well as the best practices of drugs control apparatuses.

—OMA



IN RIYADH

SAI attends meeting of audit institutions

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the State Audit Institution (SAI), is taking part in the consultative meeting to develop the strategic plan for the Arab Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI).

The meeting is being held with the participation of the member bodies, heads of the ARABOSAI's committees and the representative of the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) in the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

Strategic plan

The meeting reviews the outcomes of the analysis for the internal and external surveys related to the strategic plan, the actions taken by the plan's committee, in addition to presenting the strategic plan of the INTOSAI. The meeting reviewed experiences of related regional organisations (AFROSAI-E and IDI).

During the meeting, the SAI will present a working paper on the achievements of the Institutional Capacity Development Committee in aspects related to the strategic and operational plan, in addition to training and scientific research activities.

— OMA



SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT



EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES: The summit aims to launch 100 innovative ideas and business opportunities in the region and beyond. — OMA

Oman participates in Investopia Summit at Expo 2020 Dubai

DUBAI: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, took part in the Investopia Summit, held at Expo 2020 Dubai on Monday.

The summit aims to launch 100 innovative ideas and business opportunities in the region and beyond.

Oman's delegation in the event was headed by Asilah Salim Al Samsami, Undersecretary for

Investment Promotion.

Investopia Summit included several programmes and forums that cover a wide range of topics, namely on the prospects of international investments till 2025, the Metaverse and the new opportunities it brings to investors, among other topics.

During the summit, efforts were exerted towards building quality investment partnerships and enhancing investment cooperation

between Oman and other countries, as well as benefitting from expertise and international visions in economic growth, innovation and technological revolution.

The summit focused on several key areas that included investing responsibly, sustainable investment, investing in digital transformation and the technological revolution in e-commerce, digital supply chains and distance learning.

— OMA

JOB VACANCY

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ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform all concerned that Mr. Jeevahan Sundaralingam, holder of Srilankan Passport No. N5464153 Resident card No. 60783738 is no longer representing our company Great Mountain Trading LLC from 28/03/2022 Therefore, all the concerned are requested to stop dealing with the above named in favor of the company.

If anyone is dealing with him it is at their own risk and company will not take any responsibility hereafter. If anybody has any claim, he/she should report to the company within next 3 working days



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The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	20607	Hiring of Manpower for Packing Plant Operations	RO. 52.500	14th April, 2022 5 PM	19th April, 2022 11 PM
2.	20606	Supply of Fly Ash	RO. 52.500	14th April, 2022 5 PM	19th April, 2022 11 PM
3.	20603	Dismantling and Installation of Existing Shed	RO. 52.500	14th April, 2022 5 PM	19th April, 2022 11 PM

1. All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board participate and get the specifications and conditions of the tender from the website; <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
2. Tenders should submit their bids online on the given website Signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose a scanned copy of a temporary insurance in the form of a bank guarantee or a check certified by a bank, operating in the Sultanate of Oman of not less than (1%) of the Tender Value, valid for (90) days from the offers submission date, addressed to Chairman of the Tender Committee.
3. The original bank guarantee should be submitted to the OCC's Tender Box located at the reception area of the Administration Building at Al Misfah West factory Site not later than the time and date of the submission of tenders.
4. OCC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid, and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reason

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إعلان مناقصة Tender Notice

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tender:

TENDER NO	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MTCit/HQ-5/20/2022	Design, construction and repair of damages resulted from tropical weather condition (Shaheen) on Yanqul-Fida-Dank road At dut area	29/3/2022	14/4/2022	28/4/2022	Experienced companies and registered with the secretariat general of tender board (Second class)	(50/-) Fifty Omani rial non-refundable

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. In addition to Tender Bond as Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days.

CORRESPONDANCE:

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2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om**

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE

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WORLD



Nationwide two-day strike begins in India, partial response in states

This is the first such strike after the BJP won the Assembly elections in four of five states

NEW DELHI: A 48 hours Bharat bandh or a nationwide strike called by different trade unions to protest against government policies has kicked off in several states on Monday.

The strike will be observed for two days, March 28 and 29. This is the first such strike after the BJP won the Assembly elections in four of five states.

Reduced rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, rising fuel prices, are among a few reasons for the Bandh call.

In Kerala, the roads wore a deserted look, and only a few private vehicles could be seen. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has halted its services.

The police have arranged for a travel facility to help people reach destinations like railway stations, hospitals etc.

However, the emergency services have been excluded from



NATIONWIDE STRIKE: The police have arranged for a travel facility to help people reach destinations like railway stations, hospitals

the strike. The Kerala High Court has restrained five unions in the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) from participating in the strike.

In West Bengal, even though the trade unions could be seen protesting on the streets, the state government has asked all offices to remain open and mandated employees to report for duty.

Members from the Left Front gathered in huge numbers and blocked railway tracks at Jadavpur

Railway Station in Kolkata, in view of the two-day nationwide strike called by different trade unions.

Other than the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), almost all other trade unions are participating in the strike.

In Parliament, the CPI(M) MP Bikashranjan Bhattacharyya has moved the motion for suspension of business in Rajya Sabha under Rule 267 to discuss the issue of the two-day nationwide strike.

Likewise, the CPI MP Binoy

Viswam gave a suspension of business notice in Rajya Sabha under rule 267 over the "two-day nationwide strike called by workers across the country to protest against the corporatisation and privatisation policies of the Central Government".

A joint forum of central trade unions has given a call for a nationwide strike on March 28 and 29, to protest against government policies affecting workers, farmers, and people. **ANI**



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BLACK BOX FOUND



Search continues at China plane crash site after second black box found

BEIJING : Search work at the site of the recent plane crash in south China is continuing after the second black box was found on Sunday, an official said at a press briefing on Monday afternoon.

As of Monday noon, a total of 15,640 people had been sent to search the core site and surrounding areas of the plane crash, covering around 370,000 square meters, said Zhu Tao, head of the aviation safety office of the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

A total of 36,001 pieces of plane

wreckage and parts have been recovered, he added.

At the exterior of the core site, five drone search groups have also been added to aid the search, covering an area of around 9.55 million square meters. The Boeing 737 aircraft, which departed from Kunming, capital of south-west China's Yunnan Province, and was bound for Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, crashed into a mountainous area in Tengxian County, Guangxi, at around 2:38 p.m. on March 21. All 132 people on board the plane were killed. **xinhua**

RUSSIAN SHELLING

Nearly 5,000 Mariupol residents including 210 children killed

KYIV: Authorities of Ukraine's Southeastern city of Mariupol estimated that Russian shelling and airstrikes have killed nearly 5,000 residents, including 210 children.

Taking to Twitter, Ukraine's local media outlet, The Kyiv Independent wrote, "Mariupol authorities estimate that Russian shelling and airstrikes have already killed nearly 5,000 residents, including 210 children. The southeastern port city has been under siege since March 1." After Russia's offensive on Ukraine, western nations have imposed tough sanctions on the country. Russian President Vladimir Putin post west sanctions on Russian oil and gas announced that the west must pay for Russian gas in Rubles.

In a response to this announcement by Putin, German Minister Robert Habeck said that G7 won't pay for Russian gas in rubles. "All G7 ministers agreed completely that this (would be) a one-sided and clear breach of the existing contracts," he said.

Moreover, a prominent independent newspaper in Russia, Novaya Gazeta, terminates operations. "After a warning from the government, the paper is shutting down until the end of the war in Ukraine - which Novaya Gazeta,



complying with the government demands, calls special operation," reported the media outlet.

Earlier in the day, Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that the talks between Russia-Ukraine negotiators could take place in Istanbul on Tuesday but there are no plans for a meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Moreover, the head of the Russian delegation and presidential

aide Vladimir Medinsky previously said that Russia-Ukraine talks are ongoing every day in a video format.

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**

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Qatar, Indonesia sign letter for providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan

DOHA: Qatar has signed a letter of content with Indonesia based on which both the countries will cooperate in providing humanitarian and development assistance to the people of Afghanistan, local media reported.

The agreement was signed at the sideline of the Doha Forum between Qatar's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Shiekh Muhammad Bin Abdurahmand Al-Thani and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Khaama Press reported. Both sides announced their intentions to offer humanitarian aid and credit to the people of Afghanistan.

The letter aims to establish a cooperative mechanism to support the capabilities of the Afghan people and empower Afghan women, Khaama Press reported citing Qatari news agency.

Both sides also agreed to provide scholarships for Afghan people and give them professional training.

The situation of human rights in Afghanistan has worsened since the collapse of the Afghan government and the Taliban's return to power in August last year.

Although the fighting in the



country has ended, serious human rights violations continue unabated.

The Taliban have committed and continue to commit human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary detentions, a massive rollback of the rights of women and girls, censorship of and attacks against

the media.

Moreover, people in Afghanistan are also facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis which is being driven by decisions and positions taken by the international community, especially the US, that have blocked Afghanistan from aid funding and access to the global financial system. **ANI**



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G7 rejects Russia’s demand for gas payment in rubles

Putin had said “unfriendly” countries would have to pay for Russian gas in Russia’s own currency

BERLIN: German Economy Minister Robert Habeck on Monday said the Group of Seven (G7) major economies dismissed Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demand to pay for gas in rubles. Putin had said “unfriendly” countries would have to pay for Russian gas in Russia’s own currency. “All G7 [energy] ministers agreed that this is a unilateral and clear breach of the existing agreements,” said Habeck, whose country holds the G7 presidency.



“Payment in rubles is not acceptable and... we call on the companies concerned not to comply with Putin’s demand.” Habeck added that Putin had his “back against the wall” to make such demand.

Russia won’t ‘supply gas for free’ Earlier on Monday, reporters

asked Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov if Russia could cut natural gas supplies to European customers if they rejected the demand. “We clearly aren’t going to supply gas for free,” Peskov said. “In our situation, it’s hardly possible and feasible to engage in charity for Europe,” Peskov said. Russia will take decisions in

due course should European countries refuse to pay in the Russian currency, he said before Habeck’s statement. Russian news agency RIA quoted Russian lawmaker Ivan Abramov as saying a refusal by the G7 to pay for Russian gas in rubles would lead to an unequivocal halt in supplies. Besides the apparent tit-for-tat

after the West imposed a massive trove of sanctions on Russia, Moscow’s demand for rubles is also seen as a bid to save its economy. Economists believe the move could help the struggling Russian currency, which has fallen massively in value following news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, followed by Western sanctions. European countries have been racing to reduce their reliance on Russian energy imports in light of the war in Ukraine. Germany, which is particularly heavily reliant on Russian gas, has to find alternatives “in order not to strengthen the regime,” Habeck said. Although Germany was quick to suspend the massive Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project in response to Putin’s war in Ukraine, the German government has so far resisted calls to boycott Russian oil and gas altogether. On Friday, the US and the EU announced a new partnership to make Europe less reliant on Russian gas. Under the deal, the US would supply 15 billion cubic meters of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the EU this year.

-DW

Myanmar junta leader vows to ‘annihilate’ opponents

NAYPYITAW: Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of Myanmar’s ruling military junta, said the armed forces will “annihilate” groups seeking to overthrow his government. The junta leader made the remarks at a parade marking Armed Forces Day.

Myanmar’s political crisis Myanmar’s military seized control from Aung San Suu Kyi’s democratically elected government in February 2021. Deadly force has been used by the junta to quell protests since the coup, resulting in over 1,700 civilian deaths, according to a toll compiled by human rights organization the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma). Thousands more have been arrested, charged or sentenced. Many political opponents have taken up arms and joined militias, known as People’s Defense Forces. Min Aung Hlaing told the parade of thousands of military personnel that there would be no negotiation with “terrorist groups and their supporters for killing innocent people.” -DW

Taliban bans BBC, VOA broadcast services in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban on Sunday banned British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Voice of America (VOA) broadcast services in Afghanistan. The ban is the latest in a series of restrictions the group has imposed on Afghan media to stifle freedom of expression since taking control of the country last August, reported VOA. “The BBC’s TV news bulletins in Pashto, Persian, and Uzbek have been taken off air in Afghanistan after the Taliban ordered our TV partners to remove international broadcasters from the airwaves,” Tarik Kafala, head of languages at BBC World Service, said in a statement. The head of languages at BBC World Service also called on the Taliban to immediately remove the ban on its news bulletins, reported VOA. He noted that “more than six million Afghans consume the BBC’s independent and impartial journalism on TV every week and it is crucial they are not denied access to it in the future.”



VOA, which is headquartered in Washington, has swiftly denounced the Taliban for taking its programs off-air. “We ask the Taliban to reconsid-

er this troubling and unfortunate decision,” Acting VOA Director Yolanda Lopez said in a statement Sunday. “The content restrictions that the Taliban are attempting

to impose are antithetical to freedom of expression that the people of Afghanistan deserve,” said Lopez. The American broadcaster pro-

duces a half-hour news bulletin in Pashto and Dari, the two main languages are spoken in Afghanistan, five days a week for its Afghan partners, TOLO news and Shamshad TV, reported VOA. The ban on VOA and BBC programs comes as the Taliban are under increased international pressure and condemnation for keeping schools shuttered for teenage Afghan girls. The Taliban reopened secondary schools after the winter break Wednesday, March 23, which also marks the start of the school year for most Afghan provinces. But the de facto authorities at the last minute decided against allowing girls above the sixth grade to return to the classroom, citing a lack of arrangements for them, including school uniforms, in accordance with Sharia or Islamic law. A Taliban information ministry spokesman, when asked for his comments on whether they have ordered Afghan channels to remove the international broadcast-

ers from their airways, told VOA he would collect information and get back. Domestic and international critics say media and freedom of speech have worsened under Taliban rule in Afghanistan. Afghan journalists have been repeatedly detained and subjected to violence by security forces. In December, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) released a survey, showing that at least 40 per cent of Afghan media outlets have disappeared and more than 80 per cent of women journalists lost their jobs since the Taliban takeover of the country. Hundreds of journalists have also left Afghanistan since August for fear of Taliban reprisals or because of problems associated with practising their profession under the new rulers. More than 6,400 journalists and media employees have lost their jobs since August 15 when the Taliban seized control of the Afghan capital, Kabul, according to the RSF survey. ANI

El Salvador declares state of emergency over gang killings



SAN SALVADOR: Lawmakers in El Salvador’s congress on Sunday agreed to President Nayib Bukele’s state of emergency request to tackle the spike in violent gang crime. The president announced the panned state of emergency on Saturday, the same day that 62 were killed. Another 14 were killed on Friday. The sudden rise in violence comes amid already high numbers of gang-related homicides. In February, the monthly total reached 79. The state of emergency suspends the freedom of assembly as enshrined in the constitution and loosens rules on arrests for at least 30 days. Police said they had arrested

The president announced the panned state of emergency on Saturday, the same day that 62 were killed. Another 14 were killed on Friday

five leaders of the notorious street gang the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, who they claimed were behind the spate of killings over the weekend. Large parts of the capital San Salvador are considered to be

under the control of various gangs. Bukele said on Saturday that he was also ordering a full lockdown of prison inmates who belong to gangs. “They are not to go out even to the patio” of prisons, Bukele wrote, adding “a message to the gangs: because of your actions, now your homeboys will not see even one ray of sunlight.” A tweet from the country’s national civil police said that they were focusing their efforts on the “war against gangs conducted at a national level.” “We are going to capture the criminals who cause suffering for the Salvadorian people,” they added. “We won’t let their crimes go unpunished.” DW

Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta suspends operations until the end of Ukraine war

MOSCOW: One of Russia’s last remaining independent newspapers, Novaya Gazeta, said on Monday it was suspending publication “until the end of the ‘special operation on Ukraine’s territory.’” The investigative paper, edited by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov, said it had received its second warning from the state communications regulator, Roskomnadzor, about its reporting on the Ukraine war. “We are suspending the publication of the newspaper on our website, social media networks and in print until the end of the ‘special operation on Ukraine’s territory,’” the paper wrote on its website. In a separate message to readers, Muratov and his reporters said the decision had been difficult but necessary. “There is no other choice,” the note said. “For us, and I know, for you, it’s an awful and difficult decision.” The state media regulator said it had given Novaya Gazeta the renewed warning for failing to properly identify an organization deemed a “foreign agent” by the authorities in its publications, according to comments in local Russian news agencies.

Independent media in Russia Pressure against liberal Russia media outlets has been mounting since the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine on February 24. Most mainstream media and state-con-



trolled organisations stick closely to the language used by the Kremlin to describe the conflict. Russian journalists have been forbidden to use terms such as war, invasion and attack to describe what’s happening in Ukraine, instead instructed to call it a “special military operation.” Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a bill into law introducing jail terms of up to 15 years for publishing “fake” news about the Ukraine war.

The paper’s announcement comes after one of the few remaining liberal voices in the Russian media, radio station Ekho Moskv, closed. Authorities have also blocked the websites of several outlets, including DW, the BBC, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Also on Monday, Russia’s Justice Ministry added Deutsche Welle to a list of media organisations it has labelled as foreign agents. DW



SPORTS




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Strong bowling attack provides WI with 10-wicket victory in 3rd Test

With this win, West Indies have clinched the three-match Test series with a 1-0 lead

SAINT GEORGE’S : A complete fiery bowling attack provided West Indies with a ten-wicket victory over England in the third and final Test, here in Saint George’s, Grenada.

With this win, West Indies have clinched the three-match Test series with a 1-0 lead, as the first two matches ended in a draw. Resuming Day 5 at 103/8, England batters Chris Woakes and Jack Leach tried to anchor the innings for the visitors as they were left with just 10-run lead.

Kemar Roach struck them hard and dismissed the duo and their batting run at 120, thus providing his side with a target of 28 runs.

Coming to bat, West Indies openers Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell make it look like a cakewalk and chased down the tar-



TEST SERIES: Resuming Day 5 at 103/8, England batters Chris Woakes and Jack Leach tried to anchor the innings for the visitors as they were left with just 10 run lead

get in mere 5 overs and ended the match with a ten-wicket victory over the Three Lions.

Joshua Da Silva’s unbeaten ton and Kyle Mayer’s five-wicket haul put West Indies in a dominating

position against England at stumps on Day 3 of the ongoing third and final Test. “It’s disappointing. We’re obviously immensely disappointed about what’s happened over the course of the day. We’ve not

got it right in both departments. We’ve been better than that over the course of the series but we’ve not turned up and made it work as we have done in previous games,” ESPNcricinfo quotes Marcus



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Trescothick as saying.

Resuming Day 3 at 232/8, West Indies batters Da Silva and Kemar Roach continued with their knocks but they faced a blow when the latter had to depart as he was dismissed by Saqib Mahmood.

Root’s side were ten runs ahead with only two wickets in hand at the stumps of day three in the third and deciding Test of the series.

“I don’t think you can pinpoint the captain and say it’s his fault. I think it’s the group. It’s easy, over the course of what we’ve had over the winter, to throw the baby out with the bathwater. It’s all gone wrong, yes, we’ve had a really bad day and we’re really disappointed. We believe as coaching staff and players in that dressing room that we’ve made strides as a team over the course of the Test matches we’ve had. We’ll lick our wounds

and try to come back from it but it’s been a really tough day and we’ve put the series in jeopardy,” said Trescothick.

England made a horrible start as they lost an early wicket of Zak Crawley with just 14 runs on the board. Joe Root and Daniel Lawrence then followed the footsteps of Crawley and also departed, after they fell prey to the fiery spell of Mayers, leaving the visitors total at 27/3.

“We haven’t performed to the level we’ve put our standards at in the previous two Tests. So we have to look at that and say ‘why have we put in that performance today? What is the reason?’ We’ll try to find a solution and try to make it better going forward. We’re working on those solutions. I think we’ve made improvements but it was disappointing today,” said England’s batting coach. **-ANI**

RUNNER-UP SPOT

Oman go-karting racer Shonal finishes overall 3rd at UAE Rotax Max Challenge

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman-based go-karting racer Shonal Kunimal capped his season on a high when he clinched the runner-up spot (Micro Max category) in the ninth and final round of the 2021-2022 UAE Rotax Max Challenge at the Al Ain Raceway International Kart Circuit in Al Ain, UAE, recently.

The runner-up spot also secured the ten-year-old Indian School Ghubra student an overall third place in the championship standings.

The overall podium finish coupled with a second-place result in the concluding race of the highly-competitive season was a creditable performance from Shonal, who has been getting little support from teams or corporate sector.

Having met with success over the past four years, the talented go-karting racer had earlier grabbed a third place in the penultimate eighth round.

With only his aunt, Marsleen Qandeel, to cheer him on the final rounds, Shonal thanked his coach, Sanad al Rawahi, for guiding him through a zoom call. It was the fourth successive podium finish for Shonal, and sixth in the season, underlying his consistency after the initial hiccups in the early rounds. Out of the six podiums he climbed, two were second-place finishes and rest were third.



Russian racer Maxim Bobreshov and favourite was crowned the overall champion while Greek racer Leonidas Peruzzi, who was involved in a close battle with Shonal, took the overall runner-up place.

After nine rounds, Maxim garnered 870 points while Leonidas secured 772. Shonal concluded the season with a total of 717 points.

In the final round of the season, Shonal started in a spectacular fashion to bag first place in the

qualifying. However, a collision with another driver pushed him to sixth position in the pre-final races. But, the Muscat-based racer displayed lot of grit and fighting spirit to bounce back from P6 to runner-up spot sending a clear signal that he will be in contention in the coming season for the title. Speaking after finishing runner-up and overall third, Shonal said, “It was a mixed experience in the final round. After a great qualifying, I had to settle for sixth place in pre-final.

“I was determined to fight hard till the last lap. A pep talk from my aunt Marsleen and coach Sanad helped me achieve the second place in the final race. I am happy to end the season with a good result. It will give me good confidence in the next season where my target will be to win races.”

It may be mentioned that Shonal had achieved overall success in back-to-back seasons (2017-2018 and 2018-19) at the UAE Rotax Max Challenge in Bambino category.

COMMENTARY

Meeting Ness Wadia, co-owner of Punjab Kings

Anis Sajjan, Managing Director, Danube Group

It was a delight meeting Ness Wadia, a man who doesn’t need any introductions. We connected instantly over our common love for the game of cricket.

He mentioned that he was more excited about the 15th season of IPL, as they have a new team and a new captain and most importantly that the matches would be played in India. Despite the tournament being held in India, the matches are held in the western region, I asked him how are they managing the crowd support, and he was quick to say that IPL in general has a lot of support from the crowd/people.

But what is important that the matches are being played in a safe and secure bubble, as they want to avoid any possible interruption like the previous season.

Talking about Punjab Kings’ highest purchase this season, Liam Livingstone, Ness said that he is a good all-rounder, we are yet to see him performing to the fullest. He feels that PBKS has a well-balanced squad with Livingstone, Odean Smith and the rest of the team they have picked for in the auction.

We then spoke about his recent appeal to BCCI and Jay



Shah to play the national anthem of India at the start of all the IPL matches. He couldn’t contain his happiness as the appeal has been approved by the board and said his chest swells up and he gets teary eyed every time the anthem is played.

Since we had the chat during the match, I couldn’t help but ask him about what he thinks of the 206 target set by RCB. All he said was that it was a batting pitch and the batters should have fun and I believe that is what they did and led the team to a great victory.

We ended the conversation by talking about Faf’s innings which Ness said was pretty decent and that though he was dropped unfortunately but it’s alright and the team would remedy their batting.

And as my son Sahil mentioned at the beginning of the tournament that Punjab is the team to watch out for this season, we all look forward to their performance and wish them luck.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Muscat Slashers claim women’s volleyball title

MUSCAT: Muscat Slashers edged past Muscat Blazers 20-18, 20-17 in the final to claim the first edition of women’s volleyball tournament organised by Joyalukkas Exchange and Instant cash at Bausher Club indoor hall on March 25.

Sixteen teams took part in the one-day tournament that saw three preliminary rounds and one knockout round along with semifinals, third-place play-off and final.

The teams included players of different nationalities including Oman’s national team.

The event was supported by POLO & OWWA (Embassy of Philippines) and OFW.

The tournament concluded in line with the women’s month celebration by Joyalukkas Exchange.

“We have conducted various activities at our branch level across the Sultanate. The empowerment of women is the main agenda by supporting them in various sports and games,” a Joyalukkas statement said.



Ahmed Faisal al Jahdhami, Secretary-General, Oman Golf Association, was the chief guest of the concluding ceremony who gave away prizes to the winners. Anthony Jos, Managing Director Joyalukkas Exchange, was the special guest. The event was graced by Gregorio T Abalos, Jr - Labour Attache Philippine Embassy, Nixon Baby – General Manager Joyalukkas Exchange, Nihas Nourdheen - Country Head, Instant Cash, Mumthaz Al Balushi Omani sportsperson, Punnose Mathew, General Manager UAE Exchange.

Organizing committee spokesperson Ansar Shensthar, Manager Operations, said: This type of sports event will be organised by Joyalukkas Exchange to empower women in our society and for their socio-cultural development. This was also one of the biggest tournaments conducted by an exchange house in Oman.”

In the semifinals, Muscat Slashers beat All Star 18-13 while Slashers prevailed over The Heat by the same margin.

INTERACTION

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of Oman Cricket and Vice-President of the Asian Cricket Council, was invited to the International Institute of Sports Management (IISM) on March 7, 2022 to interact with the University’s Bachelors and Masters students.

IISM was the first establishment of its kind in India and has maintained its reputation as one of the finest Sports Management centers in Asia for the entirety of its existence. Based in Mumbai, its expertise in producing a long-line of professionals who are adept at adapting to the ever-changing needs of the sporting landscape is well-known.

The stream of Sports Management too has increased in value over the past decade. Whether it is a nuanced understanding of sporting law, the science of sponsorship negotiation or the know-how needed to market a brand or

product, its curriculum promises to equip all undertakers with the knowledge needed to successfully deal with real-world challenges in the sporting sphere.

In a 150-minute session with the students of IISM, Pankaj Khimji provided some invaluable insight into the world of sports administration along with some of his personal anecdotes and experiences from working to increase the shine of the global spotlight on Oman Cricket over the past decade.

Oman Cricket’s highlights in the recent past include gaining official T20 and ODI statuses from the ICC, qualifying to participate in the 2016 T20 World Cup in India and becoming the only associate nation to host and take part in one in 2021.

The qualification round for the 2022 T20 WC was also held in the country - a testament to the facilities, hospitality and professionalism on offer, and further evidence

of the sport’s holistic development in the Sultanate. Pankaj Khimji’s role in all of these achievements cannot be overstated.

Speaking on the overall IISM experience, he said, “It was brilliant. Both my father and I caught the cricketing bug while completing our education in Mumbai, so the city has a special place in my heart.

Speaking of IISM, I have always admired their work and track record of success. I remember back in the day, there was no definitive curriculum dedicated to sports management. The fact that it exists today, and that such a reputed institute is helping propel the entire field forward is wonderful to see.

Honestly, an affirmative response for their invitation to share my experiences with Oman Cricket was a no brainer. I thank them for the opportunity and wish all the students the very best of luck”.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by May 2022 reaching \$110.70, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.59 from the price of Friday, which was \$112.29. - ONA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,232.54 points, down by 1.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.25 per cent at 486.12 points. Galifar Engineering, up 3.61 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman National Engineering, down 8.41 per cent, was the top loser.

Omantel AGM approves cash dividends of 55 baisas per share

The meeting also considered and approved the company's corporate governance report, auditors' report on the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 at which the company's net profit after adjusting for minority interest stood at OMR67.1 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) held its Annual General Assembly Meeting (AGM) on Sunday.

During the meeting, the shareholder approved a proposal to distribute cash dividends to registered shareholders as of March 27, 2022 (55 baisas per share).

The meeting was held at the company's HQs at Madinat Al Irfan, under the chairmanship of Mulhim bin Bashir Al Jarf, Chairman of Omantel Board of Directors in the presence of board members,



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The meeting was held at the company's HQs at Madinat Al Irfan, under the chairmanship of Mulhim bin Bashir Al Jarf, Chairman of Omantel Board of Directors in the presence of board members, external auditors of the company, the legal adviser, the observer of the Capital Market Authority and the shareholders. - Supplied picture

external auditors of the company, the legal adviser, the observer of the Capital Market Authority and the shareholders.

During the meeting, the shareholder approved a proposal to distribute cash dividends to registered shareholders as of March 27, 2022 (55 baisas per share).

Omantel AGM also approved the chairman's report on the company activities and financial performance for the fiscal year ended 31st December 2021.

The meeting also considered and approved the company's corporate governance report, auditors' report on the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 at which the company's net profit after adjusting for minority interest stood at OMR67.1 million.

Commenting on this, Mulhim bin Bashir Al Jarf, Omantel Board of Directors Chairman said, "De-

spite the challenging market conditions, increased competition and challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic at the local and international levels, Omantel Group achieved a good financial performance during 2021."

"Zain Group, in which Omantel has a strategic stake, continued delivering good performance and growing its net profit despite a decline in revenues and EBITDA. Zain Group achieved net profit growth of 2 per cent compared to the same period in 2020. Moreover, the contribution of Omantel's subsidiaries in the Sultanate to the group's revenues increased during the past year compared to the same period in 2020," he added.

"The Covid-19 outbreak continues to have a profound impact on the global and local economies as well as the telecom sector in specific. Following the acceleration of vaccination programmes,

the expectation of a return to normal is growing and the domestic economy is expected to gradually return to a growth scenario. While it is hoped that the local economy will gradually return to achieving growth, the increased competition in the local market resulting from the entry of the third mobile operator, as well as cross-border competition through OTTPs, requires us to always be prepared for such changes," he concluded.

On his part, Talal bin Said Al Mamari, Omantel Chief Executive Officer, said, "Omantel has implemented its new continues to be our primary tool to optimise value generation for both our customers and shareholders. Shift Gear builds further on the key transformation initiatives started under 'Omantel 3.0' and focuses on a number of key business enablers including Omantel's transition to a digital operator, building on the company's position

and leveraging the Sultanate's strategic position as a global communications hub, in addition to exploring new areas of growth from new business opportunities, primarily in the ICT and value-added services domain, while at the same time continuing to implement stringent controls in spending to assure the impact of Covid-19 is minimised while continuing to invest in essential strategic domains.

"Customer experience and innovation have been two main areas of focus for Omantel during 2021. We continued to launch several initiatives in this regard, including the launch of 5G for mobile devices, the expansion of the 5G for fixed and mobile networks and building an integrated system for innovation and technology entrepreneurship through the launch of Omantel Innovation Labs, Omantel's Innovation Oasis and the 'E-Dukaan', the first unmanned store in

the Middle East region," he added.

Concerning social responsibility, Al Mamari said: "Omantel focused in 2021 on providing support to the deserving families and those affected by tropical cyclone Shaheen last October. The company also launched selective initiatives aimed at strengthening digital transformation and building the capabilities of a digital society. Omantel issued this year its fifth sustainability report, which covered Omantel's performance in social, economic and environmental aspects."

Omantel's AGM also approved the other items listed on the meeting agenda, the most important of which is approving the allocation of OMR500,000 for community service during 2022, appointing an auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, and setting their fees, and approving the Board of Directors' remuneration for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.

SUPPORTING SMES



COLLABORATION: The agreement was signed by Abdul Aziz Al-Raisi, Vice President of SME Authority for SMEs Development, as a representative of the authority and Shabeer KA, Regional Director of Lulu Group in Oman. - Supplied picture

Lulu, SMEs Authority sign pact to provide marketing outlets for entrepreneurs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Authority signed an agreement with Lulu Group by which the group provides marketing outlets for SMEs at its 28 stores scattered across the Omani governorates.

The agreement was signed by Abdul Aziz Al-Raisi, Vice President of SME Authority for SMEs Development, as a representative of the authority and Shabeer KA, Regional Director of Lulu Group in Oman.

This move comes as part of the efforts exerted by Lulu Group to enable SMEs to market its products by offering them benefits and spaces at all its branches. The group provides this support without charging fees from the SMEs. It also shares its marketing experience with these enterprises to help

them increase their sales and gives feedback to help them in improving the quality and packaging of the SMEs' products.

Additionally, the group supports competitiveness between enterprises by offering display shelves and spaces according to the sales achieved by each enterprise.

Following the signing of the agreement, Al-Raisi commented: "This agreement highlights the efforts made by our Authority to support the SMEs and enable them to reach a wider range of consumers by offering them additional benefits and facilities to market their products and services as part of the authority's corporate responsibility. Lulu Group has great potential and is widespread through its branches scattered across the Omani governorates. As such, the group will provide entrepreneurs with more opportunities to display

their products, which will surely result in an increase in their sales."

"SMEs Authority appreciates the efforts of Lulu Group to encourage entrepreneurs by offering them spaces at its branches and purchasing the products of local SMEs. This agreement lays a framework for the relationship between the group and SMEs owners in a way that contributes to achieving the optimal benefit from the potentials of Lulu Group," he added.

Shabeer said, "This agreement embodies the role played by our group to support the Omani products, encourage local entrepreneurs and bolster the efforts made by the government represented by the SMEs Authority in promoting serious entrepreneurs who wish to benefit from the available opportunities. Our group deals with 50 enterprises and suppliers that fall under the category of SMEs."

He added, "The agreement also reflects the role of investments in enhancing SMEs and supporting the business environment in the Sultanate. The agreement also bolsters Lulu Group's role in localizing investments in the Sultanate. It enhances the competitiveness between small and medium enterprises as the allocation of shelves and display spaces for enterprises at any branch depends on the volume of sales. The more an enterprise sells its products, the space allocated for it increases."

He explained that the cooperation mechanism between the SMEs Authority and Lulu Group is based on registering the SMEs through the Authority, which provides Lulu Group with a list of the registered SMEs and the needs of every SME to enable the group to offer the appropriate support for each enterprise.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Shell Oman appoints Lamees Dawood Al Lawati as its CFO

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Shell Oman Marketing Company (Shell Oman) has appointed Lamees Dawood Al Lawati as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective April 1, 2022.

This appointment is a new milestone for Shell Oman's Omanisation story as Lamees has become the first Omani female to occupy the role of CFO in the history of Oman's downstream oil and gas industry. As CFO, she will become a member of Shell Oman's Executive Management Team and will lead key finance functions along with Legal, Contracts and Procurement and IT. On the other hand, the incumbent CFO, Ian Fong, will move to a new role where he will remain available to assist the company with the transition while leading key strategic projects.

Shell Oman's CEO, Dr Mohammed Al Balushi, said: "I am delighted to welcome Lamees to the leadership of our company. She combines diverse finance experience with a deep knowledge of Shell and the inherent qualities of a visionary leader who demonstrates a progressive outlook. As a prominent Omani leader, we believe that Lamees will continue to inspire and develop the younger generation of leaders in Shell and the society which will contribute to further reinforcing our 96 per cent Omanisation.

"Meanwhile, we thank Ian Fong, the incumbent CFO, for his leadership and his contribution to Shell Oman during his tenure. Ian has been instrumental in navigating the company throughout the pandemic and the parallel challenges while remaining focused on developing national talents in Finance functions.

"We wish both Lamees and Ian



all the best in their new roles and all future endeavours."

Lamees Al Lawati started her career with Shell more than 15 years ago in finance after graduating from Sultan Qaboos University. Since then, she has held several increasingly senior finance roles at Shell in both downstream and upstream sectors covering information management, treasury, controllers, internal audit and JV Management. Recently, she completed a secondment in Shell plc group as Finance Manager of a Shell Joint Venture in addition to being a senior member of Shell Development Oman's Finance Leadership Team.

Meanwhile, Lamees continued to be Shell Oman Marketing Company's Board Secretary. Her track record in Shell demonstrates her ethical leadership, her ability to build and execute complex strategies, and her commitment to adhering to and upholding Shell's values and standards.



MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Galfar Engineering, up 3.61 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman National Engineering, down 8.41 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,232.54 points, down by 1.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.25 per cent at 486.12 points. Galfar Engineering, up 3.61 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman National Engineering, down 8.41 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Omantel was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 735 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR763 million, with more than 25.47 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 7 advanced, 23 declined and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR240,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR193,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR47,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,753.69 points, down 1.26 per cent. Prices of United Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Global Financial Investments,

Al Madina Takaful, and National Finance were up by 3.53 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 1.43 per cent, 1.09 per cent, and 0.84 per cent respectively. Prices of National Bank Oman, Muscat Finance, HSBC Bank Oman, Sohar International Bank, and Al Sharqia Investment were down by 4.85 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 2.46 per cent, 1.72 per cent, and 1.22 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,991.89 points, down 0.35 per cent. Prices of Galfar Engineering were up by 3.61 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products, National Aluminium, and Oman Cement were down by 4.62 per cent, 1.52 per cent, 1.15 per cent, and 0.42 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 1.07 per cent before closing at 1,610.72 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power were up by 2.08 per cent. Prices of Oman National Engineering, Dhofar Generating, Sohar Power, Shell Oman Marketing, and Al Jazeera Services were down by 8.41 per cent, 7.02 per cent, 4.65 per cent, 4.53 per cent, and 2.57 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

INDEX	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,276.70	4,231.16	4,232.54	4,276.82	-44.28	-1.04
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,839.43	6,750.35	6,753.68	6,840.01	-86.33	-1.26
INDUSTRY INDEX	6,020.61	5,991.88	5,991.88	6,012.65	-20.77	-0.35
SERVICES INDEX	1,627.12	1,610.72	1,610.72	1,628.17	-17.45	-1.07
MSX SHARIAH INDEX	487.37	486.12	486.12	487.36	-1.24	-0.25
MSX TR INDEX	5,293.24	5,236.87	5,238.58	5,232.13	6.44	0.12
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,959.88	6,872.11	6,872.62	6,917.43	-44.81	-0.65
SERVICES TR IDX	1,660.09	1,643.36	1,643.36	1,646.11	-2.75	-0.17
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,222.52	6,192.83	6,192.83	6,187.86	4.98	0.08

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
25,479,908	7,633,774	735	22,211,669,068	7	23	15	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 28

RIN	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																
OM000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	93,000	36,270	11	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.410	0.100	39,000,000	
OM000001772	ALANWAH INVESTMENT	425,258	36,022	20	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.081	0.085	0.100	17,000,000	
OM000003968	QOEDDOO	24,889	3,311	13	0.320	0.338	0.320	0.334	0.334	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.334	0.100	217,415,373	
OM000001749	OMAN CEMENT	18,440	4,363	4	0.238	0.238	0.236	0.237	0.238	-0.001	0.420	0.236	0.232	0.237	0.100	78,416,832
OM000003026	OMAN TELECOM	5,946,823	5,444,271	18	0.916	0.916	0.828	0.916	0.920	-0.004	0.435	0.840	0.832	0.840	0.100	687,000,000
OM000001533	OMINVEST	115,100	38,882	13	0.336	0.338	0.336	0.338	0.340	-0.002	0.588	0.336	0.336	0.338	0.100	225,907,514
OM000001169	NATIONAL GAS	20,000	2,743	3	0.136	0.138	0.136	0.137	0.138	-0.001	0.725	0.138	0.138	0.150	0.100	11,645,000
OM000002200	AHLI BANK	200,300	24,636	5	0.122	0.122	0.121	0.122	0.123	-0.001	0.613	0.121	0.122	0.121	0.100	237,858,211
OM000002796	BANK MUSCAT	190,135	92,342	20	0.516	0.516	0.510	0.512	0.518	-0.006	1.158	0.510	0.510	0.514	0.100	1,921,637,648
OM000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	262,038	21,297	16	0.081	0.083	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	1.220	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	7,290,000
OM000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	3,931,232	538,789	29	0.138	0.138	0.136	0.137	0.139	-0.002	1.439	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.100	32,469,000
OM000002178	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	33,448	13,064	17	0.390	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.396	-0.006	1.515	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.100	48,710,204
OM000003596	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,007,613	114,998	11	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.114	0.116	-0.002	1.724	0.114	0.114	0.115	0.100	340,887,101
OM000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	8,500	3,683	6	0.430	0.434	0.430	0.434	0.442	-0.008	1.810	0.434	0.434	0.438	0.100	102,601,940
OM000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	27,491	7,289	4	0.272	0.272	0.265	0.265	0.272	-0.007	2.574	0.265	0.265	0.271	0.100	16,219,132
OM000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	260,880	14,686	25	0.058	0.058	0.055	0.056	0.058	-0.002	3.448	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.100	17,200,194
OM000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	117,943	19,501	9	0.169	0.169	0.165	0.165	0.173	-0.008	4.624	0.165	0.165	0.171	0.100	33,000,000
Total	17	12,673,090	6,420,956	224												
Parallel Market																
OM000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	6,001,861	516,047	218	0.084	0.088	0.084	0.086	0.083	0.003	3.614	0.085	0.085	0.088	0.100	17,456,834
OM000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,134,267	99,789	38	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.085	0.003	3.529	0.088	0.088	0.090	0.100	30,724,708
OM000001081	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,480,118	111,484	69	0.073	0.076	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.002	2.740	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	9,140,625
OM000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	9,000	441	2	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	33,069,494
OM000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	1,686,946	119,176	65	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	14,200,000
OM000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	284,200	26,436	14	0.093	0.094	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.100	16,275,000
OM000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	10,000	1,200	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.001	0.840	0.120	0.120	0.124	0.100	64,947,654
OM000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	861	52	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	4,831,000
OM000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	100	180	1	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.750	1.750	0.000	0.000	1.800	1.575	1.800	0.100	87,500,000
OM000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	17,967	4,348	1	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.000	0.000	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.100	16,481,085
OM000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,755	561	8	0.118	0.119	0.113	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.118	0.100	9,849,733
OM000004348	SMN POWER HOLDING	14,973	629	2	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.042	0.045	0.100	8,384,695
OM000001593	PHOENIX POWER	646,131	31,014	6	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	70,204,870
OM000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	100	10	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.093	0.098	0.100	19,600,000
OM000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	416,556	61,955	18	0.149	0.149	0.147	0.149	0.150	-0.001	0.667	0.147	0.147	0.150	0.100	11,252,778
OM000004420	BANK NIZWA	457,600	45,303	16	0.099	0.101	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	1.000	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	221,458,350
OM000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	160,694	13,819	13	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.087	-0.001	1.140	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.100	2,887,145
OM000003281	TAGEEER FINANCE	20,000	1,680	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.079	0.084	0.100	21,301,560
OM000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	306,400	36,504	11	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.122	-0.003	2.459	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.100	238,037,222
OM000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK.	6,157	5,197	3	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.884	-0.040	4.525	0.844	0.800	0.884	0.100	80,180,000
OM000003711	SOHAR POWER	16,395	672	5	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.043	-0.002	4.651	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.100	9,063,400
OM000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	13,890	2,741	3	0.204	0.204	0.195	0.196	0.206	-0.010	4.854	0.198	0.195	0.204	0.100	318,685,486
OM000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	50,590	2,081	6	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.057	-0.004	7.018	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.100	11,778,720
OM000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	54,307	5,322	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.107	-0.009	8.411	0.098	0.098	0.104	0.100	13,720,000
Total	24	12,793,968	1,087,250	505												

RAMADAN CAMPAIGN

National Finance now offers car loan with competitive interest rates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Finance, the leading finance company in Oman, has announced the launch of its new campaign #RamadanFursati.

As part of the offer, customers who purchase a new car can benefit from competitive interest rates and the liberty to pay their first instalment only after 2 months. With a focus on fast, easy and flexible procedures, customers will be able to purchase their dream car this Ramadan.

Tariq Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer of National Finance said, "During the month of Ramadan there is an increase in interest amongst customers to purchase new vehicles. This is mainly due to the innumerable promotions presented by dealers and showrooms during this specific month. Hence, we decided to launch this attractive Ramadan offer to meet customers' aspirations and provide them with seamless services that enable them to purchase their cars without any hassle."

To facilitate the process of applying for a loan, National Finance boasts of a wide range of channels. Clients can apply for a loan by visiting one of the company's 20 branches across Oman or via the website or the phone application. In addition, customers can also directly get in touch through WhatsApp and the call centre.



Training programme for insurance agents



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) commenced its training programmes for insurance agents with Insurance Agents Certificate.

CMA is organising the programme to enable the insurance agents improve their aptitude in sales, customer service and excellence in work teams leadership. The training programme



Oscars 2022 Red Carpet:

Celebs bring their fashion A-game to Hollywood’s biggest night

While last year saw a scaled-down version of the event due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, this year all the glitz and glamour has returned with celebrities sporting dazzling looks on the red carpet of the 94th Academy Awards.

Nicole Kidman, Zoe Kravitz, Jessica Chastain, Zendaya, Timothee Chalamet, Andrew Garfield, Kirsten Dunst, Ariana DeBose and more arrived in style at the Oscars 2022 red carpet, reported People magazine. Check out some of the looks here:

Zoe Kravitz
The ‘Batman’ star kept things simple and beautiful with a pastel pink floor-length Saint Laurent dress. Complimenting her minimal look, she added a sparkling choker and stud earrings.

Zendaya
Zendaya, who continues to be the star of every red carpet she graces, arrived wearing a dazzling fully beaded silver skirt with a glossy button-up crop top, bold necklace and messy undone updo.

Rachel Zegler
The ‘West Side Story’ star, who recently made headlines over not being invited to the Oscars 2022, was later announced as one of the presenters for the ceremony. The actor turned heads as she arrived wearing Christian Dior SS22 Couture.

Jessica Chastain
The actor, who is nominated for an Oscar for ‘The Eyes of Tammy Faye’, was a pastel dream in an ombre Gucci gown with rose gold bodice fading into a fully sequin lavender skirt with tulle hem, plus major chandelier earrings.

Lights. Camera. Fashion!

The Oscars red carpet is back and better than ever.

OSCARS 2022: THE WINNERS' LIST

Best picture
CODA

Best Cinematography
Dune

Best Director
Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog

Best actress
Jessica Chastain in The Eyes of Tammy Faye

Best actor
Will Smith in King Richard

Best supporting actress
Ariana DeBose in West Side Story

Best supporting actor
Troy Kotsur in CODA

Best animated feature film
Encanto

Best documentary feature
Summer of Soul

Best international feature film
Drive My Car from Japan

Best original song
No Time To Die by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell

Best original music score
Dune

Best original screenplay
Belfast

Best adapted screenplay
CODA

Best short documentary
The Queen of Basketball

Best animated short film
The Windshield Wiper

Best live action short film
The Long Goodbye

Best costume design
Cruella

Best makeup and hairstyling
The Eyes of Tammy Faye

Fan favourite
Army of the Dead

Most cheerworthy moment
The Flash enters the speed force in Zack Snyder's Justice League

Best film editing
Dune

Best production design
Dune

Best visual effects
Dune

Best sound
Dune

Nicole Kidman
Nicole Kidman was a vision to behold in her violet custom Armani Prive gown, which she teamed up with a diamond necklace and a striking red lip.

Kristen Stewart
Actor Kristen Stewart turned heads in a rather groundbreaking choice of clothing. The ‘Spencer’ star turned heads when she arrived wearing a custom Chanel short suit.

Timothee Chalamet
Chalamet looked dapper as he arrived wearing a sparkling, lace-trimmed Louis Vuitton tux with Cartier gems.

Andrew Garfield
The actor sported an eggplant velvet jacket, floppy bow tie and black pants with a David Yurman ring.

Olivia Colman
Actor Olivia Colman, who is nominated for ‘The Lost Daughter’, looked stunning in a silver metallic gown.

Ariana DeBose
The actor, who is nominated for ‘West Side Story’, rocked a crimson pants look with a plunging bodice, wide-leg pants and voluminous cape.

Many other stars including Billie Eilish, Lupita Nyong'o, Jada Pinkett Smith, Serena Williams, Mila Kunis and Megan Thee Stallion arrived in style for the award ceremony.

The 94th Academy Awards was held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood and the ceremony is being hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes.

The nominations for the Oscars were announced on February 8 this year by actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan. -ANI



ROUND-UP




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Changan Hunter Pick-Up perfectly suits various road conditions

One of the positive aspects of the Changan Hunter is its workhorse capabilities and usage, being a heavy-duty pickup for loading, it is sturdy, spacious and of high quality, and is suitable for various load and road conditions

MUSCAT: Equipped with safety features and modern driving systems, Changan Hunter pick-up with two engine variants – 2.4 turbo gasoline (available in a manual and automatic transmission) and 1.9 turbo diesel engine (manual transmission) ensures great performance.

One of the positive aspects of the Changan Hunter is its workhorse capabilities and usage, being a heavy-duty pickup for loading, it is sturdy, spacious and of high quality, and is suitable for various load and road conditions. Boasting class-leading power and excellent ground clearance, it delivers an unmatched level of supremacy and capability, especially for the farm and construction sector. Offering excellent seating comfort, SUV like interiors and manifold features, Changan Hunter ensures a pleasurable and comfortable drive for the passengers.

Changan Hunter's double cabin pick-up comes with a 2.4 turbo



gasoline engine producing 210 hp with a 6 speed Manual (2wd & 4wd) and Automatic transmission available only in 4WD.The ‘power to perform’ Changan Hunter also comes with a 1.9-litre turbo diesel engine producing 150 hp with a 6-speed manual transmission and is available in 4 WD.

This incredible pick-up is built on a large wheelbase of up to 3180 mm, and measures 5330 mm in length, 1930 mm in width and 1835 mm in height. With the capacity to carry substantial weight, it has a ground clearance of 230 mm and a fuel tank capacity of 80 litres.

Changan Hunter is equipped with all safety and security measures and innovative driving systems that provide a smooth ride and enhanced performance. Changan HunterPickups are targeted to meet the needs of local commercial transporters as well small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Logistic solutions.

On the global level, Changan “Hunter” is described as a distinctive new generation of trucks that are characterized by strong capa-

bilities and a very impressive exterior design with a practical and comfortable interior. All this is a result of the strong support of the research and development centres of Changan.

Changan Hunter 2WD manual P (Standard)

The exterior of Changan Hunter 2WD manual pick-up features 17” steel wheels, halogen headlamps, front fog lights, ORVMS - electrically adjustable and sidestep. The aesthetically designed interiors offer fabric seats.

In terms of safety, the Changan Hunter gets front airbags, rear sensors, ESP and TPMS. The infotainment attributes include a multifunction steering wheel, 3.5” instrument cluster screen, two speakers. The rear AC outlets offer comfort. Changan Hunter is available in Gasoline 2WD manual transmission, 4WD Manual and Automatic and 4WD Diesel variants.

Changan Hunter 4WD manual & Automatic transmission includes the features of 2WD manual P (Standard) features plus other

additional features.

The exterior features include 17” alloy wheels, door handles in chrome, welcome light, LED Headlamps, follow me home light, LED DRLs, ORVMS with heating and rear LED tail lamps.

The attractive interior includes leatherette fabric seats, electrically adjustable front seats, lumbar support, and a rear armrest. The safety features offer a rear differential lock, front side airbags, rear-view camera, and rear disc brakes. It has a special feature which is the camera for the right blind area which helps the driver sitting on the left side of the car to see the right side area behind the car with help of a camera fixed to give the driver a view of that specific area.

The infotainment features include a 4.2” coloured instrument cluster screen, 10” infotainment screen, mirror link, radio, USB, Bluetooth, six speakers. It also offers cruise control.

Changan Hunter 4WD manual diesel (platinum)

The exterior of the Changan Hunt-

er 4WD manual diesel (Platinum) includes 17” alloy wheels, door handles in chrome, halogen headlamps, front fog lights, LED DRLs. The interior has leatherette fabric seats and a rear armrest. With the help of another attribute, ORVMS (Outside Rear View Mirror) can be electrically adjusted and has the function of heating to prevent the mirror from fogging up. There are turn indicators on the edges of the mirrors as well.

The safety attributes include rear differential lock, front airbags, rear sensors, rearview camera, camera for the right blind area, ESP, TPMS and rear disc brakes.

It has a DPF Filter which is an indicator that gets activated when the engine is being overused or damaged due to the driver’s negligence. For instance, the indicator comes on when the AC is running for a long time and the car is stationary or when the driver is driving short distances and doing constant stop-starts or when the engine has dust particles. The indicator can be switched off through a switch placed near the indicator.

It has a host of infotainment features such as 3.5” instrument cluster screen, 10” infotainment screen, mirror link, radio, USB, Bluetooth, 4 speakers and a multi-function steering wheel.

It is also fitted with cruise control, a rear AC outlet, auto AC.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), part of Bahwan International Group is the official dealer of the Changan brand in Oman.

The premium automotive brand Changan has received an overwhelming response among Oman customers. Changan Automobile boasts a comprehensive portfolio of a range of products including Sedan, Crossovers, SUVs and Pickups like Changan Alsvin- Entry level sedan, EADO Plus - Family Sedan, CS35 PLUS Crossover, CS75 Plus Crossover, CS85 Coupe, CS95 7 Seater 4WD and Hunter Pickup’s.

All the models of Changan Hunterthe pickup has a ‘European Standard’ body and has plastic bed liners which is unique to the model.

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

Bank Muscat announces highly competitive Sayyarati Auto Finance offer for Ramadan

MUSCAT: On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, is excited to announce the attractive Sayyarati vehicle finance offer with some of the best rates available in Oman.

The exclusive offers on Sayyarati include a special discounted rate that starts at just 3.5 per cent for both new and used cars.

The offer will be available from the beginning of Ramadan till May 31 in line with the bank’s customer-centric vision “To serve you better, everyday”.

Bank Muscat’s Ramadan Sayyarati offer, the easiest path to finance your dream car, features some of the lowest rates for auto finance and will prove to be of great advantage to customers looking forward to buying a new or pre-owned vehicle during the holy month. The highly competitive rates are available for a period of up to 10 years along with free third-party insurance for used car financing. The new Sayyarati offer will be available for Omani nationals working in government and semi-government institutions as well as Tier 1 and Tier 2 companies. Expatriate residents



working in government and semi-government organisations, as well as Tier 1 companies, can also make use of the offer to purchase a car of their choice.

With a fast turnaround time, absolutely no need for post-dated cheques and competitive interest rates on reducing balance, the feature-rich auto finance can be obtained within the shortest possible time from Sayyarati Centres and Bank Muscat branches located across Oman. Loans up to RO 60,000 for Omanis will be offered for both new vehicles and used vehicles. The documents needed

to process the loan facility are minimal and include the buyer’s ID card, salary assignment letter, quotation/car valuation from the approved valuator, driving license, Mulkiya (for pre-owned cars only) and seller’s ID card (for pre-owned cars only). The monthly loan instalments for Sayyarati finance are automatically deducted from the customer’s account once the mandate to do so is provided to the bank by the customer.

For the added convenience of customers during Ramadan, the bank’s Sayyarati centres at Wattyah and Salalah will be open in

the evenings too from 8pm – 11pm on all weekdays (and 8pm – 11pm only on Saturday).

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashaani, General Manager – Products, Bank Muscat, said: “I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and wish our very best to all our valued customers during the holy month of Ramadan. The bank has been greatly encouraged in the past by the positive customer feedback on its various services and facilities and continues to keep working to offer the best possible options for its customers. We hope that by offering these very attractive auto finance options, customers will be able to realize their dreams of owning a car according to their individual needs and circumstances. The holy month witnesses a lot of interest from customers to buy cars and benefit from the different offers available. Bank Muscat is also very keen to enhance cooperation and partnership with different car agencies to offer the best services possible. We encourage all our customers to enjoy the excellent benefits by availing this offer at any Bank Muscat branch or Sayyarati Centres at Wattyah and Salalah.”

1ST DESIGN GROUP FIDE



International Chess Tournament concludes

MUSCAT: The 1st Design Group FIDE International Chess Tournament was inaugurated on March 23 by Pankaj Khimji, Director of Khimji Ramdas, the Chairperson of the Oman Cricket Association and vice president of the Asian Cricket Council. It concluded on March 26 to a rousing and pulsating finish.

International Master Basheer Quadaimi simply outclassed the field with 7 wins out of seven to emerge as the Champion. The fight for the top five was pulsating with Hamood Al Busaidi a very promising Omani player finishing second and Krishanu Sai was outstanding to finish 3rd in a very toughly contested last round.

The curtain came down on the tournament with a glittering and festive prize distribution ceremony. Players from different categories were awarded for their excellent performance a trophy and a certificate.

With over 72 players participating, the tournament saw play-

ers of age 7 to 50 years battling it out for the top spot. A lot of credit goes to the tournament arbiters Musallam, Mrs & Mr Khalid for systematically officiating the tournament. It is very important to mention a vote of thanks to all the sponsors who contributed to the tremendous success.

Appreciation goes to all the parents, the tournament director Divakar and the tournament organiser and sponsor Damodar R. Katti for their tireless work towards the success of this tournament. Thanks to the Oman chess committee for being part of this tournament and facilitating with all the gadgets required to organise such an international tournament. It was a fitting finale to what was a fantastic chess tournament with an extremely talented set of local and international players participating.

This is the first league of such tournament’s being conducted and many more to come in the coming days.

LATEST BLOCKBUSTER

Marvel’s Morbius to premiere at Cinépolis Cinemas, Oman Avenues Mall

MUSCAT: Morbius, the latest blockbuster from Marvel Comics, will be premiered at Cinépolis Cinemas, Oman Avenues Mall, Muscat on March 30.

The film features an all-star cast with Jared Leto as the lead alongside Matt Smith, Adria Arjona, Jared Harris, Al Madrigal, and Tyrese Gibson. Inspired by Spider-Man and Venom,the film revolves around Michael Morbius,

who becomes a vampire after curing himself of a rare disease.

“Morbius is not your typical Marvel superhero, which is why I am really looking forward to watching how this character comes to life on the big screen. With the introduction of Morbius to the Marvel Multiverse, we can be sure there’s an entire world to explore full of amazing characters in all the upcoming releases,” says

Alejandro Aguilera, Chief Executive Officer of Cinépolis Cinemas.

Guests indulged in Cinépolis’ legendary popcorn and were treated to the newly introduced spicy menu which ranges from Masala fries to hot Cheetos chicken nuggets.

They also got a taste of the new popcorn flavour which will be introduced during the Eid holidays!

The premiere was hosted in the massive Macro XE auditorium,

part of the multiplex in Oman Avenues Mall which also houses the award-winning Junior Auditorium, the immersive, state of the art 4D E-motion experience and the Luxury cinemas.

The release date comes just in time for Ramadan allowing Marvel fans to take advantage of the Ramadan offers introduced by Cinépolis which can comfortably booked from their website or app.



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ROUND-UP



Youth Sada launches its 4th cycle of programmes with BP Oman



In partnership with BP Oman, the programme aims to develop and incubate a group of initiatives in Al Dhahirah through a series of activities and forums for 10 months

MUSCAT: In partnership with BP Oman, Youth Sada launched the fourth cycle of the Youth Sada Centre programmes. It aims to develop and incubate a group of initiatives in the Al Dhahirah Governorate through a series of activities and forums for 10 months. The Youth Sada Centre's pro-

grammes focus on four main activities which include the youth initiative incubation programme, the exchange forum, youth council initiative and the main training courses. This social investment programme managed by BP is continuously benefiting communities with the contribution of Block 61 partners. Block 61 is operated by

BP in partnership with OQ, PT-TEP, and Petronas. The Youth Initiative Incubation programme will incubate 10 initiatives from the Al Dhahirah region and provide them with training, consultations, logistics, monthly workshops, marketing and administrative services. Shamsa Al-Rawahi, BP Oman social investment manager, commented: "The Youth Sada Centre initiatives are essential to the society as they encourage community work within the region, through a range of sustainable initiatives and ideas. Furthermore, this also equips our youth and trains them to deliver projects independently and professionally." The Youth Council Initiative will host national and Gulf-based initiatives in a forum where each group will present their trials and experiences and allow for collaborations and partnerships between different initiatives to take place. As for the exchange Forum initiative, it is a quarterly event that will gather youth groups to highlight and discuss key social issues. Suleiman Al Magrashi, Project Manager at Youth Sada, added: "The Youth Sada Centre plays an important role in enhancing the initiatives around the Al Dhahirah region. This was evident through the outcomes from the last three cycles of the programmes, which showed that a total of 30 initiatives benefited directly and 10 benefited indirectly. This allowed the sustainable social projects to thrive, contributing greatly to increased community work over the last three years."

THE ZUBAIR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Zubair SEC unveils its new identity



MUSCAT: Nearly nine years after its establishment in 2013, The Zubair Small Enterprises Centre 'The Zubair SEC' revealed its new identity, which was designed to match its strategy of expanding by providing its services to the local community. The Centre revealed its new name 'The Zubair Enterprise Development Centre', which reflects its new direction to provide its diversified advisory services to the largest number of institutions and commercial companies, regardless of their size. The new identity of the Centre was revealed during a special ceremony held at Bait Al Zubair Museum, in the presence of a number of members of The Zubair Corporation's Board of Directors, as well as the strategic partners of the Centre, and a number of representatives of government and private entities related to the development of institutions, as well as a number of the Centre's members from small enterprises. On this inauguration, Al-Zubair bin Muhammad Al-Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Direc-

tors of the Zubair Corporation, Commented: "Today we are meeting again after the recent crisis that the world has experienced as a result of Covid-19, asking The Almighty to grant us good health and help us to serve our dear country. Today, we celebrate together the launch of the centre's new identity, which was designed to comply with its strategy of expanding by providing its services to the local community, which reflects the new trend to provide diversified advisory services to the largest number of institutions and commercial companies, regardless of their size." Commenting on this step, Said Salim Al Sahib, Director of The Zubair Enterprise Development Centre said, "Over the past years, the Centre has been able to occupy a leading position in supporting small enterprises and emerging entrepreneurs, as the number of the Centre's members exceeded 1,000 during this period. Today, the Centre is taking a strategic step by launching its new identity, 'The Zubair Enterprise Development Centre' to expand its ser-

vices to include institutions and companies of all sizes. This step is in line with our aspirations to play a greater role in achieving Oman's future vision 2040, which aims to enhance entrepreneurship opportunities in the Sultanate." He added, "The past years have proven the necessity of providing quality advisory services to emerging companies to help them grow and expand, which will have a positive impact on the national economy. We are happy to have played this role over the past few years, and today we are expanding in this field to serve all types of companies, which will maximize the impact at all levels. "We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to The Zubair Corporation, which established this entity to be its main arm in the field of social responsibility, believing in the importance of this sector in supporting the national economy of the Sultanate. "Also, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all partners in the public and private sectors who have participated in this march over the years. Thanks also

go to the Centre's team, who spared no effort in providing everything that would help and support institutions to grow sustainably." The Centre is one of the initiatives emanating from the vision of The Zubair Corporation for its role in society. Since its establishment, The Zubair SEC has been distinguished by its high professionalism, the diversity in the fields of knowledge it provides, as well as the multiplicity of its accumulated experiences through its support and communication with various institutions. In addition to its network of contacts and strategic partners locally and internationally, The Centre offers a wide range of services, including advisory solutions, guidance, business development opportunities, capacity building, opportunities for networking and knowledge transfer. In addition to signing business contract opportunities, the direct support programme annually selects 10 winners to obtain extensive consultations, business identity-building services, and assistance in product or service stability.

OFFER



Exclusive benefits on Lincoln Aviator

MUSCAT: Own the luxurious Lincoln Aviator and avail Service 5 Years / 100,000 km, 1 Year Registration and 3M Window Tint. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Lincoln showroom.) The campaign is valid up to May 18. The Lincoln Aviator is designed to enhance experiences with its thoughtful luxury, keen attention to detail, power and technology. Aviator offers the kind of capability premium clients requires in a three-row SUV, with available all-wheel drive. The standard twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine, paired with a 10-speed Select-Shift® automatic transmission, delivers an impressive 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque for effortless acceleration.

EXPANSION



Vision Insurance opens new branch in Sur

MUSCAT: Vision Insurance opened a new 17th branch in the Wilayat of Sur with a larger area and a strategic location near Carrefour, to facilitate its clients in the neighbouring regions and to benefit them from the company's insurance services. Essam Maslamani, CEO of the company, cut the ribbon of the new branch and gave a welcoming speech to the attendees in which he said, "Providing the best insurance products, services and offers to all our customers across the Sultanate is our main goal, and our network of 17 branches plays a key role in achieving this goal. With the transfer of the Sur branch to its new location, it allows us to maintain our commitment towards customers and segments of society, in general, to benefit from the advanced insurance services and promotions offered by the company." In addition, of course, the solutions and services that Vision Insurance provides to its customers, including vehicle insurance policies, comprehensive and third party for individuals and companies, and the services it includes, such as roadside assistance, alternative car, and instalments of the insurance amount for Bank Muscat credit cardholders, as well as insurance for workers and projects and other health insurance.

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ROUND-UP



MHD launches premium luxury automotive brand Hongqi in Oman

Hongqi is the new definition of luxury. Every fine detail tells the story of prestige and opulence uniquely, making Hongqi ‘A Class of Its Own’

MUSCAT: MHD ACERE has announced the inauguration of the premium luxury automotive brand Hongqi. It marked the official entry of Hongqi into the promising Omani market while introducing launch offers for local consumers this Ramadan.

The official launching ceremony took place at Al Bustan Palace Hotel on March 27 and witnessed a large attendance of official and public figures.

Hongqi is the new definition of luxury. Every fine detail tells the story of prestige and opulence uniquely, making Hongqi ‘A Class of Its Own’. The different Hongqi models come with top-standard features that ensure an unprecedented experience for the driver. Among the initial models which will be available for local customers in Oman are H5, HS5, HS7, the H9, and the technological wonder E-HS9. The Hongqi range of sedans and SUVs comes with a powerful driving force, powerful start and perfect handling, equipped with the latest safety technology to guarantee a stable running through the toughest terrains.

The H5 is an extraordinary compact executive car, with exquisite and advanced appearance, perfect configuration and powerful performance. The exterior and interior in this car collaborate to provide the ultimate luxury experience, featuring a stylish silhouette adorned with ‘Wing of Hongqi’ greeting light, and the panoramic sunroof which offers inspiration from nature into your private space.



This model offers thrilling performance with acceleration from 0 to 100 Km/h in 9.7 seconds only, enabled by the brilliant 196 HP and 320 Nm maximum torque producing 1.8 L Turbo engine.

The exterior of the H9 stunning sedan model from Hongqi has the new iconic design language of the protruding red trim, which is an integral part of the model's front face, and the classic waterfall grille gives this vehicle its flagship look. The side profile will impress you with the flowing lines extending from the headlamps to the rear.

For its interior, the H9 model boasts a new design concept called “oriental artistic conception”. It combines wood grain, leather and chrome-plated details, creating an impressive traditional atmosphere. In contrast, the full LCD (liquid crystal display) instrument clusters and large centre console screen lend a futuristic sense along with the 12-inch head-up display (HUD) and video-streaming rearview mirror.

This astonishing vehicle com-

bines powerful driving force, powerful start, and perfect handling. H9 is available in two powertrain options, 2.0-litre turbocharged engine is able to pump out 180 kW, and 380 Nm of torque peak and is mated with a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission.

In the SUV category, Hongqi Oman will offer HS5, HS7 and the technological wonder E-HS9. Hongqi HS5 tries to define a sense of luxury that corresponds with the aesthetic interests of consumers. This AWD runs on a 2.0 L turbocharged direct-injection gasoline engine, perfectly balanced power, fuel consumption and emissions and exerting a maximum of 340 Nm of torque.

Along with its dynamic exterior, the Hongqi HS5 greets the driver with the unique Red Flag wings like an eagle spreading its wings. The anterior is extremely comfortable with all means of luxury including premium leather and great dashboard details.

The other SUV model, HS7

brings the exclusive off-road mode for the fun of conquest, constant breakthroughs with professional off-road performance powered by the TCS all-wheel power control technology exclusively customized by Bosch. It is equipped with the new generation of 8-speed AMT for a comfortable driving experience and excellent fuel economy.

The interior of the HS7 comes with a BOSE 5.1 surround audio system, and double 10.1-inch HD touch displays fitted on seats covered with world-class Nappa leather, which harmonizes with the solid wood decoration, a flagship luxury space is presented to you.

Last but not least is the all-new E-HS9. This 5209mm long and 2010mm wide full-size smart SUV will captivate you with its majestic design. The adaptive beam headlights are joined by day-time running lights, and lighting details on the front and back of the car, adding an aesthetic touch that blends with the dynamic body lines.

Exploring the different layers

of elegance and functionality in the E-HS9 interior, the cabin is made with top-grade Napa leather, housing high-quality powered front seats, adjustable to taste with memory function. The seats also come with massage for your ultimate comfort. Technology makes a strong presence in this car to ensure giving customers a smooth and entertaining driving experience, with 4-zone automatic climate control, 16.2-inch digital cluster, a 16.2-inch infotainment screen, and a 12 speakers sound system. And to achieve high convenience, the car is equipped with wireless charging, an electric power steering system, 360 view camera, and GPS.

The E-HS9 hosts some of the best modern safety features. In addition to the front and rear side airbags, it comes with a built-in pedestrian alert system, lane departure warning and assist system, forward collision warning, and blind-spot monitoring systems for a safe and smooth journey. Fur-

thermore, the E-HS9 has cruise and electronic stability control, anti-lock braking system, ground clearance control, front and rear sensors, to provide you with the most force and control.

Mohsin Hani al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE – the sole distributor of Hongqi Motor cars in Oman – said, “At MHD ACERE, we are delighted to introduce an increasingly popular luxury automotive brand to Oman. The collaboration between Hongqi and MHD is most certainly a game-changer in the automotive scene in the Sultanate. We believe that Hongqi will bring a new exquisite driving experience to local consumers with its outstanding performance, and elegant design.”

Hongqi was launched in 1958 as a limousine brand for government agencies in China. The luxury car marque has become the fastest-growing auto brand in China for three consecutive years since it released its development strategy of “New Era, New Hongqi” in January 2018.

Hongqi has also accelerated its pace into the overseas market and brand internationalization. Its overseas sales network has covered the Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia and other regions, showing its advanced intelligent technology and outstanding performance.

MHD is largely committed to fostering Hongqi growth in the sultanate through a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman.

PROMOTION

Perfect time to drive home INFINITI Q50 this Ramadan

MUSCAT: Offering a chance for luxury enthusiasts to realise their passion for the brand, INFINITI Oman is extending an exclusive deal on INFINITI Q50 during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The INFINITI Q50 sedan has been the key driver of INFINITI's success in the Sultanate due to its sensuous feel, assured leading features and pulsating performance that delivers excellent output. INFINITI Q50 which offers an optimal blend of ride comfort and class-leading agility has been astounding luxury motoring enthusiasts in Oman. The INFINITI Q50 sedan, which represents dynamic and bold styling delivers empowering performance and rewarding drive.

Range of offers on INFINITI Q50 includes free registration, free insurance, assured gifts vouchers, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card, digital promotion, INFINITI loyalty programme and reference programme.

The special offer will be available till May 19. The scheme is

applicable for all the customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles for personal use only. 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. The scheme is applicable for retail billing only.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman, said, “To celebrate the spirit of Ramadan and express our gratitude to our valued customers, we are offering an exclusive deal on INFINITI

Q50. With an athletic front bumper and a rich textured double-arch grille, the INFINITI Q50 boosts a sporty, sophisticated look. INFINITI Q50 comes with advanced technological features like intelligent cruise control with full speed range, lane departure warning and prevention, forward emergency braking and backup collision intervention.”

All customers purchasing INFINITI Q50 during the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration.

All customers purchasing IN-



FINITI Q50 during the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle insurance (Oman & UAE only).

All customers purchasing INFINITI Q50 during the scheme period will be eligible for Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers of OMR 200. Voucher can be redeemed for vehicle service at SBA workshop, purchase of value-added service products at SBA workshop, purchase of parts/accessories at SBA workshop and purchase of service contracts from SBA workshop. 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 used before October 31. VAS Voucher is transferable and will be in denomination of OMR 50. Multiple vouchers will be issued for OMR 200. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the amount cannot be discounted in cash.

Customers purchasing INFINITI Q50 in the scheme period will

get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of two years or 30,000 kms (whichever is earlier). This offer excludes battery and wear and tear components. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km. INFINITI Q50 purchased during the scheme period will have a 3 years / 100,000km Manufacturer's Warranty.

Free AAA/ Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI Q50 for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman & UAE. Two winners from all the social media users who will participate in the Ramadan campaign, Contest and other online challenges on Instagram (@sbainfinitioman) and Facebook (@sbainfinitioman) will get BOSE Ear Buds.

All INFINITI existing owners and their immediate family members [father, mother, son(s) & unmarried daughter(s)] will be eligible for the following additional benefits on purchase of another INFINITI vehicle. Diamond members will get a loyalty Bonus on trade-in price of Infiniti vehicle of OMR 300 and platinum will get OMR 400. Special in-house fi-

nance rate for diamond members is 3.75% and platinum is 3.50%.

Diamond members will get a special accessories package of window tinting and platinum members will get window tinting and paint protection.

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



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