

FINANCE MINISTRY FIXES DATE OF INSPECTION VISITS

The Ministry of Finance yesterday issued Circular No. 1/2022 setting out a schedule for field visits to government properties and assessment of their rent. **>A5**



OMAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO KING OF MOROCCO

RABAT: Dr. Said Mohammed Al Bar'ami yesterday presented his credentials as the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Morocco. The event took place when King Mohammed VI of Morocco received the ambassador yesterday. The ambassador conveyed to King Mohammed VI the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. In his turn, King Mohammed VI expressed his appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan, wishing him good health, happiness and a long life. **-ONA**



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PANDEMIC

More than 1,300 new COVID-19 infections detected in a day

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 1,300 people in Oman tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, 18 January, 2022, according to figures released by the Ministry of Health. 1,315 infections of COVID were recorded, alongside 240 recoveries. No additional deaths from the coronavirus took place. The updated results mean that since the start of the pandemic, 314,853 people have tested positive for the virus, while 302,762 people have recovered. Oman's recovery rate from COVID-19 is 96.2 percent. Sadly, 4,122 people have died from the disease. There are currently 98 people admitted

to hospitals for COVID-related complications. 39 of them were admitted in the 24 hours leading up to the 18th, while 14 of them are in intensive care. The Ministry of Health has reminded everyone to continue maintaining the precautions required against COVID-19. "With our commitment to wearing masks and maintaining social and physical distancing, we will prevent ourselves, our families, and our community from the spread of the coronavirus," advised the ministry. People have been asked to get fully vaccinated and/or boosted as soon as they are able, to keep themselves and others safe from the virus.

OMAN OIL PRICE FOR NEXT MARCH DELIVERY

\$
86.7

RECOGNITION

HM confers Al Nu'man First Class Order on former Swiss Honorary Consul General

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has conferred the Order of Al Nu'man (First Class) on Yousef Furtas, former Honorary Consul General of the Swiss Confederation. The order reflects His Majesty the Sultan's recognition for the efforts of the former Honorary Consul General and his contribution to developing the bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Confederation. The order was handed over by HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan when he received Furtas in his office yesterday. The conferment ceremony was attended by the Secretary-General and the two advisers at the Office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. **- ONA**



OMAN OIL CLIMBS TO ITS HIGHEST PRICE SINCE 2014



Surplus revenue to help meet objectives like reducing deficit and paying off high interest debt

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman oil prices are at their highest since 2014, enabling the country to earn surpluses from the fossil fuel for the first time since 2008, say analysts. "The marker price on January 18 for March 2022 Oman crude oil futures contract (OQD) is \$86.70," said Dubai Mercantile Exchange

(DME) in its daily update. The price of Oman crude sold by the DME has shot up by \$3.76 since 14 January. The oil price was \$54 a barrel exactly a year ago on 18 January, 2021. Concerning oil, Minister of Finance Sultan Al Habsi said in his speech during the launch of State Budget Report that revenue from higher oil prices would be ploughed

back into cutting deficit and repaying loan instalments. "Due to continuous fluctuations in global energy markets and their rapid impact on political factors and healthcare programmes, and in line with hedging principles used in fiscal policies, oil revenues were calculated assuming an average price of \$50 a barrel," he said. The State Budget for this year was announced following the issuance of Royal Decree 1/2022. "Because oil prices are at their highest since 2014, this enables us to earn money from its sale, at a level that we have not seen since 2008," said Dr Mohammed Al Wardi, an academic and economic analyst in Oman. **>A2**

CUTTING CARBON FOOTPRINT

22 schools switch to solar panels in green energy push

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Solar panels have been installed in 22 schools in Oman, to provide them clean energy and reduce the carbon footprint associated with electricity production. The panels were installed by the Oman office of global energy company Shell, as part of its "Solar into Schools" project under its "Gift to the Nation" initiative. In this project, Shell Oman collaborated with the Ministry of Education and a number of local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to install solar photovoltaic (PV) generation systems in 22 public schools across the Sultanate over a period of five years. Three more schools were added, with solar PV systems set to be installed within the period from 2021-2023. The initiative helped install about 27 megawatts (MW) of PV solar plants. These projects help to reduce CO2 emissions (estimated 2,000 tonnes per annum). The project piloted the first PV solar system in Oman raising the awareness of new generations of low-carbon energy solutions.



"The Ministry of Education seeks to optimise the use of renewable energy sources and reduce the cost of electricity at the Ministry's buildings by increasing the utilisation of renewable energy through cutting-edge technologies in this space," said Majid Al Bahri, the Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Education. "The Solar into Schools project helps lower the electricity bills through the power generated by

PV panels, thus saving schools the high cost of grid power, increasing awareness of solar energy through the training package developed from the curriculum, and creating viable business opportunities for SME entrepreneurs," he added. The project included the design, installation and operation of PV system structures on the ground, canopies and roofs, in a parallel network. These systems are expected to generate up to 150 MWh per year at each location.



The project also saw the implementation of Shell's NXplorers educational programme in all 22 schools. Through this programme, Shell aimed to promote the students' scientific knowledge and skills and demonstrate that knowledge practically through direct interaction with solar PV systems in their schools. During the programme, more than 1,400 students were trained with the participation of more than 130 teachers from various schools in Oman. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Organic dressing for faster healing

1 A new dressing for wounds, which has been made from plants, could be used to help them heal faster, a researcher in Oman has found. **>A3**

WORLD Metsola new chief of European Parliament

2 Maltese conservative Roberta Metsola has been elected new president of European Parliament. **>A6**

MARKET Treasury bills worth OMR158mn issued

3 The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) on Tuesday raised an amount of OMR158 million by way of allotting 28-day maturity treasury bills. **>B1**

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PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:22pm
Asr.....3:28pm
Maghrib.....5:49pm
Isha.....7:03pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:32am

Omani-French Friendship Association appoints new president, board members

Sulaiman Al Harthy, Chief Executive Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, already a member of OFA, was nominated to the position of President of the Board



OFA is a non-profit organisation that aims at providing a platform that promotes friendship, understanding and matters of mutual interest between French and Omani business and social communities active in the Sultanate of Oman.

Members of the Board
The members of the Board of the Omani-French Friendship Association are: Sulaiman bin Hamed Al Harthi - Chief Executive Officer, Alizz Islamic Bank, Erwan Rouxel - Contracts Representative, Veolia, Sheikhah Hind Bahwan - Founder and Chairperson, Bahwan Cybernetek Group, Talal Said Marhoon Al Mamari- Chief Executive Officer, Oman Telecommunications Company SAOG, Nailesh K Khimji - Director, Khimji Ramdas, Mohammed Al Kharusi - Group Director, Business Development, Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC, Saleh Al Zakwani - Executive Chairman, Apex Press & Publishing, Shawqi Sultan, Sergio Giorgi - Managing Director, Total Energies.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani-French Friendship Association held a board meeting on January 13, 2022, during which it appointed a new president, welcomed new members of the Board and of the events committee, and approved

an ambitious programme of events for the first semester 2022.

Sulaiman Al Harthy, Chief Executive Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, already a member of OFA, was nominated to the position of President of the Board.

All present Board members, as well as the French Ambassador,

Honorary member, paid tribute to the former president, Sheikhah Hind Bahwan, for her instrumental role in establishing OFA as a major bilateral association and her continued involvement.

The Board also welcomed a new member Sergio Giorgi, new Managing Director of Total En-

ergies in Oman, as well as two new committee members, Fatma Al Barakat and Bechir Chehab, Managing Director of JC Decaux in Oman.

After an intense agenda in the fall 2021 including a Board meeting, an inspirational women of Oman conference, a gastronomic

event at the French Residence for "Goutte France", a presentation on VAT in November, followed by an encouraging conference on adventure tourism in December, the programme of activities of OFA for the first semester 2022 will include three conferences, on perfumes in February, on digital transformation in March within the 4th edition of the French Week, and on energy in May, as well as social and cultural events, with a networking cocktail in January, a traditional Iftar in April and a live music in June, for the "Fête de la musique".

THIRD MEETING

Oman, GCC-Jordan team discuss social development



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, on Tuesday hosted the third meeting of the joint action GCC-Jordan team operating in the field of social development for the period 2021-2025.

The meeting discussed mechanisms for activating the proposed plan of action between Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the Kingdom of Jordan in social affairs.

The plan covers the exchange of expertise in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The proposed solutions for this segment include finding alternatives, like guardianship homes, and supporting them with

a package of services. The plan also deals with the protection of victims of violence and human trafficking, as well as juveniles facing adverse conditions.

The meeting touched on the significance of participating in experiments related to aftercare services for those who pass out of social institutions. It envisaged ways to develop a joint strategy for GCC-Jordan cooperation in all areas of social, psychological and economic support for individuals and families in need.

The meeting also underlined the need to support civil society institutions, explore successful experiences in the field and provide institutionalised social support for women. -ONA

17 - 20 FEBRUARY 2022

Omani businessmen invited to see Sri Lanka's brands at Dubai Expo

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The exhibition of Sri Lanka's export brands which is scheduled to be held at Expo Dubai from 17 - 20 February 2022 in Dubai, was introduced to the Omani business fraternity and invitations were extended for them to visit the venue.

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman, Ameer Ajwad, jointly with the Secretary General of the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka, Shiham Marikkar, who undertook a visit to Oman from 1 - 5 January 2022 for this purpose, met with the Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Eng. Redha bin Juma Al Saleh and the Commissioner-General of Oman at Dubai Expo 2020, and the Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Mohsen Khamis Al Balushi in Muscat and briefed them on the details of the Sri Lanka Export Brands Exhibition.

"The Sri Lanka Export Brands" is a multi-sectoral exhibition which will display leading export brands of Sri Lankan origin. 75 Sri Lanka exporters representing



various sectors ranging from food and beverages, gem and jewellery, organic and herbal products, rubber and rubber based products, spice and spice based products, tea and tea based products, coco-

nut and coconut products, glass and glass based products, wood and wood based products, floriculture and horticulture products, artificial and natural handicrafts, packing products, water treatment

systems, machinery and light engineering products, service providers to exporter sector, business and professional services, etc., will exhibit their products and services at the Expo Dubai from 17 - 20 February 2022.

Potential Omani visitors will be able to meet with the top officials of the 75 Sri Lankan organisations who will be exhibiting their products/services and also to discuss their requirements while viewing samples.

Ambassador Ameer Ajwad pointed out that the Omani business fraternity would be immensely benefit by visiting the Sri Lankan Exhibition as they could meet with a large number of their Sri Lankan counterparts under one roof at next door in Dubai, and interact with them to establish business links in the relevant sectors of their mutual interest.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Oman also arranged a series of business meetings for the Secretary General Shiham Marikkar with the CEOs/representatives of leading private companies including retail businesses and hypermarkets as well as the media personnel in the Sultanate of Oman.

COOPERATION

Discussion on boosting trade with Jordan

MUSCAT: Asilah Salim Al Samami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment reviewed means of enhancing trade and investment cooperation with businesspeople and investors from Jordan.

The meeting aimed to increase trade exchange between the two countries.

The meeting also touched on the incentives offered by the ministry and the investment opportunities in the industrial field. Presentations were given on the advantages provided for inves-



tors by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), Khazaen Economic City and the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ).

The initiatives and achievements of the past period in supporting investors, easing procedures and attracting foreign capital to Oman were also covered in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Amjad Al Quhaiwi, Ambassador of Jordan to Oman and several officials from both sides.

-ONA

HONOUR

Scholarship for PSM student

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad, Pakistan awards meritorious scholarships to 165 students every year at both SSC and HSSC levels.

It is a matter of pride for the Pakistan School Muscat that FBISE has recognised the commendable efforts put in by team, and granted a scholarship in the SSC Annual Board Examination held during the session 2021.

The meritorious scholarship was awarded to Eman Younus on the basis of her performance in



SSC, FBISE Exam for securing 1092 /1100 marks.

It is indeed a matter of pride for students, faculty, parents, community and Pakistan School System.

CRUDE

< FROM A1 Additional fund to fuel diversification

"We could benefit from this money to create income-generating projects and employment for our citizens, and help pay off high-interest debts."

In this context, Khalfan Al Touqi, another analyst, added that with the price of oil for 2022 assumed at \$50 a barrel in the State General Budget, the far higher prices at which oil is being currently sold could be used to fuel diversification and economic expansion.

"Any increase in oil prices above the estimate set in the budget will only be in the nation's favour, so this means we would be able to pay off some of the public debt owed by the country," he said.

"This money can also be pumped into the local market to

revive the local economy.

New jobs

"This in turn will help revive the private sector, enabling the creation of new jobs, which will also work to meet government priorities of creating more opportunities for people to work," added Al Touqi.

He explained that the rise in oil price was also due to two key global factors: the agreement of OPEC and OPEC+ oil producers to follow previously decided production quotas, as well as the gradual return to life in across societies and economies in Oman and around the world, which were strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Demand for oil is also still high

in a number of major countries, including China, India, the US, and the European Union, which continue to import oil and have not yet drawn from their strategic reserves," he said.

Al Touqi added, though, that Gulf countries would also experience a downside to the increase in oil prices, relating to the import of goods.

Import cost

"Oman is of course among the Gulf countries that import many of their goods," he admitted.

"If the prices of oil are higher, this will affect the cost of goods made in countries such as China, India, or the US, among others, which in turn will lead to a higher import cost for countries buying

them." Furthermore, AD Juma bin Saleh Al Ghailani, told Al Shabiba, the Arabic publication of the *Times of Oman*, "Under present circumstances, I expected the price of oil to touch \$100 a barrel. This money could indeed be used to help diversify income sources away from just oil and gas."

Five oil producers in the Middle East use the Oman futures contract pricing scheme of the DME to sell their commodities: Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Emirate of Dubai.

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SHELL OMAN

< FROM A1 Clean energy

Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, said: "I would like to extend our thanks and recognition to Shell Oman for its continuous and fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Education in consolidating students' awareness of clean energy and its importance in our future lives, by adopting two major projects in this area.

"The first project is Solar into Schools, where solar PV systems have been installed in 22 public schools across the Sultanate over the past five years, and the first solar PV systems have been piloted in Oman," he added. "The project focused on educating generations about the importance of clean energy solutions.

"The second one is the NXplor-

ers educational programme, which was also implemented in the 22 schools, through which Shell aims to enhance students' scientific knowledge and skills and practically demonstrate that knowledge through direct interaction with solar PV systems in their schools. We in the Ministry of Education commend this cooperation and hope to continue to cooperate with Shell to take scientific projects to a better and broader horizon."

By partnering with local SMEs to execute the Solar into Schools project, Shell Oman was able to foster the growth and development of renewable energy sector while empowering individual entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills to capitalise on potential business opportunities.



An advertisement for Eshaar Classifieds. The background is orange with a large white 'V' shape. At the top is the Eshaar Classifieds logo, which includes the word 'Eshaar' in Arabic and English, and 'Classifieds' in English. Below the logo is a yellow button with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' in black. The text 'To the Times Eshaar Classified advertisement services' is centered. Below this is a line of dots. The text 'Start receiving regular discount deals and detailed information on products, services, used vehicles and much more' is centered. Below this is another line of dots. The text 'Whatsapp your name to +968 93388405' is centered. Below this is the text 'and also stand to WIN exciting gifts'. At the bottom is a man with a surprised expression, wearing a blue shirt and holding a red smartphone. In the bottom left corner is the Times of Oman logo.

WORLD



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WINTER OLYMPICS

China stops selling Olympics’ tickets to general public

BELJING: China on Monday announced that it will restrain selling tickets to the general public for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

As per the organisers, the move comes amid community infections of the highly contagious Omicron coronavirus variant that have been expanding in China, reported Kyodo News. Spectator tickets for the sporting event, slated to start February 4, are expected to be distributed to a limited number of people through government organisations and state-run companies to prevent the further outbreak of COVID-19 at home.

The decision indicated that President Xi Jinping, who has been eager to cement his grip to secure a controversial third term as the leader at the Communist Party’s twice-a-decade congress in fall, has given up hosting the Beijing Olympics in complete form, pundits said, reported Kyodo News. In a speech online Monday at a session of the World Economic Forum, Xi was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as expressing confidence that China will present a streamlined, safe and splendid Olympics to the world.

In September 2021, the International Olympic Committee unveiled a basic slate of preventive steps against the spread of the virus at the Beijing Games, including a ban on all spectators except residents of mainland China, reported Kyodo News.

“Tickets will be sold exclusively to spectators residing in China’s mainland, who meet the requirements of the COVID-19 counter-measures,” the IOC said in a press release at the time. **ANI**



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European Parliament elects Roberta Metsola as president

Metsola has been acting president since the death of her predecessor David Sassoli, to whom she was vice president

NEW PRESIDENT: The timing of the election had nothing to do with Sassoli’s death. He had been due to leave at the end of January — after two-and-a-half years in post — under a power-sharing deal.

years in post — under a power-sharing deal.

Who is the new president?
At the age of 43, Metsola is the youngest person in the history of the legislature to hold the post and the first woman in 20 years.

She comes from the conservative European People’s Party (EPP) faction, whereas Sassoli was a member of the center-left Socialists & Democrats (S&D) political grouping.

Metsola switched from Maltese to Italian and English to French in

her maiden speech.

“I feel honored by the responsibility with which you are entrusting me,” she told fellow lawmakers at the parliamentary meeting in the French city of Strasbourg.

She gave a warning that some forces would “continue to test the

limits of our values and European principles,” warning that the legislature would need to “fight back against anti-EU sentiment which takes hold so quickly and so easily.”

“To those who seek to destroy Europe, know that this house stands against you,” she said.

Metsola has been a member of the European Parliament since 2013. As a member of Malta’s center-right Nationalist Party, she has been active since her youth having campaigned as a student for the small island nation to become a member of the EU. Her strong opposition to abortion has drawn criticism from some opponents.

As President of the European Parliament, she will direct the activities of the legislature’s plenary sessions, and maintain order during sittings. The president also gives the floor to speakers, signs laws, and customarily speaks at the opening of EU summits.

The Greens, the Left and the national-conservative European Conservative and Reformist factions also presented candidates. However, as the EPP’s choice, Metsola had been considered the frontrunner.

The parliament has had only two previous female presidents, Simone Veil and Nicole Fontaine, both French, since it became a directly elected assembly in 1979.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated Metsola on her election.

“As the third woman to head this noble house, your hard work & determination are an inspiration to us all,” she tweeted.

Agreement to hand over
Sassoli passed away at the age of 65 after several months of poor health. He had been a member of the EU assembly for more than 10 years, having switched from journalism to politics with Italy’s center-left Democratic Party.

He was unexpectedly elected in 2019 with the support of two major political groupings — the S&D and the EPP, as well as liberal members.

Sassoli and the groups had reached an agreement for him to hand over the post to someone from the EPP halfway through his term.

The parliament on Monday honored Sassoli at a plenary session in Strasbourg on Monday, with fellow parliamentarians holding a minute’s silence. **bw**

DEVASTATING VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Deaths confirmed in Tonga after volcanic eruption

NUKU’ALOFA: Officials in Tonga confirmed that at least three people have died following Saturday’s massive volcanic eruption and tsunami in the government’s first statement since the catastrophe.

A closed airport and lack of communication have continued to hinder international relief measures on the Pacific island nation, even as significant damage was reported along the western coast of the country’s main island on Tuesday.

What is the extent of the damage?
Tonga officials said three deaths were confirmed so far.

In the first known death from the catastrophe, British national Angela Glover, 50, was killed in the tsunami as she attempted to save dogs at a rescue shelter she had set up with her husband in Tonga, her brother said. The Tonga government confirmed her death, adding that at least two other people have also died. Officials did not immediately provide figures on the number of injuries.

“Water supplies have been seriously affected by the volcanic ash,” the government said in a statement. “Challenges to the sea and air transportation remain due to damage sustained by the wharves and the ash that is covering the runways. Domestic and international flights have been deferred until further notice as the airports undergo clean-up.”

The New Zealand High Commission reported damage on the island of Tongatapu, which is home to many holiday resorts, and the waterfront of capital Nuku’alofa.

The United Nations also said that satellite visuals showed extensive damage on the western coast of Tongatapu, with several resorts and houses destroyed or severely damaged.

Extent of injuries unclear
High waves from the eruption have also affected faraway Peru, where two women drowned. The country also reported an oil spill after a ship was jolted while transferring oil at a refinery.

The official toll of injuries and damage from the disaster on

Tonga is still unclear, as the South Pacific archipelago has remained severed from the rest of the world after its main undersea communications cable was cut during the eruption on the uninhabited volcanic island of Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha’apai. Repairing the cable is likely to take weeks.

“We don’t have any further information that would suggest... significant casualties, although, as you would appreciate, information is still relatively patchy,” Australia’s Minister for the Pacific Zed Seselja said on Nine’s Today show on Tuesday.

He said the airport could likely open by Wednesday, with volcanic ash currently preventing planes from landing safely.

“The priority now will be to get supplies to Tonga, and the biggest constraint on that at the moment... is the airport. There is still a significant amount of ash,” Seselja said.

Violence concerns, international aid on standby
Australia and New Zealand had sent surveillance planes on Monday to assess the damage.

Seselja said Australian police had reported significant damage along beaches with “houses thrown around.”

Australian navy ship HMAS Adelaide was on standby for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support if requested by the Tonga government.

New Zealand said a Hercules C-130 aircraft was on standby to deliver aid supplies as soon as it was safe to land on Tongatapu.

But Tonga’s deputy head of mission in Australia, Curtis Tu’ihalingie, said Tonga was

concerned that aid deliveries could spread coronavirus in the COVID-free nation.

“We don’t want to bring in another wave — a tsunami of COVID-19,” Tu’ihalingie told news agency Reuters. He urged the public to wait for a disaster relief fund to donate, adding that any aid sent to Tonga would need to be quarantined, and it was possible that no foreign personnel would be allowed to leave the aircraft.

Distress signal detected
The UN said on Tuesday that it had detected a distress beacon from Tonga.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) expressed concern about the small low-lying islands of Mango and Fonoi. An active distress signal was detected from Mango.

“Communication is still the most challenging single issue as internet and international phone lines are still out of order,” the OCHA said. “Satellite phones are the only reliable instrument for communication with the outside but they, too, do not always work reliably.”

Meanwhile, the New Zealand High Commission said that it was trying to establish communications with smaller islands “as a matter of priority.”

The eruption triggered atmospheric shockwaves and unusually large waves that traveled as far as Alaska, Japan and South America.

Professor Bettina Scheu, a volcanologist at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich told DW that while such eruptions are common in the area, ones of this magnitude were very infrequent. **bw**

INVASION OF UKRAINE

Germany and NATO urge Russia to de-escalate on Ukraine border

BERLIN: The German chancellor and the head of NATO on Tuesday urged Russia to de-escalate amid fears that Moscow may be planning an invasion of Ukraine.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke after the pair met in Berlin to discuss the perceived threat of a conflict.

What did the leaders say?
Scholz said Germany and NATO expected Russia to de-escalate the situation on the border with Ukraine by, for example, reducing the number of troops there.

He said both were agreed that Russia would face severe political and economic consequences if there was an invasion.

“We are finding in these days again how important it is that we together make our contribution to ensure stability, peace, and security in Europe,” said Scholz. “It cannot be taken for granted that this is always the case.”

Stoltenberg said NATO allies were keen to engage with Russia on any concerns it may have, urging Russia to talk.

“The risk of a conflict is real,” Stoltenberg said. “NATO allies call on Russia to deescalate. We

encourage Russia to reverse its decision to cut diplomatic ties with NATO.”

Moscow has stationed some 100,000 troops near the border with Ukraine, something the West has interpreted as preparation for a war to stop Ukraine from ever joining NATO. The alliance agreed at a summit in 2008 that Ukraine would one day become a member.

Stoltenberg said he had invited Russia and NATO allies to new talks “in the near future.” He said the aim was to “address our concerns but also listen to Russia’s concerns, and to try to find a way forward to prevent any military attack against Ukraine.”

Russia denies that it is planning an invasion.

Germany wants talks on ‘security for all’
The Western military alliance has been seeking dialogue with Moscow, although talks appear to have stalled.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, while visiting Moscow on Tuesday— said Berlin was prepared for a serious dialogue with Moscow about “security for all in Europe.” On Monday, Baerbock visited the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, where she warned that Russia faced a firm response if it resorted to military escalation. **bw**

ANTI-COUP PROTESTS

Seven killed after security forces open fire during protests in Sudan

KHARTOUM: Sudanese security forces on Monday have been accused of killing at least seven people during anti-coup protests in the capital Khartoum.

An advocacy group, the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors (CCSD), said in a statement posted on social media that “seven civilians were killed by the live ammunition of security forces during today’s anti-coup peaceful protests.”

The clash increased the num-

ber killed since the October coup to 71. Thousands of people again flooded the streets of the capital city on Monday, demonstrating against military rule of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Activist Nazim Sirag posted footage on Twitter showing men, women and children marching peacefully through the streets of Khartoum. Those in the crowd chanted slogans and waved flags.

Sirag said that security forces opened fire on a number of

marches in the capital, including one in which demonstrators had marched on the presidential palace.

In other videos circulating on various platforms online, young men can be seen throwing stones.

There have been allegations in the past that the military used anti-aircraft weapons on protesters.

The CCSD said that around 100 people had also been wounded as a result of the actions of security personnel. **bw**



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SPORTS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Robert Lewandowski beats Messi to win FIFA Best Men's player award

ZURICH: Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second year in succession on Monday.

Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas, who had made The Best FIFA Women's Player shortlist for the first time, won the prestigious award. Lewandowski defeated Lionel Messi and Mohamed Salah to clinch the award for the second time in the row.

"The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 ceremony, held as a virtual TV show from the Home of FIFA in Zurich, crowned two household names, Alexia Putellas and Robert Lewandowski, as the outstanding players in women's and men's football respectively," a statement from FIFA read.

Senegal shot-stopper Edouard Mendy made it a hat-trick for the London club by being chosen as The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper, becoming the first African to win the accolade, while Chile and Olympique Lyonnais' Christine



ane Endler was named The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper on the strength of her sensational displays.

The Best FIFA Football Awards ceremony also recognised two outstanding performances on the international stage, where landmark goal-scoring records have been broken.

Christine Sinclair, with 188 goals in 308 caps for Canada, received The Best FIFA Special Award for women's football, and Cristiano Ronaldo, with 115 goals

in 184 appearances for Portugal, received The Best FIFA Special Award for men's football.

The Danish men's national team medical team, coaching staff and players responded heroically after Christian Eriksen collapsed during Denmark's match against Finland at UEFA EURO 2020, respectively giving him immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), forming a circle to shield him from cameras and comforting his wife and family. **ANI**

ROTAX MAX CHALLENGE

Runner-up finish for Oman's Shonal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Shonal Kunimal's excellent run in the ongoing 2021-22 UAE Rotax Max Challenge (RMC) continues as the ten-year-old finished second in the fourth round of the series at the Dubai Kartdrome on Sunday.

The two-day fourth round was disrupted by incessant rains with the organisers finally declaring the top-three finishers based on the performances of the day one action that comprised three heat races.

Shonal, a fifth-grade student of Indian School Ghubra (ISG), has displayed good form since the start of the season and his second-place finish on the weekend ensured that he remains among the top-three on the overall standings with 314 points.

Dubai-based Russian Maxim Bobreshov, who won the fourth round honours, leads the overall standings (385) while Dubai-based Greek racer Leonidas Peruzzi, who came behind Shonal on Sunday, is placed overall second (336).

Shonal stood second behind Maxim in all the three heats to deservingly take the runner-up slot.



The podium result is a boost to Shonal's confidence ahead of the highly competitive Dubai O'Plate race, scheduled next weekend.

Speaking after the latest results, Shonal said, "I am satisfied with my speed and was second in all the three heats. I was hopeful of a strong show in the final race but then rains forced the abandonment of the final day's action."

Mentored by former Oman international go-karting racer Sanad Al Rawahi, Shonal said, "I would like to thank my dad [Shojai Kunimal] and coach Sanad for all their guidance and trust in me. Their support has been instrumental in my development as a racer."

"I also owe my good results to my team's technical assistants - Carlo John Bariquit and Mark Rose. My efforts would be to now win races that have eluded me. Though I have been on podiums, I need to improve to win races consistently."

Speaking about his son's recent showing, Kunimal said that 'Shonal has the talent to grow into a top-class go-karting champion but needs lot of support.'

Kunimal thanked OAA managing director Suleiman al Rawahi for his continuous backing and believed that with proper support, Shonal will be winning races at regional level regularly in the near future.

CRICKET

Oman Women beat Wanstead by 11 runs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Women captain Vaishali Jesrani topscored with a fighting 29, leading her side to an exciting 11-run victory against the touring Wanstead Women Cricket Club of UK here at Oman Cricket Turf 1 in Amerat on Tuesday.

Oman now leads the three-match T20 series 1-0 with the next games following on January 20 and 21 at OC Turf 2.

Wanstead had a good first session, restricting Oman to just 103 for 6 in 20 overs, except that it gave away 17 runs in extras including 13 wides and 3 no balls.

Knowing her side's ability to de-

fend a total, Vaishali stayed on till the 16th over, forging partnerships, running hard for singles, and keeping the scoreboard ticking.

The ever-reliable Fiza Javed chipped in with a useful 22 and by the end of 20 overs Oman had reached a total that it believed was worth a fight.

And fight it did. Wanstead had a wonderful start, reaching 62 for 1 in 13 overs before Oman started to fight back. Yasmin Daswani (29 off 42) was trapped in front by Prinyanka.

Though the tourists took the fight to the last over, by that time they had clearly run out of steam, and wickets as well, getting bowled

out for 92 with 3 balls to spare. Yasmin Daswani and Saba Naseem were their main scorers with the scores of 29 and 28 respectively.

Oman bowlers

Bhakti Shetty and Priyanka Mandonca were the pick of Oman bowlers, taking two wickets each.

Brief scores: Oman Women 103 for 6 in 20 overs (Vaishali Jesrani 29 - 1x4, Fiza Javed 22 - 1x4, Sakshi Shetty 14 - 1x4, Prinyanka Mendonca 11 - 1x4) beat Wanstead Women CC 92 all out in 19.3 overs (Yasmin Daswani 29 - 1x4, Saba Naseem 28 - 3x4, Aaisha Usman 10 - 1x4, Bhakti Shetty 2-10, Priyanka Mendonca 2-15) by 11 runs.



HONORARY PRESIDENT

Real Madrid legend Gento passes away

MADRID: Real Madrid legend Francisco Gento, the only footballer in history to have won six European Cups, passed away today at the age of 88.

Greatest legends

The official website of Real Madrid has issued a statement on this regard reading as follows: "Real Madrid C.F., its president and board of directors deeply regret the death of Francisco Gento, honorary president of Real Madrid and one of the greatest

legends of our club and of world football."

Gento had been the honorary president of Real Madrid until his death, a position he had inherited from his friend and former teammate Alfredo Di Stefano.

Together, the pair converted Real Madrid into the standout Spanish and European powerhouse, winning five consecutive European Cups, a milestone that no one has been able to match, according to the Spanish news.

-ONA



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2022 reaching \$8670, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.76 from the price of Monday, which was \$84.94. - ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS STABLE

The MSX index closing remained stable at 4,216.82 points, from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.51 per cent at 514.60 points. OIFC Bond, up 5.88 per cent was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Holding down 8.06 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR158mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from January 19 until February 16

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR158 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from January 19 until February 16, 2022.

The average accepted price reached 99.951 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.64230 per cent and 0.64261 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Faci-



lity with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

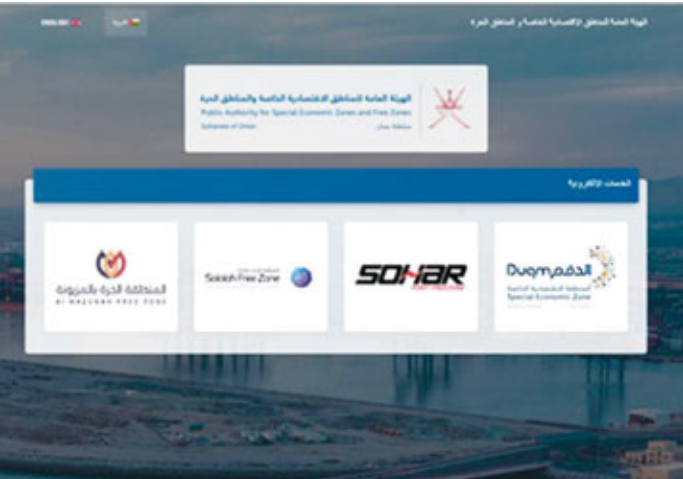
Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The

Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

Furthermore, the treasury bills promote the local money market

by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



ELECTRONIC PORTAL: The electronic services provided by Opaz contribute to accelerating, organising and simplifying the pace of business in the way the digital government seeks to achieve.

- ONA

Opaz launches two new services on electronic portal of Special Economic Zone at Duqm

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) announced the launch of two new services on the electronic portal of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

This endeavour comes in line with the digital transformation programme implemented in the zones overseen by Opaz. This reflects its continuous efforts to automate the procedures related to investors.

In this regard, Eng. Ahmed Harib Al Balushi, In-Charge of Managing Operations of the Control and Compliance Sector at the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, said, "The first service comes as an inventory of chemicals, while the second is forming an inventory of hazardous wastes. Introducing these two services comes after completing the electronic system for managing chemicals and hazardous wastes in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm."

"Both services contribute to achieving the proper management of hazardous chemicals and wastes, as well as facilitating the procedures for investors when sending their periodic reports about data and information on hazardous chemicals and wastes. Moreover, these services will serve to provide information to the relevant government and private bodies in the Sultanate of Oman about data related to chemicals and wastes, both in terms of types, quantities, or importing countries, the purpose of dealing with them, in addition to the classification of wastes, its quantities, source, and methods of treatment," Al Balushi commented.

He further remarked that the new system contributes to facilitating the process of managing, monitoring and controlling

This endeavour comes in line with the digital transformation programme implemented in the zones overseen by Opaz

hazardous chemicals and wastes, especially the prohibited chemicals, which will help the Sultanate of Oman in general and Opaz in particular to meet the requirements of international agreements ratified by Oman in cooperation with the authorities concerned. The system also helps in saving time and effort, increasing efficiency, and establishing a national inventory for hazardous chemicals in SEZD.

On the other hand, Mohammed Abdulmajeed Al Hooti, In-Charge of Managing the Operations of Applications and Digital Transformation Department at the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, pointed out, "The new system will be developed in the future in a way that keeps pace with the increasing number of industrial projects in SEZD. Further, the digital transformation plan implemented by Opaz is streamlined with the efforts of other concerned government plans."

He added that the electronic services provided by Opaz contribute to accelerating, organising and simplifying the pace of business in the way the digital government seeks to achieve. Al Hooti also noted, "Other services will be introduced this year in a bid to stimulate the business environment in the special economic zones and free zones." -ONA

FINANCE PRODUCT

Bank Muscat Green Finance: Facilitating a sustainable future

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The recent celebration of the Omani Environment Day on January 8 once again highlighted the keen focus with which the Sultanate has been implementing different initiatives to protect our environment.

The strong participation of society and the private sector under the leadership of the Ministry of Environmental Affairs has been a great encouragement in this regard. Today, the widespread adoption of renewable energy is a key part of creating a green economy in the Sultanate, and Bank Muscat has been playing its part in making largescale adoption of alternative energy possible by the general public with the introduction of Green Finance for the installation of residential solar panels.

Green Finance, which is Oman's first environmentally-friendly finance product, was earlier launched in 2019 in association with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It encourages customers to install solar panels on their rooftops and use solar energy for a large part of their house-



hold energy requirements.

Under the scheme, loans up to OMR25,000 are being given to eligible individuals at highly competitive interest rates. This unique initiative reflects the bank's commitment to responsible banking and its continuous contributions to the country's overall progress and development.

Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, General Manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said, "We are delighted with the response to the pioneering Green Finance scheme.

A transformation is taking place at present as renewable energy gets more and more popular. As a pioneer in offering products that meet the different needs of customers and a strong supporter of Public-Private Partnership in promoting national goals, the bank has been participating in many environmental-friendly initiatives.

"Bank Muscat is particularly keen to play its role in helping achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040. Customers will be able to install residential solar panels and

use solar energy for a large part of their household requirements. It is important to note that this initiative will help Oman in reducing harmful emissions and also energy costs for customers."

The bank's customers can obtain Green Finance from any of the bank's branches located across the Sultanate. They can visit the nearest branch with the required documents and obtain financing starting at 3.5 per cent for a period of up to 5 years.

It must be noted that the sustainability strategy pursued by Bank Muscat is focused on delivering long-term benefits to the community and the nation. The bank's CSR and sustainability programmes, in particular, have been well appreciated and received a number of accolades.

The bank was recently honoured by the Ministry of Social Development and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its efforts in supporting persons with disabilities. Earlier in 2021, the bank also won the Middle East Sustainability Award from EMEA Finance for its efforts in the field of sustainability and CSR.

COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

CMA launches electronic platform for communication with insurance companies

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) continued its endeavours to provide the best electronic services for communication with the community besides attempting to provide electronic channels to ease and expedite communication with the regulated entities.

CMA's executive president Abdullah bin Salim Al-Salmi launched Communication Channel which is an electronic service and direct communication link between the Institutional Services Department of the CMA and insurance companies which enables direct conversation with a company or multiple companies through sending messages on specific issues such as policyholders' complaints and other issues. The platform provides several features.

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MARKET

MSX index ends stable

OIFC Bond, up 5.88 per cent was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Holding down 8.06 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closing remained stable at 4,216.82 points, from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.51 per cent at 514.60 points. OIFC Bond, up 5.88 per cent was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Holding down 8.06 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Ooredoo were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 648 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.98 million, with more than 16.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded securities, 16 advanced, 14 declined and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, Domestic investors were net sell-

ers for OMR663,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR627,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR36,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,724.2 points, down by 0.16 per cent. Prices of Bank Muscat, Taageer Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa, and Al Omaniya Financial Services were up by 1.55 per cent, 1.28 per cent, 1.06 per cent, 1.01 per cent, and 0.76 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Muscat Insurance, National Bank Oman, and Sohar International Bank were down by 8.07 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 2.13 per cent, 1.87 per cent, and 1.72 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,955.97 points, down by 0.08 per cent. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,223.31	4,212.40	4,216.82	4,216.88	-0.05	0.00	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,742.09	6,721.47	6,724.19	6,735.02	-10.83	-0.16	
Industry Index	5,963.28	5,955.97	5,955.97	5,960.73	-4.76	-0.08	
Services Index	1,653.68	1,649.98	1,652.78	1,651.51	1.27	0.08	
MSX Shariah Index	514.72	512.53	514.60	511.97	2.64	0.51	
MSX TR INDEX	5,082.14	5,069.01	5,074.34	5,074.40	-0.06	0.00	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
16,963,797	2,982,251	648	22,387,614,107	16	14	21	51

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RU)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	871,825	456,269	27	0.520	0.524	0.520	0.524	0.516	0.008	1.550	0.524	0.524	0.524	0.100	1,873,024,791
OM0000002226	AL AZEERA SERVICES	20,000	6,740	5	0.336	0.338	0.336	0.336	0.332	0.004	1.305	0.336	0.334	0.338	0.100	20,564,536
OM0000002005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	33,707	14,894	10	0.440	0.444	0.440	0.442	0.438	0.004	0.813	0.444	0.440	0.448	0.100	24,510,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	15,000	1,920	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.001	0.787	0.128	0.123	0.130	0.100	10,880,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINS	155,000	20,450	2	0.132	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.131	0.001	0.783	0.130	0.130	0.133	0.100	38,535,443
OM0000002969	OOREDOO	1,633,831	612,656	11	0.376	0.376	0.372	0.374	0.372	0.002	0.538	0.376	0.374	0.376	0.100	243,453,142
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	240,295	186,423	13	0.772	0.776	0.772	0.776	0.772	0.004	0.518	0.776	0.772	0.776	0.100	582,000,000
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SER	450,000	200,631	6	0.444	0.446	0.444	0.446	0.444	0.002	0.450	0.446	0.438	0.446	0.100	105,438,860
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	500	354	1	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.000	0.000	0.708	0.704	0.708	0.100	111,510,000
OM0000001418	BAVSUT CEMENT	460	93	1	0.202	0.202	0.202	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.202	0.206	0.210	0.100	43,400,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	562,288	89,634	44	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.100	37,883,000
OM0000001523	OMINVEST	5,000	616	1	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.306	0.306	0.000	0.000	0.308	0.300	0.310	0.100	204,519,820
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	2,025	484	1	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.244	0.244	0.000	0.000	0.239	0.233	0.245	0.100	80,732,941
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	246,122	29,210	12	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.100	232,008,238
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	141,653	12,817	12	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.093	0.100	8,100,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	1,100	757	2	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.692	0.692	0.000	0.000	0.688	0.676	0.688	0.100	47,748,000
OM0000002178	IAZEERA STEEL PROD	113,698	46,571	19	0.406	0.408	0.404	0.406	0.408	-0.002	-0.480	0.404	0.404	0.410	0.100	50,708,572
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	155,000	68,820	7	0.444	0.444	0.444	0.444	0.448	-0.004	-0.883	0.444	0.440	0.442	0.100	97,680,000
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	120,800	10,026	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.082	0.088	0.100	8,300,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	131,000	7,467	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.057	0.058	0.100	17,207,241
OM0000003388	SOHAR INT BANK	4,017,650	459,280	29	0.116	0.116	0.114	0.114	0.116	-0.002	-1.724	0.114	0.114	0.115	0.100	340,867,101
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	242,928	21,910	19	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.090	0.092	-0.002	-2.174	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	18,000,000
Total	9156,912	2,247,711	227													

Parallel Market																
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	71,400	8,053	21	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.108	0.005	4.630	0.113	0.111	0.118	0.100	3,793,574
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	2,321,261	242,851	135	0.102	0.106	0.102	0.105	0.101	0.004	3.960	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	1,021,505	80,943	56	0.078	0.081	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.080	0.080	0.081	0.100	20,033,030
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	100,000	9,800	7	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.994	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	16,653,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	488,250	48,702	18	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000002804	ASAFIA FOODS	3,000	390	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.001	0.629	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	24,310,000
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	326,830	33,960	6	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	208,032,530
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	3,000	165	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.060	0.100	6,875,000
OM0000002297	GULF MUSHROOM P	128,750	16,491	19	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	10,942,186
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	110	95	2	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	0.860	0.860	0.920	0.100	87,400,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	176,030	10,210	6	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	20,250,376
OM0000002549	BANK DHOAF	128,750	16,491	19	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	10,942,186
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	778,000	53,720	32	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.073	0.100	13,800,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	52,216	5,170	6	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.095	0.099	0.100	8,058,872
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	4,223	232	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	11,370,229
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	179,100	8,955	5	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.045	0.050	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	1,310	440	1	0.336	0.336	0.336	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.336	0.000	0.336	0.100	90,100,000
OM0000007310	AMAN REAL ESTATE	14,900	1,241	4	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENGINEER	60,000	4,510	3	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.318	0.076	0.074	0.076	0.100	15,223,983
OM0000007407	DHOAF GENERATING	301,814	20,050	22	0.065	0.067	0.065	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	14,667,840
OM0000001179	MUSCAT GASES	15,200	2,971	6	0.163	0.163	0.160	0.161	0.164	-0.003	-1.829	0.161	0.160	0.161	0.100	4,830,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	608,657	127,802	20	0.206	0.210	0.206	0.210	0.214	-0.004	-1.869	0.210	0.202	0.210	0.100	341,448,735
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	38,384	18,239	22	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	651,863	31,574	25	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	34,291,504
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	2,205	1,014	1	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.470	-0.010	-2.128	0.460	0.432	0.460	1.000	5,071,521
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	50,806	2,889	5	0.061	0.061	0.056	0.057	0.062	-0.005	-8.065	0.056	0.056	0.064	0.100	6,946,875
Total	26	7249,714	731,015	415												

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

World Future Energy Summit 2022 kicks off in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: The World Future Energy Summit began as part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The summit brings together industry leaders from around the world to showcase their technologies and innovations at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

The three-day summit is the leading international event accelerating sustainability and the global transition to clean energy. Exhibition, technology showcase, investment incubator and business forum all rolled into one event, the summit convenes leaders, innovators and global thinkers

to share ideas that are creating the blueprints for a sustainable future. The wider agenda for the summit includes important sessions on the global energy transition, the future of transportation, the health energy nexus, carbon capture and storage, the blue economy. —WAM

MEETING

India set to achieve \$650 billion exports target in 2021-22

NEW DELHI: India is set to achieve \$650 billion exports target in the current financial year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Out of the targeted \$650 billion, \$400 billion will be merchandise exports while the rest \$250 billion will be services exports. Chairing a review meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), Goyal said the \$650 billion exports target for the current financial year is achievable.

He noted that merchandise exports reached \$300 billion mark in the first nine months of the current financial year.

"In December alone we touched \$37 billion goods exports despite the Omicron fear factor weighing high. This month, in 15 days till January 15, we have reached \$16 billion," he said. Goyal assured Export Promotion Councils that his Ministry would do whatever it takes in handholding the EPCs and resolving their issues to attain even higher export targets in the next financial year.

Speaking of the government's efforts to improve the ease of living and the ease of doing business, Goyal said that more than 25,000 compliances have been reduced. —ANI

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HOW TO SAVOUR FOOD BETTER AND DODGE WEIGHT GAIN

A RECENT STUDY

by Waseda University, Japan, provided a causal link between chewing and diet-induced thermogenesis (DIT). The study, led by Dr Yuka Hamada and Professor Naoyuki Hayashi, has been published in the journal 'Scientific Reports'.

The fact that chewing food well makes a healthy eating habit is an age-old wisdom. Slow eating and thorough chewing help prevent obesity and weight gain – a view popularized a century back and tested afterwards in sporadic scientific studies.

Typically, the chewing process reportedly enhanced the energy expenditure associated with the metabolism of food and increased intestinal motility – all summing up to an increased heat generation in the body after food intake, known as diet-induced thermogenesis (DIT). However, how prolonged chewing induces DIT in the body, remains unclear.

DIT increased energy expenditure above the basal fasting level – a factor known to prevent weight gain. Earlier, the team of Dr Hamada and Prof. Hayashi found that slow eating and thorough chewing not only increased DIT but also enhanced blood circulation in the splanchnic region of the abdomen.

Although these studies linked chewing-induced-DIT with increased digestion and absorption-related activity in the abdomen, they left scope for further exploring a few crucial points.

Hayashi explained, "We were unsure whether the size of the food bolus that entered the digestive tract contributed to the increase in DIT observed after slow eating. Also, do oral stimuli generated during prolonged chewing of food play any role in increasing DIT? To define slow chewing as an effective and scientific weight management strategy, we needed to look deeper into these aspects."

To find the answers, the researchers designed their new study to exclude the effect of the food bolus by involving liquid food. The entire study included three trials conducted on different days.

In the control trial, they asked the volunteers to swallow 20-mL liquid test food normally every 30 seconds. In the second trial, the volunteers kept the same test food in their mouth for 30 seconds without chewing, thereby allowing prolonged tasting before swallowing. Lastly, in the third trial they studied the effect of both chewing and tasting; the volunteers chewed the 20-mL test food for 30 seconds at a frequency of once per second and then swallowed it.

The variables such as hunger and fullness, gas-exchange variables, DIT, and splanchnic circulation were duly measured before and after the test-drink consumption.

The results of this well-designed study turned up to be quite insightful. There was no difference in hunger and fullness scores among the trials. However, as Hayashi described, "We found DIT or energy production increased after consuming a meal, and it increased with the duration of each taste stimulation and the duration of chewing. This means irrespective of the influence of the food bolus, oral stimuli, corresponding to the duration of tasting food in the mouth and the duration of chewing, increased DIT."

The study highlighted that chewing well, could indeed help prevent obesity and metabolic syndrome.

Hayashi concluded, "While the difference in energy expenditure per meal is small, the cumulative effect gathered during multiple meals, taken over every day and 365 days a year, is substantial."

Backed by robust science, slow eating and thorough chewing could be the latest recommendations for integration into our weight management efforts. - **ANI**



LITERARY ARTS

OMAN SOCIETY FOR WRITERS AND LITERATES' FIRST GCC CULTURAL FORUM KICKS OFF



MUSCAT: Omani Society for Writers and Literates' first GCC Cultural Forum kicked off on Tuesday under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Nassir Al Harrasi, Minister of Information.

The opening ceremony included a speech by Eng. Said Mohammed Al Saqlawi, board chairman of Omani Society for Writers and Literates (OSWL). Al Saqlawi said that the forum figures among tasks of the OSWL aimed at encouraging Omani and Arab writers and literates to enrich the literary march in the Sultanate of Oman.

The opening of two-day forum included an evening session in which Omani and other GCC poets took part.

During the event, Dr. Hamoud Al Dughaishi presented a working paper titled "A Combination of Shades", which was a critique about a collection of poems by Abdullah Al Balushi.

Dr. Yousef Al Maamari presented a paper titled "Omani prose poem" in which he explores years of his poetic output.

Kuwait researcher Amal Abdullah's paper dealt with the poetic movement in her country. It

was a comparative study of poetry across the ages.

Dr. Abdullah Al Zahrani of Saudi Arabia presented a paper on the survival of rhymed poetry.

Meanwhile, the wilayat of Ni-zwa will host the programmes of the second day of the forum tomorrow under the auspices of Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of A'Dakhiliyah.

Critics from Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain will elaborate on various forms of literature. -ONA



ROHM

THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2022 SEASON WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF RIGOLETTO

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

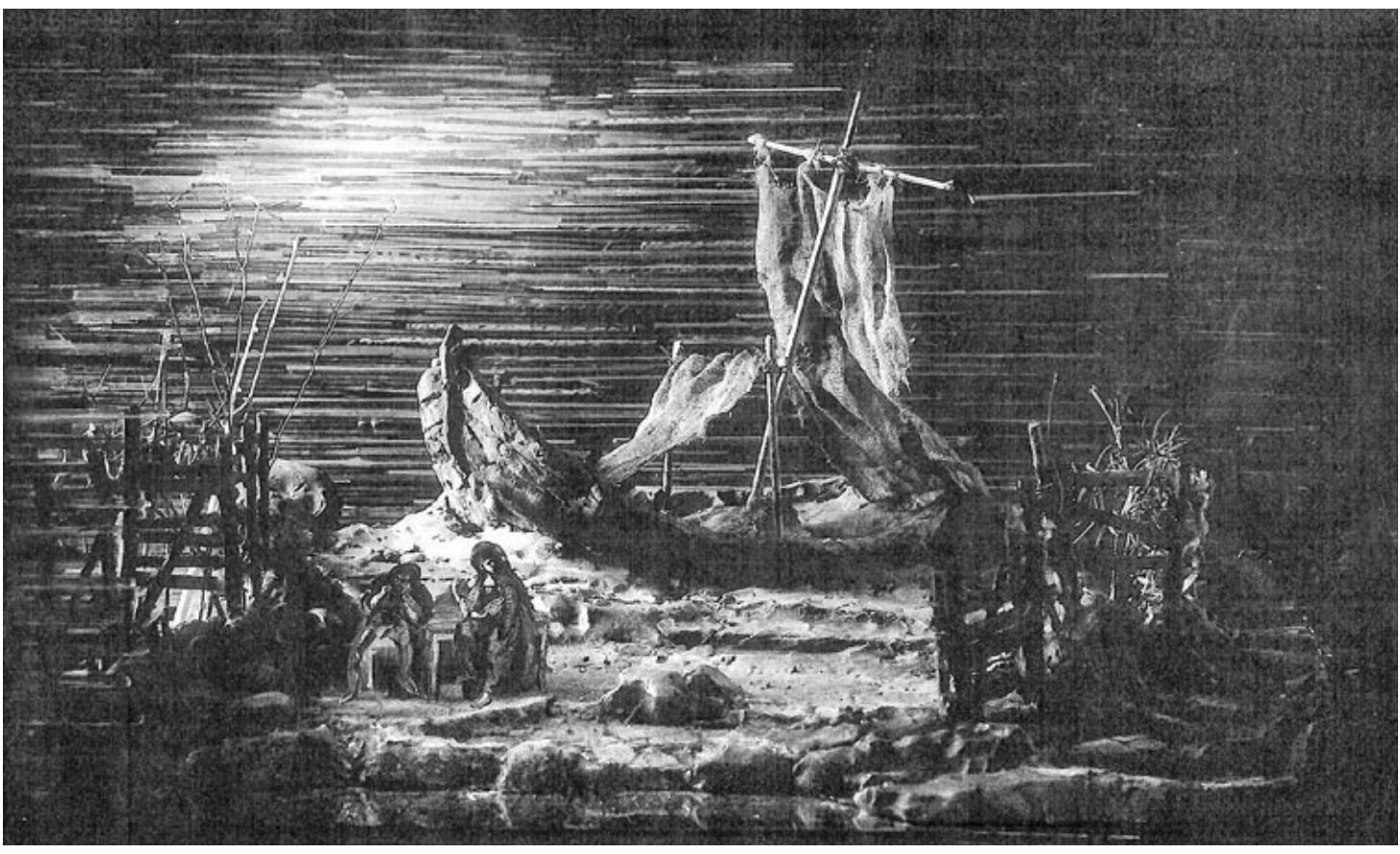
Muscat is delighted to present their new production of Verdi's unforgettable opera Rigoletto. The opera has been produced in collaboration with Fondazione Arena di Verona and the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and will be performed by Fondazione Arena di Verona.

With direction by the late Franco Zeffirelli, the greatest opera director of his era, ROHM's exceptional new production of Rigoletto is a landmark celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opera house.

We are delighted to be staging Verdi's glorious opera Rigoletto this season particularly because this will be the world premiere of Franco Zeffirelli's last great work. The intrinsic synchronicity of celebrating our 10th Anniversary Season with a wonderful work by the same great director with whom we opened our first season, gives this moment a special significance. With Puccini's Turandot in 2011 we began a wonderful relationship and a journey full of hope for the Royal Opera House Muscat. Now, in 2021, with Rigo-



letto we mark the achievement of a decade of brilliant musical performances, with the anticipation of many more to come. The ironic story of a cruel court jester who becomes a victim of his own crimes, this is a masterpiece which demonstrates Verdi's astonishing brilliance in characterisation, plot dynamics and unspoken emotions in musical tapestries. Period costumes created by thrice award-winning designer Maurizio Millenotti enhance the production. With lead singers Ambrogio Maestri (Rigoletto), Dmitri Korchak (Il Duca di Mantova), and Giuliana Gianfaldoni (Gilda). The orchestra and choir of Fondazione Arena di Verona performs along with the Omani Opera Choir Group under the baton of Jan Latham-Koenig.



ROUND-UP

ahlibank welcomes Himam graduates



The graduate development programme will prepare a fresh batch of young graduates with skill-building exercises that are in tune with current requirements of the job market, and further provide them with opportunities to work at the bank itself

MUSCAT: The 7th edition of ahlibank's relaunched graduate development programme, Himam, saw the induction of the new batch into the prestigious two-year programme at a formal ceremony held on Wednesday.

Under the new identity of 'Himam', the established graduate development programme will prepare a fresh batch of young graduates with skill-building exercises that are in tune with current requirements of the job market, and further provide them with opportunities to work at the bank it-

self. Designed as a career intensive module, it will equip chosen candidates to better understand the complexities of the banking sector and handle challenges with hands-on experience from professionals in the industry.

"We have structured our pioneering Himam programme to reflect Oman's youth development goals, and branded it as a gateway for a promising career in the banking sector. Our primary objective is to empower our young graduates to make responsible career choices and seek opportunities that help

build their faculties for personal growth and national development. The comprehensive two-year programme is designed to develop the management and leadership skills of participants. It will acquaint them with the current requirements of the industry and equip them to undertake leadership roles in the future," stated Mohammed Al Mufargi, AGM-Head of Human Resources, ahlibank.

Explaining further, Hanaa Mohammed Al Kharusi, General Manager-Head of Corporate Banking and Chairperson of Talent Committee at ahlibank, said: "The success of our Graduate Development programme, now renamed Himam, lies in the scope and approach employed by our team of experts to orchestrate selective elements of the training process, which includes classroom training on the basics of banking, on-the-job rotation skill-refinement activities and one-to-one guidance sessions, among other interactive schedules. Over the years, we have realised the need and importance of ensuring that these elements and initiatives have a long-term impact and therefore

contribute to the government's nation-building exercise. While our intent is to build our candidates' self-confidence by engaging them in challenging work environments that boost their college education, our focus has and will always be on espousing the goals of Oman Vision 2040."

Since its launch in 2015, the programme has trained and employed 64 candidates in different departments at the bank.

Through its ambitious youth-oriented initiatives, ahlibank is keen to attract passionately, determines and innovative people. It focuses on equipping them to enrich the national workforce with competencies that are capable to contribute effectively to the competitive banking environment.

ahlibank is at the forefront of enhancing the capabilities and competencies of Oman's youth and its commitment to 'Himam' programme ensures the preparation of a generation of young people who will continue to build a brighter and more prosperous future for the Sultanate and support the government's economic development vision.

OFFICIAL PARTNER



ABQ Education Group enables 300 children to participate in Al Mouj Muscat Marathon

MUSCAT: ABQ Education Group is once again an official partner of the 2022 Al Mouj Muscat Marathon. These educational trailblazers are showing their ongoing commitment to children's health and wellness by sponsoring the three kids' races (1, 2, and 3 km) at the upcoming edition of the Marathon. ABQ has further extended its support by sponsoring 300 government school students to participate this year, including students from Al Izdihar School and Suhail Bin Amr School.

Ibrahim Al Salmi, ABQ Education Group Assistant CEO, said, "Out of our keenness to achieve cooperation with the Directorate General of Education - Muscat and the organisers of Al Mouj Muscat Marathon, ABQ Education Group's initiative comes to support selected public schools to participate in the marathon taking place on 11 and 12 February 2022. The initiative falls within the framework of urging students to follow a healthier and more active lifestyle and instilling a culture of exercise in students and society in general."

He added, "The motto of our group is 'We Care' and this mindset is not limited to ABQ students only. ABQ is involved in various community initiatives through-

out the year and is excited to enable the 300 additional students to compete this year. This initiative is a true embodiment of who we are as a school family. Participating in Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is an investment in their future."

Nick Cartwright, Managing Director of SABCO Sport added, "We are delighted to be collaborating with ABQ Education Group for Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022. More than 10,000 participants of all ages have registered so far with four weeks to go until the race.

"If you have always wanted to try a marathon or half-marathon, regain your fitness, or try something new, then do not miss out on a great opportunity to start building healthy habits and step out of your comfort zone to test yourself. The race weekend will be a festival of running with entertainment, food, arts and crafts - and a race for everyone."

"We are pleased that ABQ Education Group sponsored a number of students affiliated with the Ministry of Education to participate in this year's Al Mouj Muscat Marathon. We look forward to further cooperation in the future and opening the doors to a larger number of government schools in the future," Nick added.

ROYAL OCEAN RACING CLUB

Maserati Multi70 crosses finish line first in RORC Transatlantic Race

MODENA: At 01:51:41 local time (05:51:41 UTC, 06:51:41 Italian time), Maserati Multi70 was the first to cross the finish line of the 8th edition of the RORC Transatlantic Race, organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club in collaboration with Yacht Club de France.

Skipper Giovanni Soldini sailed together with Vittorio Bissaro, Oliver Herrera Perez, Thomas Joffrin, Francesco Pedol and Matteo Soldini, in a wild ride across the Atlantic from Lanzarote to Grenada (2995 nautical miles), which saw the crew finish with a real-time of 6 days, 18 hours, 51 minutes and 41 seconds. At the end of the competition, the trimaran put in 3476.5 real miles with an average speed of 21.4 knots. The times will be ratified by the race organization in the next few hours.

In the second place, some distance behind: Peter Cunningham's PowerPlay skippered by Ned Collier Wakefield, which starred on board British sailors Giles Scott (tactician for Ineos Team UK in America's Cup and winner of two Olympic gold medals in the Finn class) and Miles Seddon (who set the record on this route with Phaedo3 in 2015). Third on the line: Jason Carroll's Argo skippered by Brian Thompson.

"It was a breathtaking race! Our



crew gave their all and Maserati Multi70 really made the difference," Soldini rejoiced: "I am very satisfied. The result of the work of these years is there for all to see. It has been a very long process of research and development: through records, round the world and competitions we have continued to look for solutions and the boat has gradually reached a maturity that allows it to fly stably and safely with a performance that is clearly

superior - at least in these conditions - to that of its rivals who have been following the same path for years and use the latest generation of foils. The aerodynamic and kinetic progress made over the last year, thanks to the contribution of the Maserati Innovation Lab engineers and designer Guillaume Verrier, is evident".

This edition of the regatta counted on the participation of 32 boats, from more than 22 coun-

tries. Maserati Multi70 and its competitors set off on 8 January at 11:00 UTC / local time (12:00 in Italy) from Puerto Calero, Lanzarote, in an easterly wind.

For Giovanni Soldini and the entire team of Maserati Multi70, the trans-oceanic race marks the beginning of a new season of great technical and sporting challenges and programs to safeguard the Oceans.

In conjunction with a competitive program that aims to bring to

full maturity the potential of the multihull in ocean foiling, Giovanni Soldini joins the Ocean Literacy program, promoted by UNESCO through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and aimed at increasing everyone's awareness and knowledge about the sea (oceanliteracy.unesco.org).

The United Nations declared 2021/2030 the Decade of Marine Sciences for Sustainable Development: a call for mobilisation

addressed to the scientific community, governments, the private sector and civil society to put energy, research and technological innovation at the service of concrete results in protecting the health of the oceans.

In line with these objectives, in the spring the trimaran will also be transformed into an oceanographic laboratory, with the installation of a system capable of constantly analyzing the water to measure the amount of CO2 present on the surface and make the data collected available to the scientific community.

In parallel, the collaboration with Maserati, the main sponsor that not only gives its name to the boat but also collaborates with Giovanni Soldini in the process of transferring technological know-how applied to the "laboratory boat", continues. The engineers of the Maserati Innovation Lab, in collaboration with Soldini and his team, constantly analyze the data collected during the navigations in order to study and develop systems capable of optimising the trimaran's performance.

Technological innovation, uncompromising performance, the desire to compete and win: this is what unites the House of the Trident and Maserati Multi70.

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ROUND-UP

Omran Group appoints new C-Suite executives

The new members of the fully Omani senior leadership team have strong market credentials and established track records, working across a diverse range of sectors and industries

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) has announced the appointment of its new C-Suite executives. The move comes as part of the group's strategic growth roadmap and restructuring programme, further strengthening its leadership team to drive the tourism sector development in the Sultanate.

The new members of the fully Omani senior leadership team have strong market credentials and established track records, working across a diverse range of sectors and industries.

The appointments include Hilal Masoud Al Jadidi as Chief Human Capital Officer, Mohammed Khamis Al Ghufaili as Chief Operations Officer, Mohammed Murtadha Al Eissa as Chief Corporate Planning and Communications Officer, Saif Ali Al Hinai as Chief Development Officer and Saif Sulaiman Al Yaarubi as Chief Financial Officer.

Commenting on the new ap-



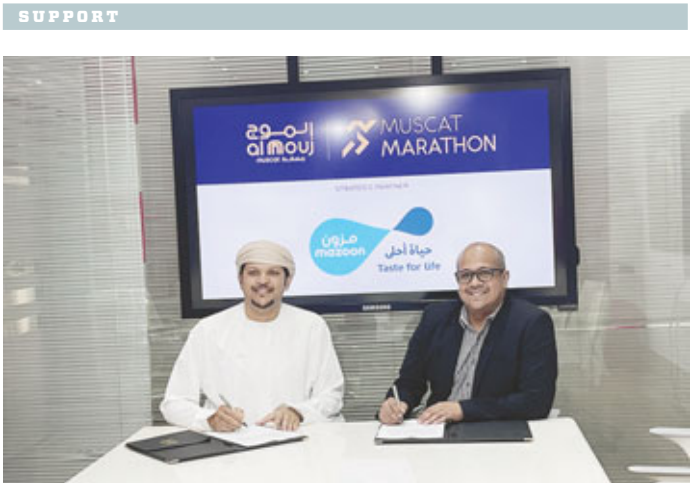
pointments, Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, Omran Group's CEO said, "The appointment of the new senior leadership team reflects our firm belief in empowering national competencies to lead the next stage of the group's journey as we are moving rapidly to transform our business culture, in line with the group's strategic approach towards achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and the National Tourism Strategy. This step comes as part of the group's restructuring programme, which will certainly

expand the capabilities of Omran, its subsidiaries and the wide portfolio of diversified tourism assets and investments throughout the Sultanate, enabling to achieve the group's goals and vision."

"This step also reflects our focused approach on empowering Omani competencies across different levels and disciplines, while enabling them to progress the business objectives and support the group's senior management team that comprises diverse backgrounds and capable profes-

sionals with global and local expertise," he added.

With a proven track record of developing iconic tourism landmarks and destinations, Omran Group's diversified portfolio of projects, partnerships and world-class hotels and resorts play a major role in the realisation of Oman's future vision and the National Tourism Strategy. The group is uniquely positioned to provide impetus to the national economy and diversification agenda through a sustainable approach.



Mazoon Dairy joins Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022 as official sponsor

MUSCAT: This year's Al Mouj Muscat Marathon, taking place over the weekend of 11-12 February 2022 is set to be a huge hit with a great turnout in all the race categories which includes entries from schools, corporates, first-timers as well as elite athletes. The number of registrations among young runners is commendable. The participants are enthusiastically preparing to take on Oman's biggest race.

The race is a great opportunity to start 2022 in the right way by committing to an active and healthy lifestyle, and this year's event has brought together key figures in Oman's drive for greater opportunities and awareness of the benefits of physical activity.

Mazoon Dairy has come onboard as one of the main sponsors in this year's edition, where the company's employees will be present during the marathon activities to provide dairy products and fresh juices to runners, spectators and visitors to the race village.

Khalid Al Mahruqi, Branding Manager at Mazoon Dairy, said,

"The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is one of the most important sporting and social events in the Sultanate that intersect with the goals and vision of the Mazoon Dairy Company, through which we seek to encourage consumers to adopt a healthy, more active and inviting lifestyle." To make sports and physical activity a priority for all segments of society. We are delighted to be part of this wonderful event and for Mazoon products to be the healthy and nutritious choice for all participants during the competition."

Each of the five races at this year's race offers a different distance designed for varying levels of fitness and experience. The longest races are the full marathon, which is 42.5km, and the half marathon of 21.1km, but there are also 10km and 5km runs, as well as kids runs of 1km, 2km and 3km open to young runners aged 7-12 years old. All participants will receive a special event T-shirt and medal at the finishing line and get to enjoy the same exhilarating race-day experience.

POWERFUL

Rule the roads with legendary Toyota Supra

MUSCAT: Toyota's legendary Supra is a work of art both in terms of design and performance. Backed by its strong lineage and the Toyota badge, it makes it one of the best vehicles to own, especially for those who love to extract more out of every journey.

The Supra's 3.0-litre turbo-charged engine produces up to 335hp and 51 kg.m. of torque. The torque comes on strong even from very low engine speeds, thanks to a combination of a twin-scroll turbocharger, direct fuel injection, and continuously variable timing on both the intake and exhaust camshafts.

The 8-speed automatic transmission delivers speedy up and downshifts and features paddle shifters for manual control when desired. The Supra's Sport Mode sharpens throttle response, changes steering wheel characteristics and improves transmission shift crispness. Meanwhile, Traction Mode can be activated as part of the Vehicle Stability Control System to provide track-driving capability by reducing the intervention of the traction and stability control functions. Launch Control is available only when the vehicle is in Sport modes.

The frontal design was inspired by the fourth-generation Supra but has a more expressive look. The vehicle's low stance is emphasized by a prominent central grille flanked by large air intakes, which are essential for engine cooling. The distinctive headlight units feature a six-lens LED arrange-



ment incorporating the indicators and Daytime Running Lights (DRL). The rear combination lamps feature a purposeful structure with the turn, tail, and stop functions integrated into the distinctive main ring shape.

The Supra's gauge cluster features an 8.8-inch colour Thin Film Transistor (TFT) LCD with an analogue tachometer in the centre and

a digital speedometer on the left side, creating a sporty image that reflects the vehicle's racing heritage. A 1.8-inch full-colour Head-Up Display (HUD) provides various driver-focused information, while a further 8.8-inch widescreen touch display located on the dashboard contains the navigation system, which can also be operated via remote control on the centre con-

sole, enabling easy fingertip access without disturbing driving posture. Additional features include a back monitor with guidelines, a dual-zone automatic air conditioning system and a JBL 12-speaker HiFi Surround Sound system with a seven-channel amplifier.

As with all Toyota vehicles, safety is paramount. The GR Supra is equipped with a comprehensive

array of safety and convenience features, such as all-round airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Brake Assist (BA), Electronic Parking Brake (EPB), Tyre Pressure Monitor System (TPMS), and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), among many others. High-tensile and ultra-high-tensile strength steel

have been used for the main body-part materials, realizing a lightweight yet highly rigid body that effectively absorbs impact energy.

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

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