

40% OF WORK COMPLETED AT DUQM MATERIAL MARKET

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) hosts the first-of-its-kind material market with workshops, showrooms for retail and wholesale businesses and warehouse facilities in the Sultanate of Oman. **>B1**



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OMAN, QATAR DISCUSS COOPERATION IN LABOUR FIELD

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour on Sunday held a joint meeting with a Qatari delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman. The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation in the fields of joint labour, expertise of human development and matters of common interests between the two countries. **>A5**



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HM MEETS SHEIKHS OF MUSCAT, SOUTH AL BATINAH, MUSANDAM

His Majesty the Sultan exhorted the private sector to benefit from the fee reduction to provide more room for the employment of Omani jobseekers



MUSCAT: In pursuance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's attention to citizens and his Royal keenness to have first hand knowledge about their needs and aspirations, His Majesty the Sultan held a meeting at Al Alam Palace on Sunday with sheikhs of the Governorates of Muscat, South Al Batinah and Musandam.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks and praise to the Almighty Allah for the bounties He bestowed on Oman and its noble people. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to bless Oman's comprehensive, sustainable development march, so the people could continue to relish the riches in present and future.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan issued directives to cut down fees charged against the issuance and renewal of non-Omani manpower work permits in a manner that corresponds to the Government Services Pricing Index. This applies to government services aimed at boosting the business climate and upgrading the Sultanate of Oman's competitiveness in attracting investments and easing burdens on the private sector. The move also seeks to support firms committed to Omanisation percentages, as well as small and medium enterprises, to help enhance their contribution to the national economy. **>A2**

Expatriate visa fees cut by over 85%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omanis have welcomed the directive of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq cutting the visa fees for expats by more than 85 per cent.

It may be mentioned that the work permit fees have

been reduced drastically by over 85 per cent following an announcement by the Ministry of Labour on Sunday.

Ahmed Al Junaibi from the Wilayat of Duqm in Al Wusta Governorate, said: "We welcome the royal directive regarding reduction in fees for expatriate workers." **>A4**

'KHASLAT SAFI SAHRA'

New cave discovered in Al Jabal Al Akhdar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani Cave Exploration team has discovered a new cave called 'Khaslat Safi Sahra' in Safi Sahra village in Al Jabal Al Akhdar or 'Green Mountain' in the Wilayat of Nizwa, Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah.

The discovery of the cave site was made possible by the people residing in Safi Sahra area, where the exploration team was facing some difficulties at the cave's entry in the form some loose boulders blocking the passage and threatening to fall on to them.

The team first removed the rocks to make a passage and also to prevent them from falling on to



them. Entry into the cave was still difficult due to the narrow pathways and at times the team members had to crawl to make their way into the cave. The entire process of discovery, documentation and survey of the cave was lengthy that took 4 to 5 hours. The cave promises to become a tourist attraction for the region, thanks to its unique and aesthetic touches. **>A5**

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



SPORTS Al Amri eyes podium finish in Kuwait rally

Omani rally driver Zakaria Al Amri along with his navigator Mohamed Al Amri is looking forward for action in Kuwait rally. **>A8**

OMAN Employee can lose his job for offences

1 People working in the Sultanate of Oman can be terminated without any prior notice or warning for their acts of omission or commission, as stipulated under the Labour Law. **>A3**

MARKET Pact inked for metal products plant

3 Samail Industrial City signed an agreement with Fatfat and Yaghi Construction for the metal products plant. **>B1**

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Asr.....	3:44pm
Maghrib.....	6:11pm
Isha.....	7:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:18am

HM tells private sector to give more room for Omani jobseekers

His Majesty the Sultan exhorted the private sector to benefit from the fee reduction to provide more room for the employment of Omani jobseekers.

His Majesty the Sultan also affirmed the government's keenness to follow-up all that relates to the stability of citizens' livelihood affairs. In this context, His Majesty gave directives to add 25 more food commodities to the list of food items that are 100% exempt from the Value Added Tax (VAT),

thereby taking the total number of such items to 513.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan gave audience to the sheikhs of the three governorates, who engaged on fruitful briefings about the affairs of their respective wilayats and the services and projects that the citizens aspire for.

His Majesty the Sultan commanded the immediate start of development projects that are urgently needed by citizens, with other projects to follow suit in future in accordance with the actual needs of those wilayats, depending on available government solvency.

The meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin

Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat and Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Musandam.

May the Almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan and assist him with power to pursue the path of bounties. May He eternalize Oman's riches and endow the Sultanate of Oman, its loyal people and residents in the country with further peace and security. — ONA





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An employee can lose his job for offences under Article 40

Some grounds which fall under Article 40 include false identification, forging documents or certificates, non-disclosure of essential information, being absent without notice, gross misconduct, etc

Madiha Asif
madiha@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: People working in the Sultanate of Oman can be terminated without any prior notice or warning for their acts of omission or commission, as stipulated under the Labour Law.

Yasin Chowdhury, Associate, BSA Al Rashdi & Al Barwani Advocates and Legal Consultants, a law firm in the Sultanate, said the offences under which the employees can lose their jobs are listed in Articles 40 and 41.

“The offences attract the provisions of Article 40 when the termination is by the employer, whereas Article 41 relates to lawful resignation by the employees after they have served a prior notice,” Chowdhury said.

Explaining further, Chowdhury said the employee attracts



Yasin Chowdhury, Associate, BSA Al Rashdi & Al Barwani Advocates and Legal Consultants, a law firm in the Sultanate



the provisions of Article 40 even though the offence committed by him is a first-time offence, “There is no notice required and it doesn’t matter whether the offence committed by him is for the first time or a repeat offence; the employer can go ahead and terminate the employee under this article without any warning,” he added.

Some grounds which fall under Article 40 include false identification, forging documents or certificates, non-disclosure of essential information, being absent without notice, gross misconduct, etc.

“It is to be understood that Labour Law in the Sultanate is pro employee; it is mostly in favour of the employees. This can be seen in practice in the courts of law where the rights of the employees are shielded.

“Having said that, there are nine scenarios which allow the employer to take action under article 40, including filing of false identity, or when the employee being hired or in the process of being hired, forges his/ her certificates to fit the position he applies for.

“Secondly, if the employee commits assault, he is liable to termination of the contract. Of all the nine grounds mentioned under Article 40, the most important is gross misconduct; the court can

consider the inclusion of so many things under the provision of gross misconduct,” Chowdhury said.

He said there has been a case where the Appeals Court considered the tearing of official documents by the employee in front of his line manager as gross misconduct; he was supposed to do a particular job, but he refused to do the job. He was terminated under Article 40.

“The remaining grounds mentioned under Article 40 are very specific. For example, coming to work drunk, not complying with the safety procedures at the workplace, disclosing any secrets related with the establishment in which he/ she works, being absent from work for more than seven consecutive days without reasonable cause and so on,” he added.

The expert further said that “generally, depending on the grounds of termination and the article which the employer wishes to invoke for the termination, an employee should be given a fair notice mentioning the reason why the employer is taking the termination decision.

“In such cases, the employee should be given a fair chance to reply, if he/ she wants to make any representation or if he/she wants to respond to the allegations made by the employer,” Chowdhury said.



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Foreign students attending Indian schools need to pay more fees

A story on Indian Schools reached 36,178 people and had 4,799 link clicks on Facebook. A story on Indian Schools

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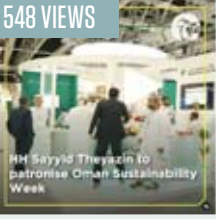


The Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on Bilarab bin Haitham Award had 297 views and reached 2,600 people on Facebook.

 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

548 VIEWS





The Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on Sayyid Theyazin had 548 views and 21 likes on Instagram.



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AL MINZIFAH

ABANDONED TOWN OF MUD-BRICK MANSIONS



The ruins of Al Minzifah, located a short distance from Ibra, provide indication of what life in Oman was like for some in the early 18th century. “On the western side of the shallow Wadi Ibra, which runs through the town of Ibra, is an abandoned town of mud-brick mansions, Al Minzifah,” says the Ministry of Tourism. “Though only 1,300 metres south of Ibra’s souq, the area of Al Minzifah is rural in character. “Fields surround these old houses, and originally provided one of Oman’s key crops, dates,” adds the ministry. “The houses, many of which date from the pe-



riod of prosperity, are of two or occasionally three stories, built from local stone, cemented and plastered with local juss. Care should be taken not to move the structures of these fragile buildings.”



Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

RETENDER NOTICE

The Investment & Revenue Department at Sultan Qaboos University would like to invite companies to submit their quotations for:

S/N	Type of Business	Shop Location	Duration of contract in years	Date of site visit	Class	Tender #
1	Coffee Shop	Female Student Accommodation Complex1	1	21/3/2022 09:00 am	All classes	SQU.IRD. 4/22
2	Coffee Shop	Female Student Accommodation Complex4	1	21/3/2022 10:00 am	All classes	SQU.IRD. 5/22

- The priority will be for the Small and Medium Establishments (SME), which fulfils the quality requirements.
- Tenderers who wish to participate in this Tender may collect Tender Documents from The Section of Revenue And Expenditures at the Investment & Revenue Department, Sultan Qaboos University, during the working hours for an amount of OR.25 for each tender document (non-refundable). The last date for collecting the Document is 28/3/2022
- The Site Visit for the selected shop is necessary. It will be on the above mentioned date and tome. The assembly point will be at the Investment & Revenue Department.
- The last date for submission of the quotations: 6/4/2022 The quotations should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Director of theInvestment & Revenue Department, Sultan Qaboos University and deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Department, before 10:00 a.m.
- The exterior of the envelope should be marked with the name and number of the Tender being presented and should bear no identification or mark of the Tenderer.
- The Tenderer should submit (enclose) with his tender a Bank Guarantee Document for sum of 1% of the total Duration of contract rental value quoted by the Tenderer and valid for 120 (One hundred and Twenty) days from the date specified for submission of Tender. Tender documents submitted after the deadline or without a Bank Guarantee will be excluded.
- The Tenderer should prepare the outlet in accordance with the health requirements ofMuscat Municipality and the requirements of civil defense in cooperation with the concerned authorities.
- Sultan Qaboos University reserves the right to reject any quotation not fulfilling the requirements and does not bid itself to accept the highest rent or any other quotations.

The Investment & Revenue Department
P.O BOX 50, P.C. 123, ALKHOD, SULTANATE OF OMAN
Tel: 24142691 - 24142682 – 24142684
Email: investment@squ.edu.om



VISA FEES

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Omanis welcome decision to reduce expat visa fees

“This has been the demand of business owners, especially those of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), so as to ensure easy availability of expatriate workers.”

He added: “We hope that the companies operating in the Sultanate will benefit from the reduction in fees for expats, and they (the companies) will continue to appoint Omanis and open up job opportunities for them as well.”

Another businessman from North Al Batinah Governorate, said “the decision to reduce fees came at the right time; we were waiting for it for long, especially in light of the economic situation in the wake of the the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries, including the Sultanate.”

He also said the companies were suffering the most as they had to pay the high visa fees at a time when they were facing closures and partial or total bans on commercial and industrial activities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specialisations

“With the cut in place, the financial situation of the institutions and companies will improve, especially if he (expat) has long experience in certain specialisations in his company or institution and the employer does not wish to replace them with Omanis,” he added.

He also said: “The step will come in handy for the foreign investors as well due to the freedom it will afford them to employ whoever they think will further their best interests in terms of the future growth of their enterprise. Naturally, the step will attract greater foreign investments in the Sultanate.”

A statement issued online by the Ministry of Labour said: “His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gives his royal directives to reduce the fees for issuing and renewing licences for the recruitment of expat workforce, in line with the application of the government services pricing guide, as of June 1, 2022, which came as follows:

1. Reducing the fees of the expat workforce by more than 85 per cent for companies committed to Omanisation rates.
2. Fees for issuing and renewing licences for the recruitment of expat commercial manpower:

A. First class from OMR2001 to OMR301 for two years and OMR 211 for meeting Omanisation percentage.

B. Second class from OMR601-1001 to OMR251 and OMR176 in case of commitment to the Omanisation percentage.

C. Third class from OMR301-361 to OMR201 and OMR141 if you meet the Omanisation percentage.)

TWO-DAY EVENT

Environment Authority hosts workshop for Saudi experts

MUSCAT: A workshop presented by some experts from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) began at the Environment Authority here on Sunday.

The two-day workshop aims at highlighting the environmental visions, strategies and initiatives carried out by the KSA Royal Commission for Governorate of Al-Ula and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.





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MEETING

Oman and France hold strategic dialogue session

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic held a strategic dialogue session between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

During the session, which was held at the Foreign Ministry's premises here today, the Omani said was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, while the French side was chaired by Anne Gueguen, Head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Section.

The session reviewed historical relations binding the two countries and means of promoting the bilateral cooperation in the areas of economy and investment. It also explored ways of enhancing



the cultural and scientific exchange towards wider horizons.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern. They underlined the im-

portance of supporting all efforts that enhance the pillars of peace and stability.

The session was attended by a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

UNIVERSITY'S WORK

SQU Council holds meeting

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) Council on Sunday held its second meeting of 2022 under the chair of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Chairperson of the Council.

At the outset of the meeting, the meeting reviewed the latest developments pertaining to the university's work in various related topics, and the executive position of various decisions and recommendations taken by the SQU Council.

The Council approved the establishment of a new programme named "Certificate of Arabic Language and Literature for Non-Native Speakers" at the Department of Arabic Language and Literature in the College of Arts and Social Sciences. This step aims to sharpen the communication skills of the learners in the field of Arabic language and literature. It also seeks to provide them with basic linguistic and literary knowledge, and introduce them to the Arab and Omani culture, so that the graduates can join vari-

ous jobs that require competence in Arabic, such as working in the press and media in their countries, ministries of foreign affairs, the diplomatic and tourism fields.

During the meeting, the International Cooperation Office at the SQU presented a visual presentation on the international ranking of universities and the criteria on which the classification is based as the Council took note of the efforts exerted in this regard, as well as the challenges facing the university in the international rankings. -ONA

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CAVE

Unique cave formed from limestone sediments

< FROM A1 Besides, it provides an exploratory adventure due to its variety of living organisms, such as spiders, frogs and other living and non-living objects in large and varied sizes, in addition to having unique calcareous formations.

The cave is formed in sediments of limestone dating back to the Cretaceous period. It contains an impressive cluster of diverse cave deposits and distinctive types of creatures that inhabit the caves.

The Omani Cave Exploration team surveyed the cave and its corridors. It also documented the scientific details. The second edition of the book, 'A Guide to the Caves of Oman' will be released soon and will include the caves documented by the team earlier. With ONA inputs

LABOUR FIELD

Oman, Qatar discuss ways to boost cooperation



The meeting reviewed employment in the public and private sectors in the Sultanate of Oman, wage subsidy, labour welfare and training, as well as the stages of rate development in employment and nationalization.

The Qatari delegation was briefed on the Omani experience in the field of jobs nationalization, training and rehabilitation, in addition to fields of safety and vocational wellness.

The meeting was attended by undersecretaries and officials from both sides. -ONA



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- 5) Payment terms and conditions.

Site visit on 16/03/2022 between 8 am to 1pm.

Sealed Quotation to be submitted at Principal Office on or before 22/03/2022 before 12:30pm. (Quotes by e-mail will not be considered)



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
13/2022	Consultancy services (design – supervision and technical study) for social care building at al rustaq	consultancy offices registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the first degree	Sunday 3-4-2022 02:00 PM	Thursday 21-4-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Monday 14/3/2022
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

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

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الأهلية
Al Ahlia

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting of Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG

The Board of Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG (the “Company”) has the pleasure to invite the shareholders of the company to the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) to be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 30th March 2022 at [Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel, Diwan Hall, Muscat Governorate, and on the e-portal for convening general meetings which may be accessed through the Muscat Clearing and Depository SAOC (“MCD”) website (www.mcd.gov.om).

Failing quorum of the AGM, a second AGM shall be convened at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 31st March, 2022 at Novotel Muscat Airport Hotel, Diwan Hall, Muscat Governorate, and on the e-portal for convening general meetings which may be accessed through the Muscat Clearing and Depository SAOC (“MCD”) website (www.mcd.gov.om) to discuss and consider the following agenda:

1. To consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report for the financial year ended December 31, 2021.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
3. To consider and approve the Auditor's report and the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
4. To consider and approve the proposal cash dividend to the shareholders as on date of the meeting amounting to 25 Baisas for each share for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
5. To ratify the payment of sitting fees to the Board of Directors and Sub-Committees for the financial year ended 31 December 2021 and to determine the sitting fees of the Board of Directors and Sub-Committees for the next financial year 31 December 2022 (Annexure 1).
6. To ratify the payment of Directors' remuneration for an amount of RO 80,000 (Rials Omani Eighty Thousand Only) for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
7. To notify the General Assembly of the transactions carried out by the Company with related parties during the financial year ending 31 December 2021 (Annexure 2).
8. To consider and approve the proposed related party transactions to be entered by Company during the financial year ending 31 December 2022 (Annexure 3).
9. To notify the General Assembly of donations disbursed to support community services during the financial year ended on 31 December 2021 (Annexure 4).
10. To consider and approve the allocation of a budget of RO 25,000 (Rials Omani Twenty Five Thousand only) to support community services during the financial year ending 31 December 2022.
11. To appoint the statutory auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2022 and approve their fees.

In accordance with the Rules for Convening General Meetings via Electronic Means, issued by the CMA we would like to call your attention to the following:

- (a) only a corporate person may authorize a natural person to attend and vote on its behalf on decisions/ resolutions of the AGM through electronic means, provided such natural person has an investor number with the MCD.
- (b) voting on any item of the agenda shall commence prior to the convention of the AGM at a maximum of three (3) days and ends on the day of the AGM. If a shareholder's balance is changed either by increase or decrease, the voting process shall stand canceled and must re-vote at the AGM.

Please attend at the venue or online at least 30 minutes prior to the AGM.

For more information, please contact Mr. Abdul Karim of Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG on telephone No. (+968) 93884566, 24766906.

WORLD



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Berlin to create task force to enact Russia sanctions

The decision follows several rounds of EU sanctions against Russian individuals and entities

BERLIN: Germany is to set up a task force to help enforce sanctions against Russians, *Der Spiegel* magazine reported on Saturday. The decision follows several rounds of EU sanctions against Russian individuals and entities – including President Vladimir Putin – in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

What do we know about the task force? The unit will be based in the Berlin Chancellery and will coordinate with the finance, economy and interior ministries, the report said. Jörg Kukies, State Secretary in the Chancellor’s Office, is allegedly set to lead the new body. At present, Germany has no established procedure for seizing assets such as yachts, private jets or houses, *Der Spiegel* said. The magazine cited a memo from the Economy Ministry that “assets” are not confiscated or seized “by default” because “their



TASK FORCE: The unit will be based in the Berlin Chancellery and will coordinate with the finance, economy and interior ministries.

private use continues to be permissible in principle.” Wealthy Russians are known to have taken advantage of Germany’s real estate boom over the past decade, buying up high-end properties all over the country. Yachts belonging to Russian oligarchs can often be seen docked in Germany’s northern port of Hamburg among others. **Assets frozen, yachts and soccer clubs seized** Several countries have already seized the property of Russian bil-

lionaires, including Italy, France and the UK. Last week, France confiscated a superyacht owned by Russia’s oil czar Igor Sechin. The “Amore Vero” was seized while undergoing maintenance work at a shipyard on the French Riviera. This week, Britain expanded its Russia sanctions to include Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich. The billionaire became the highest-profile oligarch yet sanctioned by any Western country when

he became subject to a UK asset freeze and travel ban. On Saturday, Italy seized its third superyacht, this time from Russian billionaire Andrey Melnichenko. The 143-metre Sailing Yacht A, which has a price tag of €530 million (\$578 million), was sequestered at the northern port of Trieste, the government said. Meanwhile, reports suggesting that the northern German state of Hamburg had seized the yachts of three oligarchs were later denied by authorities. **aw**

NEGOTIATIONS

‘Ready to negotiate with Russia’, says Zelenskyy

KYIV: Amid escalating war between Moscow and Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday expressed his readiness to enter into negotiations with Russia in Jerusalem. Zelenskyy said that he requested Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to mediate peace talks. “We spoke with (Israeli Prime Minister Naftali) Bennett, and I said that today it is not right [to hold] meetings in Russia, in Belarus. I’m not talking about technical meetings - I’m talking about leaders’ meetings. Do I think that Israel can be such a land, and Jerusalem? Yes, I think so. And I told him that,” RT News quoted Zelenskyy as saying. So far, Russian and Ukrainian delegations have met three times in Belarus to discuss the ongoing conflict. Apart from reaching some un-



derstanding on establishing humanitarian corridors to evacuate civilians from the combat zones, the two sides have failed to achieve any tangible results, RT News reported. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron have urged

Russian President Vladimir Putin to call an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine. “Scholz, Macron urge Putin to call an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron made the proposal during a call with Vladimir

Putin on March 12,” The Kyiv Independent tweeted.

US journalist reportedly killed in Irpin A video journalist from the US has reportedly been shot dead in Irpin, outside Kyiv, according to Kyiv police official Andriy Nebytov. He shared images of the journalist’s body, as well as his press ID and US passport. The press ID showed the reporter as an employee of the New York Times, but the prestigious US daily said that the man was not working for them at the moment of his death. The journalist is a Peabody and DuPont Award winning filmmaker, best known for producing humanitarian stories from conflict zones. He has been a journalist for over two decades. **ANI/DW**



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Impeachment motion against Nepal Chief Justice tabled in Parliament

KATHMANDU: Week after forming the impeachment recommendation committee, the Nepal parliament has advanced ahead by tabling the motion against suspended Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana on Sunday. Chief Whip of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN, Maoist Center) Dev Gurung presented the impeachment motion in the House of Representatives despite the continued obstruction by the opposition Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML). “The Constitution of Nepal- 2072’s Section 136 mentions jurisdiction of Chief Justice, he (Cholendra Shumsher Rana) couldn’t fulfil them. He not only wasn’t able to fulfil it, the constitution, law, rules, judicial recognition also was violated in course of time which resulted in his inability to exercise the duties and responsibilities, absence in sense of conduct and behaviours which goes against the constitution and legal frameworks. Being a member of the Judicial Council and the Constitutional Council, he searched for his role in Constitutional Council as well as the executive. Impartiality that always needed to be maintained by the judiciary couldn’t be maintained and the impact of it was reflected during the administration of justice,” Dev Gurung, the chief whip of ruling CPN-Maoist Center said addressing the parliament as he presented the impeachment proposal. The impeachment motion was tabled against Ranaat Parliament Secretariat on February 13 with the support of 95 lawmakers and the whips of the Nepali Congress (NC), the CPN (Maoist Center) and the CPN (Unified



Socialist). Maoist Center Chief whip Dev Gurung, NC chief whip Pushpa Bhushal and Unified Socialist whip Jeevan Ram Shreshta tabled the impeachment motion as per Article 101 (2) of the Constitution of Nepal and Rule 161 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives, 2018. According to Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota, the March 16 (Wednesday) meeting of the House of Representatives will begin a discussion on the impeachment motion. As per parliamentary mathematics, there are a total of 271 members (including the house speaker) in parliament. Opposition CPN- UML has the highest 98 lawmakers followed by Nepali Congress with 63, Maoist Center with 48, CPN- Socialist with 23, JSP with 21 and LSP with 13 seats. The Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP) who are part of the ruling coalition has expressed their surprise over the impeachment motion filed by the ruling coalition and claimed it to be tabled without consultation. Provided the mathematics in the parliament, the House Speaker cannot exercise electoral power while 4 lawmakers from the ruling alliance have been relieved from their duty which cuts short 5 votes of the ruling coalition. **ANI**



VOLTAMP ENERGY SAOG
P.O. Box 75, Rusayl, P.C. 124, Sultanate of Oman
Phone: + (968) 24441202, Fax: 24448693, Website: www.voltampoman.com

Invitation to attend the Annual Ordinary General Meeting

The Board of Directors of Voltamp Energy Company SAOG is pleased to invite shareholders to attend the company's Annual General Meeting to be held at 3 pm on Tuesday 29th March 2022 in the hall **DIWAN C of the NOVOTEL Muscat Airport**, Airport Heights area through the electronic platform for holding Annual General Meeting which can be assessed through the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event that the quorum for the meeting is not complete, a second Annual General Meeting will be held at 3 pm on Monday 4/4/2022 in the hall **DIWAN C of the NOVOTEL Muscat Airport**, Airport Heights area through the aforementioned podium to discuss the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the report of the Board of Directors on the company's activity and financial position during the fiscal year ending 31/12/2021.
- Approval of the performance report of the Board of Directors for the year ending 31/12/2021(as attached).
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance report of the organization and management of the company during the financial year ending 31/12/2021.
- To consider and approve the auditor's report on the company's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending 31/12/2021.
- The Board of Directors recommend cash dividend to shareholders on the date of the AGM at a rate of 3 baisas per share.
- Approval of the sitting fees to the Board Directors meetings and its Sub-committees for the last financial year and determine the fees for the forthcoming financial year (as attached).
- To inform the shareholders about the transactions that the company made with the related parties during the year ending 31/12/2021(as attached).
- To consider and approve the transactions that the company will conduct with related parties during the fiscal year that will end on 31/12/2021 and approve it (as attached).
- To Inform the Shareholders about the contributions disbursed during the financial year ending on 31-12-2021 an amount of (20,000) Omani riyals (as attached).
- To consider the proposal to allocate RO. 20,000 to support community services during the fiscal year that will end on 31/12/2022 and to approve it, and authorize the Board of Directors to disburse it as it deems appropriate.
- Appointing an auditor for the financial year ending on 31/12/2022 and determining his fees.

In accordance with the company's articles of association and the rules for holding general meetings using modern technology means issued by the authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Only a legal person has the right to authorize a natural person to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote on his behalf through technology, provided that this natural person has an investor number in the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company.
- Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three days before the date of the assembly and until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting.

In case of any inquiries, please contact Mr. Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Zadjali on phone number 24441202 or 99387474



Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company
Member of Nama Group

TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company hereby announces the following tenders:-

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2443810 /2022	Annual Maintenance Contract for Fire Alarm Systems for STPs and Pump Stations in Muscat Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	24/3/2022	11/4/2022
T/2443842/ 2022	Supply of Packaging Materials for Kala Compost	Local Companies Registered with Government Tender Board and have Sufficient Experience in the Works Mentioned	RO 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	24/3/2022	11/4/2022
T/2443846 /2022	Consultancy Services for Business Continuity Management (BCM) System and IT Disaster Recovery (DR)	Local companies registered with Government Tender Board and International companies specialized in the works mentioned	RO 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	24/3/2022	18/4/2022

The tender documents can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company e-tendering page ([Supplier Login](#)) from the date of publication of this announcement until 2022/3/24. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through [Supplier Login](#).

Applicants who are not registered with Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company shall register from: <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> to have the login credentials of Supplier Portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through OWWSC e-tendering page ([Supplier Login](#)).

All participating companies shall submit a bid bond of %1 of bid value in a sealed envelope to OWWSC's Chairman of Tender Committee **not later than 3:00 pm on the bid submission date**. Bid bond must be obtained from a bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company. The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company e-tendering page not later than 3:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details, refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om or Email to: tender@owwsc.nama.om

IEEE | OWWSC | عمان | ١٩٩٣ | أرمز البريدي ١١٣ | OWWSC | عمان | ١٩٩٣ | OWWSC | عمان | ١٩٩٣

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World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships proves a hit in Muscat

The event will go down in Oman's sporting history as one of the most successful events

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Over the weekend of 4-5 March, more than 360 athletes from 46 countries took to the landscaped gardens of the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre for the first ever World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships to be held in Oman.

Organised jointly by the Oman Athletics Association, Oman Sail and host venue OCEC, the event will go down in Oman's sporting history as one of the most successful events to ever take place in the country.

Planned and delivered at short notice due to the impact of COVID-19 elsewhere, the Organising Committee proved their capability and the country's readiness to



WALKING CHAMPIONSHIP: The potential for Oman to compete on the global stage for international events was evident with every detail considered and praise from all corners.

host major world sporting events and liaise with global governing bodies in order to coordinate everything required for a successful event.

The potential for Oman to compete on the global stage for international events was evident with every detail considered and praise from all corners, including Lord Sebastian Coe, President of World Athletics.

Lord Coe said, "As President of world athletics, I know I speak on behalf of everybody in the World Athletics family when I say how

delighted we are to be here in Oman for our World Race Walk Team Championships. These championships were delivered at very short notice and I know that my whole team here are incredibly grateful for the immense work that has been achieved in such a short space of time, both from the OCEC and supported by the great team at Oman Sail."

He added, "Bringing our world championships into new territories is really important for us, we are delighted to be here, we want this to be a bridgehead for further

events, particularly in track and field. We're delighted that you have chosen us as one of the sports that you want to focus on in the Oman Sports Strategy to 2024 and that is something we cherish. We look forward to bringing more of our events here."

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, "It was a great honour for Oman and the city of Muscat to step in to ensure the dreams of so many athletes from around the world could be fulfilled. We appreciate the trust placed in us by World Athletics and the

competitors, and hope that the experience of hosting this event will be the gateway to more high-profile events visiting our country. The team at Oman Sail, OCEC and our partners have proven themselves as highly capable hosts and Oman itself as an attractive venue for a wide variety of events. We anticipate a bright future for sport in the Sultanate."

Sheikh Salim Al Amri, President of the Oman Athletics Association, said, "Oman has such a lot of potential to grow into a world class host of sporting events, especially in athletics. We are blessed with perfect conditions during the winter months when so many parts of the world are not conducive to outdoor events and the passion for sport runs throughout the country. It is a proud moment for the Oman Athletics Association to join with Oman Sail and OCEC to deliver such a national success. We are equally as proud to have formed a national team for what is a new athletics discipline within the country. Our hope is that this event, and the events that are sure to follow, serve as inspiration for generations of Omani athletes to compete at the highest level."

The event also provided a huge boost to the national economy, particularly in hotel occupancy, inbound arrivals and the hospitality sector, proving the impact that

hosting major events can have on all sectors.

Oman Sail, OCEC and the Oman Athletics Association prioritised sustainability and the environment during the event. The Oman Athletic Association (OAA) joined World Athletics as a signatory of the United Nations Climate Change Sports for Climate Action Framework, underscoring the sport's commitment to the fight against climate change. To commemorate the occasion, Coe presented Al Amri with a relay baton made of recycled aluminium and produced by World Athletics supplier Mondo noting the Oman Athletic Association's commitment to the framework.

The OAA is the second member federation of World Athletics to sign on, following Athletics Kenya. More than 300 clubs, leagues and federations have committed to the framework since its launch in 2018. Athletes from several countries also participated in a beach clean-up to mark World Wildlife Day and World Athletics' commitment to the UN Clean Seas pledge.

OCEC organised an orchard planting activity to offset the carbon footprint of the event. In total, 40 trees were planted throughout the complex to leave a long-lasting reminder of the importance of preserving the natural world.

BASKETBALL

Grand basketball tourney enters second round



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 5x5 basketball tournament organised by Grand Global Investment at Oman Club entered second round during the weekend.

The tournament was launched under 'Evaluate Yourself' initiative in cooperation with the Filipino community.

Chief organiser Ali al Alawi, CEO of Grand Global Investment, expressed satisfaction over the tournament's progress.

"We will bring out more exciting basketball action for the fans, the community and the sponsors

who support and enjoy good basketball competition. We will work in cooperation with the Oman Basketball Association in this regard," Ali said.

On Thursday, in the first match, Lots Cafe beat Jebel Sifah 86-49. Mateo Singko netted 22 points to become the best player of the game. In the second match, Sagpo edged out Kabayan Cargo 66-63. Ryan Janda scored 19 points to emerge the best player.

On Friday, Mediacom prevailed over Excellence 69-64 points. Jason Cortez top-scored with 22 points. Winning Octal beat SNB 69-64 in the next match. Rommel

Alarcon was best player with 30 points.

Lastly, Barangay Ginebra defeated LSB comprehensively with a 24-point lead at 98-74. Anthony Espiritu top-scored with 20 points.

On Saturday, Mustafa Sultan Exchange dominated Jebel Allied Logistics to win the first match 105-52. Jobert Maraya of MSE was selected as the best player. Travel Buddies Holidays came good against Al Khoud Warriors 98-93 in the second match. Robert Millena of Travel Buddies Holidays with 22 points became the best player.

KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL RALLY

Al Amri eyes podium finish in Kuwait International rally

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani rally driver Zakaria Al Amri along with his navigator Mohamed Al Amri is looking forward for action in the Kuwait International rally.

He will be participating in the third round of MERC in his group(N), in the three-day rally starting on 17 of this month on Subaru Impreza (N14).

Al Amri is currently at the second position of group N in the championship after finishing Qatar International rally second behind the Kuwaiti driver Meshari Al Thefiri.

Al Thefiri jumped to R5 in Kuwait international rally this time behind the Skoda Fabia. Al Almri has the chance to lead the group if he finishes the rally on top.

The rally, which will resume after 3 years of stoppage due to the Covid pandemic and cancellation in 2019, will consist of 10 special stages, two of them in desert area.

Young Omani driver Abdullah Al Rawahi who is standing in second place overall in MERC behind the Qatari Super Man Nasser Al Attyah will try to continue his excellent performance and to be at top of this rally also.

Al Amri who is supported by Oman United insurance, Oman united Insurance workshop and



Al Fayha real estate development has stated that he is working with his team for the rally and has prepared his for the desert and sandy stages.

"I am happy to be a part of Kuwait International rally, thanks to the supporters and my team to make this participation happen. Really, looking forward to this race. This is my first time in Ku-

wait international rally, and hoping for good end and trying my best to finish the rally first and aiming to be on top podium," Al Amri said.

He added: "I will do whatever I can to attend this season of MERC championship if I get enough support, and as you know automobile sport is a very costly. You cannot do anything without sponsorship."

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FOOTBALL

Ronaldo breaks FIFA record with hat-trick against Spurs

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo produced a hat-trick to lift Manchester United into fourth place in the Premier League on Saturday as Tottenham Hotspur were beaten in a 3-2 thriller at Old Trafford.

With the treble against Spurs, Ronaldo has lifted himself on top of FIFA's all-time scorers' list. Ronaldo arrowed in a superb goal from distance to give the hosts a 12th-minute lead. Harry Kane's penalty drew Spurs level on 35 minutes after Alex Telles had handled Dejan Kulusevski's cross.

Ronaldo restored Man Utd's lead three minutes later, slotting in Jadon Sancho's pass following a sweeping move. Spurs levelled for a second time on 72 minutes when Sergio Reguilon's cross was turned into his own net by Harry Maguire. **ANI**

APPLE IS NOT CHANGING MAC MINI'S DESIGN

American tech giant Apple will be retaining the same current model for the next-generation Mac mini. **>B2**

MARKE

BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,349.97 points, up by 0.50 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index remained unchanged at 492.92 points. **>B2**

40% of construction completed at Duqm Material Market

Upon its completion, the project will attract various companies around the world to Duqm and make it a hub for marketing and selling their products

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Liu Minghua, the CEO of Duqm Material Market Company, said that 40 per cent of the construction work in the first phase of the project has been completed.

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) hosts the first-of-its-kind material market with workshops, showrooms for retail and wholesale businesses and warehouse facilities in the Sultanate of Oman.

Being one of the first projects in the Sino-Omani Industrial Park



MEGA PROJECT: The project aims to bring Chinese commodities and manufacturing capacity to the Sultanate of Oman and its focus will be mainly on wholesale demands for local and international markets in terms of exporting products. — Supplied picture

in Sezad, the project is jointly developed as a strategic partnership between Oman Wanfang, developer and operator of the China-Oman Industrial Park in Duqm, Al Thabat Holding Company, an investment company active in in-

frastructure activities, and Oman Company for the Development of Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer).

In an interview with Duqm Economist Magazine, Liu Minghua, CEO of Duqm Material Mar-

ket Company, touched on this distinguished project.

He affirmed, upon its completion, the project will attract various companies around the world to Duqm and place it a hub for marketing and selling their products.

Commenting on the objectives behind developing this project, the CEO of Duqm Material Market Company explained, "This project is intended to bring a new concept of malls different than other Chinese malls in the Sultanate

This project aims to bring Chinese commodities and manufacturing capacity to the Sultanate of Oman. Its focus will be mainly on wholesale demands for local and international markets in terms of exporting products."

Remarkable project

This remarkable project is well-received by many companies from China, which expressed their interest to come onboard. The project's first phase is spreading over 30,000 square metres out of the total 80,000 square metres of area allocated for Duqm Material Market.

However, the other two phases of the project will be developed in the far future as planning these phases depends on the function of phase one and the potential demands from the market.

Touching on the significant value of the project, the CEO remarked that the project is targeting local and regional markets as well as North-East African countries. As a building material market, steel is the major range of products that will be traded.

Also, there is a big demand from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia on textiles. However, other light chemical products receive increasing demand from Somalia mainly.

SAMAIL INDUSTRIAL CITY

Madayn signs agreement for major metal products manufacturing plant

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Samail Industrial City, which pertains to the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), signed an agreement with Fatfat and Yaghi Construction to set up a project for the manufacturing and installation of metal products.

The project is coming up in an area of 11,225 square metres with an investment value touching OMR350,000.

Investment pacts

This brings the total number of the signed investment pacts in Samail Industrial City in 2022 to six pacts in various sectors.

It is worthwhile to mention that Samail Industrial City received 27 investment applications in 2021 representing industrial, service and commercial projects.

Of these applications, 19 projects were localised in the industrial city and are expected to provide 300 new job opportunities.



SIGNING CEREMONY: The project is coming up in an area of 11,225 square metres with an investment value touching OMR350,000. — Supplied picture

Samail Industrial City, in cooperation with the competent bodies, aim at increasing employment opportunities for the national cadres in the industrial city.

In 2021, the investment volume in Samail Industrial City in-

creased from OMR85 million to OMR115 million, and is expected to touch OMR120 million upon the completion of the new projects this year.

Moreover, the existing projects in the industrial city seek to ex-

pand and introduce new production lines.

It should be noted that the Omani investors in the industrial city account for 75 per cent of the total investing projects in Samail Industrial City.

RBI DATA

India's forex reserves rise to \$631.92 billion

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves rose by \$394 million to \$631.92 billion in the week ended March 4 led by a sharp jump in foreign currency assets, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

The forex reserves had declined by \$1.425 billion in the previous week. The foreign currency assets, which is the biggest component of the forex reserves, jumped by \$634 million to \$565.466 billion during the week under review, according to the RBI's weekly statistical supplement.

The foreign currency assets had dropped by \$2.228 billion in the week ended February 25.

Expressed in US dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-dollar currencies like Euro, UK's Pound Sterling and Japanese Yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

All other components of the forex reserves posted declines during the week under review.

The value of gold reserves



dropped by \$147 million to \$42.32 billion, the RBI data showed.

The value of India's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined by \$59 million to \$18.981 billion.

India's reserve position in the IMF dropped by \$34 million to \$5.153 billion.

— ANI

THE MICHELIN GUIDE

Germany has more Michelin-rated restaurants than ever before

BERLIN: The new edition of the Michelin gourmet restaurant guidebook introduced on Wednesday added 17 "Michelin Star" restaurants in Germany this year, bringing the total to an all-time high of 327.

Michelin's Germany director, Ralf Flinkenflugel, said that restaurant shutdowns during the coronavirus pandemic gave many chefs time to refine their cooking, experiment with creative dishes and "do many things better."

Flinkenflugel told Germany's DPA news agency the past year was "incredibly difficult" for restaurateurs and it was "really amazing how well they mastered it all."

"It's a record year. That surprised us a lot," he said.

Most exclusive rating

Germany also added a new "three star" restaurant in 2022, which is Michelin's highest and most exclusive rating. The schanz restaurant, located in the wine-growing region of Rhineland-Palatinate near the Moselle river, became only one of nine restaurants in Germany with three Michelin stars.

"The inspectors were of one opinion: that the cuisine here is absolutely world class," the Michelin Guide wrote on Wednesday. "The owner and chef Thomas Schanz creates dishes that are rich in finesse, personality, and expression."

Other three-star restaurants in Germany are located in remote villages in Rhineland-Palatinate and in neighbouring Saarland. There is one on Tegernsee lake in Bavaria, and one each in Berlin and Hamburg. The small Black Forest village of Baiersbronn features two three-star restaurants.

A total of 46 restaurants climbed the ranks to earn a "two star" rating in 2022. In total, 31 new restaurants claimed a single star.

The Michelin Guide, which has been published by the French tire company as a travel guide since 1904, is considered to be one of the world's top culinary guidebooks.

According to the publisher, international inspectors go anonymously into the restaurants to rate the food, which is the sole focus, rather than the ambiance of a restaurant. — DW



RESTAURANT RATINGS: A total of 46 restaurants climbed the ranks to earn a "two star" rating in 2022. In total, 31 new restaurants claimed a single star. — DW

MARKET



MSM index ends lower

National Gas, up 9.23 per cent, was the top gainer while Global Investment Holding, down 8.86 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,349.97 points, up by 0.50 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index remained unchanged at 492.92 points.

National Gas, up 9.23 per cent, was the top gainer while Global Investment Holding, down 8.86 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Ceramics were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 634 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR576 million, with more than 21.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 15 advanced, 13 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR473,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR433,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR40,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7073.52 points, up by 0.68 per cent. Prices of Al Shargia Investment, Bank Dhofar, Ominvest, National Bank Oman, and Taa-geer Finance were up by 7.5 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.41 per cent,

1.91 per cent, and 1.14 per cent respectively. Prices of Global Financial Investments, DIDIC, Vision Insurance, Oman & Emirates Investment, and Al Anwar Investment were down by 8.86 per cent, 8.33 per cent, 8.26 per cent, 1.35 per cent, and 1.14 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5978.28 points, up by 0.46 per cent. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry, Oman Flour Mills, and Al Maha Ceramics were up by 9.21 per cent, 3.85 per cent, respectively. Prices of Ray-sut Cement, Galfar Engineering, National Aluminium, Al Anwar Ceramics, and Oman Ceramics were down by 1.67 per cent, 1.37 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 0.44 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.26 per cent before closing at 1627.52 points. Prices of National Gas, Dhofar Generating, Ooredoo, Oman National Engineering, and Renaissance Services were up by 9.23 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.16 per cent, 0.88 per cent, and 0.46 per cent respectively. Prices of OIFC, Al Jazeera Services were down by 2 per cent, 1.4 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

SAME CURRENT MODEL

Apple is not changing Mac Mini's design for 2023 model

WASHINGTON: American tech giant Apple will be retaining the same current model for the next-generation Mac mini.

Refreshed Mac mini
As per reports obtained by Mac Rumours, the refreshed Mac mini is likely to retain the same form factor as the current model, which is an aluminum unibody

design that Apple has used for every new Mac mini since 2010. Earlier this week, Kuo said that the new Mac mini will not launch until 2023.

This runs contrary to earlier rumours suggesting that Apple was working on a complete redesign for the small desktop computer, moving to a smaller chassis with a 'plexiglass-like' top. — **ANI**

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,350.85	4,329.86	4,349.97	4,328.46	21.51	0.50
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,073.52	7,032.15	7,073.52	7,025.83	47.69	0.68
Industry Index	5,991.18	5,967.70	5,978.27	5,951.19	27.09	0.46
Services Index	1,629.84	1,623.78	1,627.52	1,623.37	4.15	0.26
MSX Shariah Index	493.55	492.92	492.92	493.49	-0.57	-0.12
MSX TR INDEX	5,237.32	5,212.06	5,236.26	5,210.38	25.89	0.50

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
21,911,058	5,760,914	634	22,358,748,576	15	13	18	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 13

SNSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PR.PREV. CLOSEDIFF (RD)DIFF %LAST PR.LAST BIDLAST OFFERPUR VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	321,841	45,600	52	0.142	0.143	0.139	0.142	0.130	0.012	9.231	0.143	0.142	0.143	0.100	12,070,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV.	985,292	84,813	66	0.083	0.088	0.083	0.086	0.080	0.006	7.500	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	7740,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	576,515	248,573	55	0.426	0.440	0.426	0.432	0.416	0.016	3.846	0.426	0.426	0.430	0.100	53,955,919
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	180,325	61,193	17	0.336	0.344	0.336	0.340	0.332	0.008	2.410	0.344	0.336	0.344	0.100	227,244,245
OM0000003989	OMEDCO	58,474	20,350	8	0.348	0.350	0.348	0.348	0.344	0.004	1.161	0.348	0.348	0.356	0.100	226,950,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	693,000	271,656	6	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.388	0.004	1.031	0.392	0.388	0.392	0.100	39,200,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,050,000	125,321	14	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.001	0.847	0.120	0.116	0.119	0.100	355,817,413
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	128,000	56,170	8	0.440	0.440	0.434	0.438	0.436	0.002	0.459	0.440	0.434	0.440	0.100	103,547,580
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	524,644	32,528	23	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	19,043,072
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	900	918	1	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	0.000	0.000	1.020	0.960	1.020	0.100	91,494,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING.	365	248	1	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.684	0.684	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.636	0.680	0.100	47,196,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	50,850	43,294	16	0.824	0.860	0.824	0.852	0.852	0.000	0.000	0.856	0.828	0.856	0.100	639,000,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	7,509,160	3,436,085	11	0.444	0.460	0.444	0.458	0.460	-0.002	-0.435	0.460	0.420	0.458	0.100	100,760,000
OM0000000798	BANK MUSCAT	660,101	368,367	28	0.584	0.596	0.552	0.558	0.564	-0.006	-1.064	0.560	0.558	0.560	0.100	1,094,556,934
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	252,800	21,969	18	0.089	0.089	0.086	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.100	17,440,000
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	47,273	13,354	13	0.286	0.286	0.280	0.282	0.286	-0.004	-1.399	0.280	0.272	0.280	0.100	17,259,605
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	97,795	17,334	12	0.180	0.180	0.175	0.177	0.180	-0.003	-1.667	0.175	0.175	0.180	0.100	35,400,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	306,340	45,164	25	0.150	0.150	0.140	0.147	0.150	-0.003	-2.000	0.145	0.143	0.145	0.100	34,839,000
OM0000000620	VISION INSURANCE	38,000	3,800	5	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.109	-0.009	-8.257	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	10,000,000
Total	19	15,481,675	4,896,746	379												

Parallel Market

OM0000001596	OMAN FISHERIES	121,730	10,072	19	0.080	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.076	0.007	9.211	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	10,375,000
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	24,300	2,916	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.117	0.003	2.564	0.120	0.114	0.124	0.100	359,562,172
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	262,345	55,574	17	0.215	0.215	0.202	0.213	0.209	0.004	1.914	0.202	0.204	0.217	0.100	346,326,574
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	10,000	560	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.001	1.818	0.056	0.053	0.056	0.056	0.100	12,445,440
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	138,300	12,340	6	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	22,569,510
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	50,000	5,730	3	0.115	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.001	0.877	0.114	0.112	0.115	0.100	14,850,000
OM0000001517	HSECBANK OMAN	176,921	214,593	36	0.121	0.123	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.123	0.121	0.123	0.100	242,037,848
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	30,000	5,430	2	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.000	0.000	0.181	0.181	0.183	0.100	18,100,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	220	30	1	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.140	0.000	0.100	13,140,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEM.	3,900	947	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	2,058,000
OM0000002375	UNITED FINANCE	1,025,000	87,055	11	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.082	0.085	0.100	23,677,275
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	303	264	1	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.000	0.000	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.100	53,431,800
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	14,000	630	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.043	0.045	0.100	8,983,602
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	734,785	71,477	47	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.092	0.097	0.100	16,975,000
OM0000004925	ALBATRA POWER	10,000	480	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	10,000	490	1	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.050	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	700	34	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.046	0.051	0.100	68,742,289
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,506	281	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.100	17,421,645
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	3,000	270	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	19,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	150	12	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.077	0.080	0.100	37,223,724
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	3,208,573	319,870	57	0.100	0.101	0.098	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.098	0.095	0.099	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	17,000	1,404	2	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.100	2,786,430
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	325,000	23,640	13	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.072	0.072	0.077	0.100	8,896,875
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING	327,651	23,391	9	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	14,613,024
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT.	30,000	4,945	2	0.165	0.165	0.164	0.165	0.180	-0.015	-8.333	0.164	0.000	0.164	0.100	67,525,642
OM0000000325	GLOBAL INV. H.	302,000	21,744	15	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.079	-0.007	-8.861	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	14,400,000
Total	26	8,419,384	863,758	254												



SHARING MEMORIES WITH CHILDREN SET THEM ON PATH TO BETTER WELL-BEING



Researchers have found that toddlers whose mothers received special coaching in talking about memories could experience better well-being.

The study was published in the journal, 'Journal of Personality'.

The study found that 15-year-olds told more coherent stories about turning points in their lives if their mothers had been taught the new conversational techniques 14 years earlier.

These adolescents also reported fewer symptoms of depression and anxiety compared to adolescents in the study whose mothers had conversed with their toddlers as usual.

The research was a follow-up of a reminiscing intervention in which 115 mothers of toddlers

were assigned to either a control group or given training in elaborative reminiscing for a year. Elaborative reminiscing involves open and responsive conversations with young children about everyday past events, such as feeding ducks at the park.

Project lead Professor Elaine Reese of the Department of Psychology said that adolescents whose mothers had participated in the earlier coaching sessions narrated difficult events from their lives — such as parental divorce or cyber-bullying — with more insight into how the experience had shaped them as people.

“Our findings suggest that brief coaching sessions with parents early in children’s lives can have long-lasting benefits, both for the way adolescents process and talk about difficult life events and for their

well-being,” Professor Reese said.

“We believe parents’ elaborative reminiscing helps children develop more complete, specific, and accurate memories of their experiences, providing a richer store of memories to use when forming their identities in adolescence. Elaborative reminiscing also teaches children how to have open discussions about past feelings when they’re no longer in the heat of the moment,” she added.

She hoped parents and policymakers realise the importance of early childhood as the ideal time for starting to have positive conversations with children and to know that these conversations can make a difference as children grow older.

“The ultimate goal is to encourage parents to have more sensitive and responsive conversations

about events in their children’s lives,” she said.

Lead author and clinical psychologist Dr Claire Mitchell said that a great deal of research now shows well-being can drop dramatically in adolescence.

“For some young people, this dip is the beginning of more severe mental health issues that can be difficult to treat. Thus, it is important to find ways to prevent mental health difficulties earlier in life if possible,” Dr Claire Mitchell said.

“As a parent of a toddler myself, I can confirm that these elaborative reminiscing techniques are enjoyable and easy to learn. Our study helps pave the way for future work with parents of young children to promote healthy interactions from the beginning that could have enduring benefits,” she concluded. -ANI

ROUND-UP

Enjoy exciting drives in Toyota Yaris

Equipped with impressive power, fuel-efficiency, features and more, Yaris is a great choice for those looking for a mid-size sedan



MUSCAT: The Toyota Yaris, one of the most popular sedans, is exciting and rewarding to own and enjoy. Equipped with impressive power, fuel-efficiency, features and more, the Yaris a great choice for those looking for a mid-size sedan. Delivering a dynamic driving experience, the Yaris sedan and Yaris Hatchback is equipped with 1.5L engine. The 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine can churn out a maximum

output of 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of torque and is mated to the CVT transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency. Cutting-edge design defines the exterior of the Yaris, with its dynamic angles as well as sleek headlamps and clearance lamps. The front of the Yaris has a horizontal grille for a wider yet more aerodynamic appearance, while rear combination taillights adorn the rear of the car with a unique look. The Yaris hatchback is adorned with a stylish radiator grille, colour keyed front and rear bumpers, 14” steel wheels, Halogen head-

lamps, rear combination lamps, stylish shark fin antenna, high mount stop lamp, sporty lower radiator grille in the front. With an exciting interior featuring a distinctive design, and offering convenience and comfort with a layer of luxury, the Yaris sedan’s cabin has an exclusive profile. The centre console of the Yaris has been designed to create a greater sense of integration. The cabin has been adorned with a range of enhanced features, including keyless entry, cruise control, as well as a four-speaker audio system with AUX and USB. As with any other Toyota model,

safety remains a top priority for the Yaris sedan and hatchback, which includes a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as driver and front passenger airbags, vehicle stability control (VSC), anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brake force distribution (EBD), brake assist (BA), traction control (TRC), among many others. Specifications of vehicle imported from Toyota Motor Corporation are as per the GSO Conformity Certificate applicable to the model/grade. Parameters such as vehicle weight, dimensions & fuel economy could vary from the GSO Conformity Certificate due to fitment of dealer installed accessories. Pictures and colours shown may differ from actual specifications. For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, and instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/. For any further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota Showroom.

EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

National Bank of Oman’s select branches open from 8am to 8pm



MUSCAT: Continuing to find ways to meet the needs of its customers’ busy lives, National Bank of Oman (NBO) has extended the opening hours of its CBD and Al Khoudh branches. Between Sunday and Thursday, the branches will now be open from 8am until 8pm, with staff able to provide a range of services including account management, card issuance, and inquiries, as well as remittance services through its e-channels. Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail and Digital Banking Officer at NBO, said, “Although our digital channels are equipped to manage a variety of tasks, many people still prefer to conduct their banking face-to-face. That is why we decided to extend our hours of service at two of our most frequently visited branches.

By doing so we are making banking more accessible for our customers, all while providing them with the best banking experience possible.” NBO provides a full suite of innovative and high-quality banking solutions through 60 branches across the country, as well as a wide network of 199 ATM and deposit machines. Having built a rich history of innovative banking services that keep pace with the needs of its customers, it continues to modernize and evolve, in readiness for the future. Excluding cash, services are available in-branch through the staff of the Direct Sales Unit. In addition, the Direct Sales Unit boasts a dedicated team of customer service professionals who can also visit customers who cannot make it to the bank to process select ser-

vices. More details about NBO’s range of products and services are available in-branch, online at www.nbo.om or by contacting the Call Centre on 24770000. NBO, the first local commercial bank in the Sultanate of Oman, was founded in 1973 and is today one of the leading banks in Oman. The Bank serves its customers in Oman through 60 Branches, more than 180 ATM/FFM/CCDMs as well as two Branches in U.A.E. The Bank is committed to community improvement through its corporate citizenship programs and is an active supporter of a range of worthy causes in Oman, with emphasis on health and human services, civic, education, environment, youth, women, arts and culture.



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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat’s Digital Banking Solutions help to boost efficiencies

Over the past few years, the bank has launched a number of digital banking solutions that are able to meet the varied and complex needs of government institutions, large organisations and small businesses

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision of “serving you better, everyday”, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, continues to launch innovative digital banking solutions and services that are transforming banking for its Institutional and Corporate Banking clients.

Over the past few years, the bank has launched a number of digital banking solutions that are able to meet the varied and complex needs of government institutions, large organisations as well as small businesses.

Bank’s Corporate Internet Banking, Business to Business (B2B) Connect solution, Direct Debit solution, Virtual Accounts, Sweeps solution, Remote Deposit Capture (RDC), Point of Sales and Payment Gateway are being increasingly leveraged by the bank’s customers to rapidly transform businesses and enhance efficiencies. These solutions optimise cash flow, provides complete control and visibility of funds thus making working capital management more predictable.

Speaking about the bank’s cutting-edge digital solutions, Wafa Ibrahim Al Ajmi, Assistant General Manager, Transaction & Government Banking, said: “At Bank Muscat, we succeeded in building a solid technological infrastructure and have created a digital culture that have embedded in all of our operations, products,

and services. We are committed to empowering our customers with innovative digital solutions to bring efficiency in their business and achieve scale. The bank’s digital strategy aims to offer the latest financial services and solutions in line with global financial trends to its large number of customers. It is our sustained effort to enhance our value proposition to customers by investing in digital and digitizing the entire customer journey, thus improving both value and customer convenience. We are very happy to note that our Corporate Customers are quickly adopting the bank’s state-of-the-art digital banking solutions to speed up transactions, optimise the efficiency of their employees, minimise data-entry related risks in payment processes, improve overall security and maintain business continuity. We encourage all our Corporate Customers to use the digital solutions Bank Muscat offers, and enjoy an effort-saving and convenient banking experience.”

As part of our digital journey, the bank has crossed an important milestone with the launch of its next-generation ‘Integrated Transaction Banking Platform’ platform, which offers a comprehensive suite of advanced digital solutions including payments, account services, collections and receivables, liquidity and trade solutions. The platform delivers a seamless user experience with easy-to-use interface. The platform provides full



visibility and control over fund positions across geographies in multiple currencies through account services dashboard.

The collections and receivables solutions provide benefit of flexibility and predictability in collections of funds through Direct Debit and Virtual Accounts resulting in bringing agility in finance and treasury functions.

The liquidity management through Sweeps helps in automating the management of funds efficiently through sweeps mechanism leading to finding a right balance of liquidity for efficient utilisation of funds. Easy recon-

ciliation is supported through straight through reconciliation tools available in the platform. This digital transformation will ease business operations, bring insights, and provides complete control on visibility and management of funds.

Corporate Internet Banking is a payments solution, which can take care of all payments of corporate clients safely and securely. The platform is bilingual (Arabic and English) and is also device and browser agnostic. It allows corporate decision-makers to view account details in real-time and download statements as well as the audit trail of transactions. The platform supports various types of transactions including local and international transactions in Omani Rial and foreign currencies, single payments, bulk file uploads for salary and vendor files, in addition to special payments like credit cards payments and bill payments. Meanwhile, the bank’s popular B2B Connect solution is an advanced version of the bank’s Corporate Online Banking. With the B2B Connect solution, large institutions can carry out pay-

ment approvals within their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. The information then flows to the bank for processing. Customers can thereby utilise an efficient and robust payments and reconciliation system. The bank’s B2B solution will seamlessly and securely integrate with an institution’s ERP system to provide two-way data transfer service for high volume online payments. It is particularly useful for vendor and salary payments by Government departments, ministries and large corporates.

Bank Muscat’s Remote Deposit Capture is an online cheque clearing solution, facilitating faster clearance and efficiencies in account receivables. Cheques can be scanned and the images sent electronically to the bank for faster clearing of funds. Corporates have the facility to scan cheques of any bank from the convenience of their offices without the need to manually sort the cheques or visit a Bank Muscat branch daily. The RDC solution also facilitates electronic endorsement on scanned cheques eliminating the need for manual stamping.

Bank Muscat’s Merchant Acquiring offers the best-in-class payment products to help business to expand and reach newer heights. The Payment Acceptance Solutions offered by the bank includes Point of Sale (PoS) Terminals as well as online payment options. The features of the payment acceptance solutions include universal compliance with up-to-date security features, acceptance of all domestic & international debit, credit and pre-paid cards, prompt payment settlements, on-site support and round-the-clock help desk as well as access to payment reports for ease of reconciliation.

Bank Muscat’s digital solutions and services are boosted by its new Corporate Banking website (<https://www.bankmuscat.com/en/Business/Pages/Business-Homepage.aspx>), which provides direct links to services and solutions including Corporate Online Banking, business loans and solutions, trade finance, agency and custody services, sectoral insights and eApplications for various trade solutions and other banking services.

The bank’s ongoing digitalisation drive is in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and will further enhance financial inclusion in Oman. Digitalisation addresses the entire value chain of institutions and corporates by providing sophisticated analysis of data sets, real-time insights to ensure transparency and greater control for customers to make better-informed decisions. The bank’s efforts in customer centricity and digitalisation have been well recognised by local and international media with the bank winning multiple awards across its different lines of business regularly. In 2021, Bank Muscat won prestigious awards for the Best Corporate/Institutional Digital Bank (Oman) and the Best Consumer Digital Bank (Oman) from Global Finance in recognition of the bank’s commitment to provide innovative digital solutions to its customers.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

ahlibank implements ‘Outstanding Customer Service’ programme

MUSCAT: Continuing its efforts to strengthen relations with its customers and enhance their banking experience, ahlbank has launched the ‘Outstanding Customer Service’ programme to train select front line personal bankers across the bank’s branch network in the Sultanate. The on-the-job training programme, which has begun with 100 employees of ahlbank and ahl Islamic.

The programme aims to enhance their understanding of excellent customer service, communication skills, and emotional intelligence quotient. It also looks toward developing their problem solving skills and innovation, for achieving greater customer satisfaction. Each day the Bank’s employees will participate in workshops that focus on developing employees’ skills in customer service and care essentials, customer needs and expectations, the program’s vision, policy and practices; service recovery as well as customer service excellence and ongoing development.

“At ahlbank, we continue to invest in programmes and initiatives that improve the skills and capabilities of our human resources, recognising them as active ambassadors of the bank. Through the ‘Outstanding Customer Service’ programme, the bank seeks to further strengthen its relationships



with various client categories, employ appropriate techniques to manage communication with current and potential customers, analyse their needs, reach a deeper understanding of target customer behaviors, and therefore make meaningful decisions in order to meet any requirements more quickly and effectively. With this program, ahlbank aims to redefine customer service and set new benchmarks in employee skills enhancement that are necessary for them as well as for the bank,” said Ruqaiya Al Lawati, Head of Change Management at ahlbank.

She further stated, “We are confident that through this programme our nominated employees will be able to apply tools and techniques that will help them to manage customers in a professional manner, consolidate their relationships with different client groups, whether individuals,

companies or others, and maintain these relationships to earn permanent their trust, which in turn will enhance their satisfaction in our service.”

ahlibank seeks to provide an attractive work environment that enhances employees’ sense of pride in working in, both in terms of professional development programs and through motivated leadership and colleagues. In addition, the Bank’s leadership encourages creative thinking, empowers employees to make decisions, lead business activities, open up to the market and lead their careers. This in turn helps in achieving the Bank’s long-term goals of ensuring business sustainability across its departments and branches. Over the years, ahlbank has been able to offer comprehensive and diversified banking solutions to meet requirements of various customer segments.

EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES

Enjoy exclusive offers with BankDhofar’s ‘My Offers’ App

MUSCAT: BankDhofar continues to provide its customers with a unique experience through exclusive privileges and offers. The Bank has recently introduced its exclusive offers App ‘My Offers’ for BankDhofar debit and credit cardholders.

Elaborating on that, Yousuf Ahmed Al Balushi, Head of Payment Hub at BankDhofar said: “At BankDhofar, we always strive to offer the best banking experience for our customers. We have constantly been providing our cardholders with exclusive offers and benefits, and today we are glad to reveal the App which will enable them to benefit from competitive deals on various categories at the tip of their fingers. I encourage our customers to download the App and enjoy the offers.”

The App is available on “Google Play” for Android devices and on the “Apple store” for Apple devices. BankDhofar debit and credit cardholders may avail discounts and exclusive offers over +2000 outlets, in Oman and UAE, including shopping, dining, wellness, lifestyle, entertainment, and many more. Customers may avail for buy one get one offers and enjoy discount of up to 50 per cent.

In addition to My Offers App, BankDhofar offers a wide array of exclusive privileges for Bank-



Dhofar credit card users, through the comprehensive Rewards Loyalty Program. With the Rewards Program, customers can earn points when they use their credit cards. These points can then be redeemed, allowing customers to choose from more than 300 airlines and destinations worldwide. They also have the choice of over 180,000 hotels across the globe to use the points. Additionally,

the rewards program allows customers to redeem points at various shopping outlets, restaurants and cafes. Customers may view their points through Bankdhofa’s Mobile Banking App, or they may visit the website to redeem their points.

More information is available on (www.bankdhofarreward.com) as well as BankDhofar’s official website (www.BankDhofar.com). Customers can also learn more about the bank’s exclusive products and services via social media channels: Facebook (www.facebook.com/BankDhofar), Twitter (@BankDhofar), Instagram (www.instagram.com/BankDhofar). For further information contact the Customer Engagement Hub 24/7 on (+968) 24791111 for inquiries.

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ROUND-UP

Nama Group to participate in Oman’s First Sustainability Week

Nama Group will provide visitors with a first-hand narrative of its ongoing sustainability ventures at the exhibition and highlighting its achievements in key Oman Vision 2040 projects

MUSCAT: Nama Group (NG), which is committed to play an instrumental role in national sustainability goals, will mark its significant presence in the forthcoming Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) under the auspices of Ministry of Energy and Minerals, from 13 to 17 March.

As a Strategic Sponsor, NG will provide visitors with a first-hand narrative of its ongoing sustainability ventures at the exhibition and, highlighting its achievements in key Oman Vision 2040 projects, including renewable energy and North South interconnection Project (Rabt). Additionally, there are three papers which will be presented by NG executives and their knowledge partners.

Among these will be Suleiman Khamis Al Qasmi, Chief of Plan-



ning and Asset Management, at Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC), who will focus on integrated water resources management. His session will particularly address the market-ready technological innovations that can substantially contribute to making the water sector sustainable and help identify which ones are particularly suited to be deployed in a specific region. OWWSC intends to meet the requirements of 98 per cent of customers through water networks connections. Currently, four strategic transmission projects are underway to provide upstream transmission infrastructure till 2040 and beyond. In addition to major networks projects, OWWSC is

executing a significant number of small and medium size networks.

Sharing his views on Sustainable Energy, and Energy Positive Communities, Rodrigo Costa, Chairman and CEO, REN (Portugal), will share major technological innovations that are enabling energy provision for the masses, and what is needed to deploy these at scale in the regions.

Discussing regional and national success stories, Eng. Yaqoob Al Kiyumi, CEO of Oman Power and Water Procurement Company, will speak on national and international programs for Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). His session will focus on concrete regional and national programs that support transition to sustainable

industrial development and circular economy. He will also highlight specific success story with the introduction of Ibri II in 2021.

“Considering the scale of Nama Group’s operations in Oman, we are aware that our business operations can have a far-reaching and positive impact, within and outside the country,” Ms. Ghada Al Yousef, Executive Manager, Group Communication and Sustainability also pointed out that monitoring our success is in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

“We are committed to enhancing the stakeholder’s engagement process by mapping and assessment jointly with staff and other stakeholders as part of the sustain-



ability report production process,” she added.

Nama Group (NG) was established as a result of restructuring the electricity and related water sector in 2004 and commenced its commercial operations on 1 May 2005. NG’s operations are spread across generation, procurement, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity and related water services in the Sultanate.

The Group consists of 12 joint stock companies and 2 limited liability companies registered in the Sultanate of Oman, including: Nama Holding (NH), Al Ghubrah Power and Desalination Company (GPDC), Wadj Al Jizzi Power Company (WJPC), Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP), Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), Muscat Electricity Distribution Company (MEDC), Mazoon Electricity Company (MZEC), Majan Electricity Company (MJEC), Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer), Dhofar Integrated Services Company (DISC), Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC), Numo Insti-

tute for Competency Development (NICD), and Nama Shared Services Company (NSS).

For more information, please visit Nama Group website: www.nama.om.

NG’s Sustainability Policy aims to integrate a philosophy of sustainable development in all its Group activities and to establish and promote sound sustainable practices. The Policy is primarily focused on the impact of the Group’s electricity and water utilities operations and activities, which are executed in accordance with relevant social, environmental, and economic objectives.

This translates as excellence in customer service, with access to safe and reliable electricity and water services for all. It also reflects the Group’s intention to reduce Lost Time Injury Frequency (LTIF) to its staff and contractors (less than 1) and its endeavor to inculcate a spirit of benevolence among its staff, who are encouraged to spend at least one workday per annum on charitable activities and the Group’s sustainability initiatives.

ON 21ST MARCH

Malabar Gold & Diamonds to celebrate Mother’s Day by launching exclusive jewellery collection

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 280 outlets spread across 10 countries celebrate Mother’s Day by launching an exclusive jewellery collection that can be gifted to mothers as a shimmering tribute to their selfless love. Arab Mother’s Day is celebrated on 21st March every year to honour and commemorate the unconditional bond of motherhood, with the exquisite collection from Malabar Gold & Diamonds rooted in the concept of “My Mom, The Jewel of my Life”. Mothers are as precious as jewels in every individual’s life, making Mother’s Day a reminder of her love and sacrifice, and her role in nurturing the future generations to create happier and healthier societies.

As part of the campaign, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched a special collection of diamond, 21K and 18K gold jewellery. The brand has also launched pendants in diamond and 18K gold jewellery, specially designed for the occasion, seeing it as a unique opportunity to celebrate the true essence of motherhood and express boundless love by choosing from the uniquely crafted “Ummi” pendants featuring Mother of pearl, colourful stones and heart-shaped designs, in addition to an incredible collection of unique designs in gold and diamond jewellery from Italy, Singapore, Turkey, Bahrain, India, etc. that can be gifted to mothers and make their



day memorable. Every diamond jewellery from Malabar Gold & Diamonds comes with the Malabar Promise including IGI and GIA certified diamonds ensuring a 28-point quality check of global standards, best exchange value, buyback guarantee and assured lifetime maintenance.

The brand constantly makes efforts to evolve in line with the

jewellery preferences of their multicultural and multinational customers, as part of which Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched stand-alone stores exclusively for local customers of the respective regions in which it operates, with more openings in the pipeline. The exquisite collection from Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be available across all its stores and MGD

- Lifestyle Jewellery outlets in the GCC at affordable prices.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate.

Established in 1993 in the Indian state of Kerala, Malabar Gold & Diamonds today has a strong retail network of over 280 outlets spread across 10 countries, 14 wholesale



units in addition to offices, design centers and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East & USA. With an annual turnover of \$4.51 billion, the company currently ranks one among the largest jewellery retailers globally.

With 14 cluster manufacturing units in India and GCC – the company currently has 12 jewellery brands to cater to the discerning needs of customers. With headquarters in Kerala and branches across India, Middle East, Far East and USA, Malabar Group is best known for its activities in the field of gold, diamonds, silver and lifestyle articles.

The group also operates MGD – Lifestyle Jewellery, a retail concept offering trendy and light weight jewellery that represents the independent and the modern woman through its designs and



collections. The group, owned by over 4,000 shareholders excels in quality products and services, has more than 13,000 professionals working for its continued success.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favourite jewellery any time and on any day from the comfort of their home.

The group is always proactive when it comes to CSR initiatives right from its inception. The key focus areas of the CSR initiatives of Malabar Group are in the areas of Health, Education, Women Empowerment, Housing and Environment. The organisation has kept aside 5 per cent of its profit for enabling CSR activities in all the regions that they operate.

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