

>> PRAYER TIMINGS
Dhuhr 12:13 pm
Asr 3:40 pm
Maghrib 6:32 pm
Isha 7:44 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:30 am
>> IFTAR 6:32 pm



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MAZOOON ELECTRICITY MAKING INVESTMENTS WORTH OMR80MM

MUSCAT: In accordance with its project plans for 2022, Mazoon Electricity, (member of Nama Group), is constructing a number of primary substations with related 33 kV and 11 kV feeders to expand the power network with an investment reaching OMR80 million. **>B1**



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DIRECTIVES ISSUED

The Honourable Lady extends support to 'Fak-Kurba' initiative

MUSCAT: Based on her social responsibility in supporting humanitarian initiatives and her belief in the role of charitable action undertaken by civil society institutions, Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman has issued directives to provide

financial backing to the "Fak-Kurba" or "Ending Financial Crisis" initiative through Ahd Foundation. Championed by Oman Lawyers Association, the initiative contributed to the release of a number of eligible detainees, who were charged with financial claims in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

E-transfer of vehicle records now possible

1 The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has launched a new service that allows the owner of the vehicle, whether a citizen or a resident, to transfer vehicle ownership records electronically from one person to another. **>A5**

WORLD

'Biden values strong India partnership'

2 US Defence Secretary has said that President Joe Biden values strong partnership with India. **>A7**

MARKET

Bank credit in Oman exceeds OMR27bn

3 Credit extended by conventional and Islamic banks reached OMR27.9 bn by February 2022 end. **>B1**

GOOD WORKING STANDARDS A TOP PRIORITY FOR MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Among the measures being taken include creating a good work culture, organising and developing the labour market as well as improving the living conditions of workers



"There is a need to establish awareness campaigns to create a culture of work, as well as show the reality and nature of modern workplace roles"

sector aims to provide stability to our nationals, and is part of measures to create permanent stability in society, particularly youth," he said. "This initiative was launched to support our national workforce."

Proposals

During his visit, Nasser Al Hosni met with officials at the General Directorate of Labour in North Al Batinah, where he met the Assistant Director-General, who briefed him on the work of the directorate and the challenges it faces. He also shared proposals considered key to making the work of the directorate smoother and providing more flexibility in the light of the government's efforts towards decentralisation.

With Sohar a centre of industry in Oman and a vital cog in the national economy, improved regulation of the labour market would make it an even more important contributor. With this in mind, the Undersecretary set his sights on decision making that would reduce the time taken for the wheels of development to turn, and help the nation achieve its goals of developing better industries. **>A5**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Steps are being taken by the Ministry of Labour to implement directives to remove obstacles in the execution of development plans in Oman.

Among the measures being taken are creating a good culture of work, organising and developing the labour market, improving liv-

ing conditions for workers, intensifying awareness campaigns and tackling the challenges faced by companies and workers in Oman.

As part of these directives — which involves officials visiting various governorates so that obstacles can be removed easier — Nasser bin Amer Al Hosni, the Undersecretary of Labour at the Ministry of Labour, recently vis-

ited factories in Sohar in North Al Batinah. The visit by Al Hosni was part of efforts by the ministry to assess the progress of work in areas where labour is concentrated and to understand the experiences of workers, the challenges facing the national workforce and the hurdles facing sectors considered vital to the country.

"The ministry supports all ideas

to promote industrial sector, and ensure that the national workforce operates in an environment that is safe, sustainable and supportive of them," he said, during his visit.

The undersecretary added that as part of the support provided to the labour sector by the government is a scheme that ensures companies consider the wages of employees, especially those who

have been terminated.

"There is a need to establish awareness campaigns to create a culture of work, as well as show the reality and nature of modern workplace roles," he added. "These campaigns have been launched so that they reach all members of the community in the governorate."

"The initiative of wage support for new operators in the private

SUCCESS STORY

Hearing disability never stopped him from realising his dream

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: Ahmed Yahya Al-Kindi did not let his hearing disability getting into the way of his ambitions of becoming an entrepreneur and from the young age, he knew which path to take to become successful and independent.

But the path to success was littered with challenges and the 25-year old now admits that he did not have an easy way out. "I was born deaf and started wearing hearing aids around 2001 when I was five years old. I really faced tough challenges communicating with people because my hearing disability made me a bad listener and speaker. So I tried my best to improve my listening and speaking skills. With time, I did not only improve my communication but became a good public speaker," Ahmed told *Times of Oman*.

He is a Co-Founder of Nork, a company that deals with cryptocurrency and blockchain. Nork



Ahmed al-Kindy

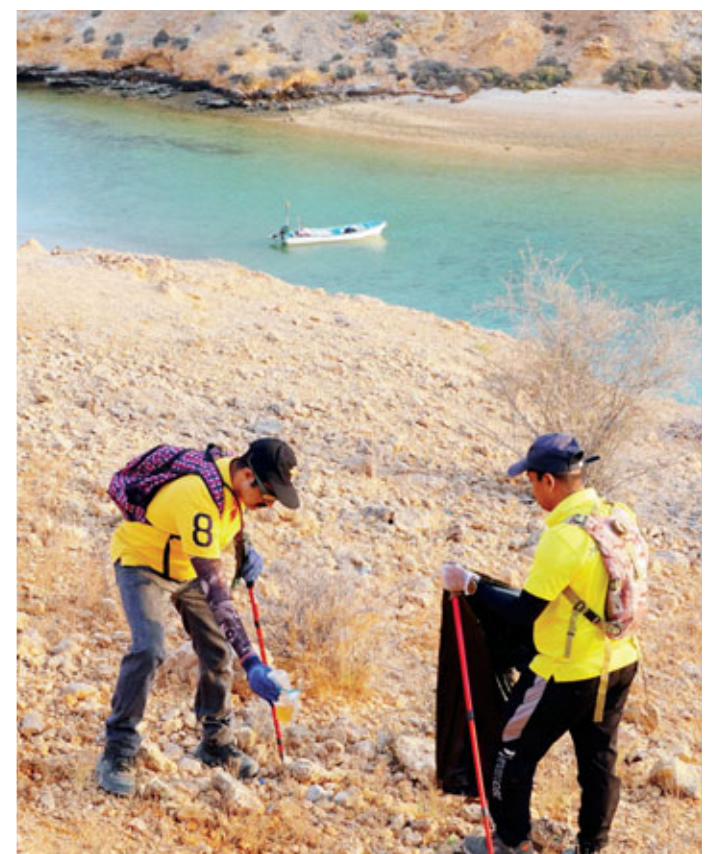
also provides Web development solutions. Ahmed also speaks to the public audience on blockchain and cryptocurrency when he finds time.

He started the business in Oman but realised there are bigger windows of opportunities in the United Arab Emirates. In

January this year, he moved his business, together with two of his partners, to Dubai. "I tried myself to fit in Oman market but unfortunately it didn't allow me to grow myself as a person nor my business. That's why I moved to Dubai and I found countless opportunities out there. All I can say now is 'alhamdulillah' that I took the right decision," Ahmed justified the reason of his business location switch.

He now finds Dubai a good place as a business base where one can find a lot of support and the market segment there is really large, compared to Oman. He says he likes the place, the environment and diversification of people in Dubai.

"If you ask me, I wouldn't say it is hard because I built my personality and soft skills well before starting my business. Of course it will be very hard if you didn't master through personal development and business mentality. It's all about common sense," Ahmed explained. **>A5**



Indian community cleans wadis, hiking trails across Oman as part of Sewa Utsav

A3

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Indian expats join hands to clean wadis, hiking trails

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In an attempt to raise awareness about climate change and environment protection, Indian community members joined hands for cleaning wadis and hiking trails across three different cities in Oman on 9th April 2022 as part of Community Service Fortnight (Sewa Utsav).

Members from Indian Social Club (ISC), Adventure Oman and other Indian nationals joined hands to advocate for a clean and green Oman. The beaches and hiking trails at Bander Al Khairan near Muscat were cleaned and approximately 200 kilogrammes of trash was collected and properly disposed of by the enthusiastic participants. Ambassador Amit Narang commended the efforts by the Indian community, and hoped that such activities will go a long way in instilling sensitivity towards conservation of environment.

The wadi and hiking trail cleaning activities were also organised in Sohar and Salalah. ISC members in Sohar cleaned a wadi and collected plastic and other trash.

ISC members in Salalah went on a hike and collected trash on the way, thus engaging the community and raising awareness on conservation of environment. The activities educated the participants towards recycling and adopting a sustainable lifestyle as well as not littering public places. This was another collective initiative of Indian community to contribute towards cleaner and greener Oman.



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Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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54,994 REACH

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Farsi passed away on Sunday night.



Story remembering Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Farsi

A story remembering Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Farsi reached 54,994 people and had 3,486 link clicks on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

961 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi had 961 views and reached 6,600 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

2,533 VIEWS



Let's Talk: How some businesses thrived during the pandemic

The Let's Talk: How some businesses thrived during the pandemic episode had 2,533 views and 126 likes on Instagram.

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» IFTAR TIMING

6:32 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:13 pm
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Maghrib	6:32 pm
Isha	7:44 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:30 am

» RAMADAN WORDS

“Whoever brings a good deed shall have ten times the like thereof to his credit, and whoever brings an evil deed shall have only the recompense of the like thereof, and they will not be wronged” (Quran, 6:160)

» IFTAR AROUND THE WORLD

IRAN

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

FANTASTIC STEWS, sweets, fresh dates, traditional Azari cheese with vegetables and nuts accompanied by a glass of tea to wash them down are what one can find on any dinner table in Iran during Ramadan. Other special dishes that are a must during Ramadan include sheer berenj and firni made from milk and rice, ash reshteh, a thick vegetable soup and a dish made from rice and lentils called adaspola. Iranians also make a saffron-flavoured halwa.

Ash reshteh is the most famous Iranian soup, beloved all over the world, this soup brings together noodles, kidney beans or chickpeas, fresh herbs, and spinach and is topped with fried onions and mint or mint oil. Part of the distinctive flavour comes from the final dollop of keshk, a dried yoghurt product. Sheer Berenj is made with milk, “sheer” and rice, “berenj.” In this the rice is gently simmered in water until it becomes sticky and gets a creamy texture. Next, the milk is added one cup at a time and simmered gently to allow the starch in the rice to cook into a smooth pudding.



» FASTING HEALTH TIP

KEEP A CHECK ON THE IFTAR MEAL

While feasting on your favourite delicacies is irresistible after observing the fast for the entire day, one should not forget to keep a check on Iftar meal in order to start the next day of fasting with a light stomach.



» GOOD DEEDS

BE GRATEFUL FOR
WHAT YOU HAVE
AND AVOID
WASTEFULNESS

Protect and care for your body and the bodies of those sharing the Iftar meal with you by eating in moderation and with an eye to health. Ramadan is a time to be grateful for what we have, to avoid wastefulness, and take the opportunity to improve our lives. The Iftar meal is the greatest embodiment of Allah’s grace and generosity, and the way we serve and celebrate this daily meal should reflect that.





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ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Electronic transfer of vehicle records now possible in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has launched a new service that allows the owner of the vehicle, whether a citizen or a resident, to transfer vehicle ownership records electronically from one person to another.

The ROP clarified that the service was available for transferring private vehicles with plate number only and that the vehicle license must be valid.

The vehicle must be insured with the following providers: Muscat Insurance Company, National Life and General Insurance Company, Takaful Oman Insurance, Saudi Arabian Insurance Company, New India Insurance Company Limited and Vision Insurance.

Additionally, if the vehicle is eligible for technical inspection, it should pass the same and the record of the beneficiary and the vehicle is required to be free of



any entries in the traffic or criminal record.

Vehicle ownership

“Both service parties must not have finished vehicles for more than a year and vehicle must be unencumbered. Submitting a vehicle ownership transfer application and sign with approval by the seller must be in person using a digital authentication.”

Signing of consent and payment of the transport fee must be done by the buyer in person using digital authentication and the buyer must sign and pay the transaction fee within one day from the moment the transaction is signed by the seller.”

“The vehicle cannot be transferred electronically in the name of a minor and requires the presence of the guardian in person,” ROP said.

While for residents, a valid residence card and driver's license is required and to transfer the vehicle, it is required that the resident does not own more than two four-wheel drive vehicles or saloon vehicles registered during the completion of the transfer procedures.

The ROP said that the vehicle is required to be within the territory of the Sultanate during the period of transfer and that a station wagon vehicle registration cannot be transferred electronically.

WAKAN VILLAGE ATTRACTS VISITORS

The Village of Wakan in the Wilayat of Nakhal, South Al Batinah Governorate is one of the famous tourist sites in the governorate. The village accommodates shrines, agricultural terraces , apricot, grape and pomegranate trees besides flowering plants. — **ONA**



SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

< FROM A1 Committee sets social goals

The Social Dialogue Committee – which is made up of representatives from three organisations: The government, the General Federation of Oman Workers and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry – has a prominent role in removing hurdles in the labour market.

These organisations meet to set out the objectives for the labour market, develop and improve

work conditions for employees and set economic and social goals that contribute towards maintaining stability of workers and workplaces.

Visit to Sohar

During his visit to Sohar, Undersecretary Al Hosni visited the LT Complex for Industrial Installations, SV Pittie Sohar Textiles (FZC) LLC and Sohar Alumini-

um. At the LT Complex, while being briefed on factory and worker conditions, he stressed the need for success and improvement in industry.

Of particular importance at SV Pittie was the efforts taken to empower Omani women to play a role in the country's future. Al Hosni concluded his visit at the office of the Labour Union of the Industrial Sector.

INVEST IN SKILLS

< FROM A1 Entrepreneur asks jobseekers to always follow their passion

Ahmed has a future outlook both personally and in business.

It is to build a solid business to be a leader in the cryptocurrency and blockchain and he has his sight to be one of the top 10 entrepreneurs in the world in these fields.

What is his advice to young un-

employed Omanis who are struggling to find jobs?

He is asking jobseekers to always follow their passion.

He is also encouraging them to invest in skills while they are still studying. Persistence will always lead to success.

“Most schools and universities

won't tell you the reality of a career phase. So my advice for you all is to find the right skills and make sure they are needed both in the current and future job market. For example, the skills needed for 2022 will be different from the skills needed for 2025. Always improve yourself,” Ahmed advises young people.

Ramadan Iftar Program



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

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

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Putin vows Russia won't be isolated in meeting with Alexander Lukashenko

Putin's visit marked his first known trip outside Moscow since Russia launched its war in Ukraine

MOSCOW: The Russian president headed to the country's far east on Tuesday to the Vostochny Cosmodrome space launch facility together with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Putin's visit marked his first known trip outside Moscow since Russia launched its war in Ukraine on February 24. He insisted that Russia has no intention to isolate itself amid widespread outrage at Russia's invasion and sanctions imposed by the West.

What did Putin say?

Putin used the visit to highlight the success of the Soviet Union's space program, citing it as evidence that Russia could achieve spectacular leaps without help from the West.

However, the Russian leader said, Moscow was keen to work with other countries.

"We don't intend to be isolated," Putin said. "It is impossible to severely isolate anyone in the modern world — especially such a vast country as Russia."

"We will work with those of our partners who want to cooperate," Putin said.

He also mentioned the war in



FIRST TRIP: Putin insisted that Russia has no intention to isolate itself amid widespread outrage at Russia's invasion and sanctions imposed by the West.

Ukraine, referring to it as a "special military operation" to "ensure Russia's own security."

"Its goals are absolutely clear and noble," Putin said. "It's clear that we didn't have a choice. It was the right decision."

Russia used a false pretext that Ukraine was responsible for genocide in eastern Ukraine in its justification for launching its war in Ukraine. The Kremlin claimed that it needed to "denazify" the country, without providing any credible evidence for its claims.

Ukrainian forces have confounded Russian expectations by mounting stiff resistance, while

the West has imposed far-reaching sanctions on Russia to exert pressure on Moscow to end its war.

Russia is presently facing soaring inflation and capital flight while also struggling with the prospect of a possible debt default.

Meeting with Belarusian ally

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko arrived in the far eastern region ahead of Putin, Russian state news agency Ria Novosti reported.

The pair were expected to talk about closer integration between Russia and Belarus, as well as the

war in Ukraine.

Sanctions have been placed on Belarus for allowing Russia to use his country as a staging point for attacks on Ukraine. However, Lukashenko appeared defiant on his visit to Vostochny, which coincided with Russia's "Space Day."

"Why an earth are we getting so worried about these sanctions?" Lukashenko was reported as saying.

Lukashenko has previously insisted that Belarus must be involved in negotiations to resolve the conflict in Ukraine. He also claims that Belarus had been unfairly labeled "an accomplice of the aggressor." **bw**



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UKRAINE CRISIS

Zelenskyy urges EU to further cut Russian gas, oil

KYIV: Addressing Lithuania's parliament on Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that some European Union countries cannot decide on limiting their Russian energy use while war is raging in Ukraine.

"The European Union is discussing a sixth package of sanctions against Russia... And it is still unknown whether oil will be sanctioned. Even after the massacres in Bucha and other cities. Even knowing about the deportations, even watching the deliberate destruction of peaceful cities with Russian missiles and air bombs, some EU countries cannot decide when they at least limit the purchase of Russian energy," Zelenskyy said.

The president called on EU countries to set a deadline for ending imports of Russian gas or at least limit consumption of Russian gas and oil. "Only in this way will the Russian leadership come to the conclusion that real peace must be sought, that war is a catastrophe, first of all, for them," Zelenskyy said.

According to him, "oil must be

added to the sixth package, Russian banks must be sanctioned, but all of them."

Addressing the Lithuanian lawmakers, Zelenskyy also said that Ukrainians would long remember the efforts and sincerity of Lithuanians who supported Ukraine in its war with Russia.

"You were the first to come to Ukraine's aid," he said, seemingly in part referring to Lithuania cutting all Russian energy purchases earlier this month.

Two-thirds of Ukraine's children displaced: UN

The UN's children agency UNICEF said nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children have fled their homes since the beginning of Russia's attack in late February.

UNICEF Director for Emergency Operations Manuel Fontaine said 4.8 million of Ukraine's 7.5 million children have been displaced. He also said that in 31 years of humanitarian work, he had never seen such a rapid relocation of so many young people. **bw**

STORM MEGI

Several people dead as Storm Megi wreaks havoc in Philippines

MANILA: More than three dozen people have died with several more still missing as rescue workers in the Philippines continued to look for survivors on Tuesday after tropical storm Megi caused landslides in the center of the country.

Around 20,000 people across 17 provinces have fled their homes since Megi, known in the Philippines by its local name Agaton, made landfall on Sunday.

Local police chief Lt. Col. Joemen Collado said 22 people had died as a result of landslides in four villages in Baybay city in central Leyte province, some 600 kilometers (373 miles) south-east of Manila. At least six others were reported missing, he added.

Later on Tuesday, emergency personnel suspended the search for survivors around Baybay city, as it was "too dangerous" to continue in the dark, said Marissa Miguel Cano, public information officer for the city government.

Nearly 200 floods

Three people were also killed in the central province of Negros Ori-



ental and three on the main southern island of Mindanao, according to the Philippines' national disaster agency.

Nearly 200 floods were reported in different areas in central and southern provinces over the weekend, flooding houses, severing roads and knocking out power.

Megi has since weakened into a tropical depression, the weather bureau said. The storm was moving slowly towards the east, but the bureau said its path could change "considering the continuing erratic nature of its movement."

The weather bureau is also monitoring severe tropical storm

Malakas, which maintained its strength as it moved towards the Philippines from the east.

First tropical storm this year

Megi is the first tropical storm of 2022 to hit the Southeast Asian country.

At least 20 storms and typhoons typically batter the Philippines each year, mostly during the rainy season that begins around June.

The disaster-prone nation also lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an area particularly susceptible to other natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. **bw**

DEBT PAYMENTS

Sri Lanka temporarily suspends servicing \$51bn foreign debt payments

COLOMBO: Amid the economic crisis in the country, the Sri Lanka government has temporarily suspended the payment of its foreign debts.

According to an interim policy released by the Finance Ministry regarding the servicing of the country's external public debt, the government has announced that it would default on its \$51 billion external debt pending a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The ministry has announced that the creditors, including foreign governments that had given loans to the island nation, were free to capitalise any interest payments due to them from Tuesday afternoon or opt for payback in Sri Lankan rupees.

Sri Lanka is battling a severe economic crisis with food and fuel scarcity affecting a large number of the people in the island nation resulting in massive protests over the government's handling of the situation.



The economy has been in a free-fall since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic following the crash of the tourism sector.

Sri Lanka is also facing a foreign exchange shortage, which has affected its capacity to import food and fuel. The shortage of essential goods forced Sri Lanka

to seek assistance from friendly countries.

Meanwhile, amid massive protests Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Monday requested people to remain patient in order to enable the government to resolve the situation. **ANI**

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WORLD



Biden values strong partnership with India: US Defence Secretary

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that both Delhi and Washington share a strategic relationship

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Monday said that President Joe Biden values strong alliances and partnerships with India, adding that the 2+2 ministerial dialogue held earlier in the day, was about taking US-India ties and making it even stronger.

“Biden truly values strong alliances and partnerships like the one that we have with India. That’s what today is all about. It’s about taking our own relationship and making it even stronger,” he said while addressing a press conference after India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

“We are working closely with India on a range of priorities to support India’s security and its role is a net security provider in areas like information sharing, deeper cooperation in space and cyberspace,” the Defence Secretary said further.

US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Defence Minister



2+2 DIALOGUE: US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was held today in Washington

hankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was held today in Washington.

Speaking further in the press conference, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that both Delhi and Washington share a strategic relationship and invited the foreign investors to invest in India to boost the Make in India initiative by the Indian Government.

“There is a strategic relationship between the two countries and you have inspired that India would focus on core development on production and all the investors should come to India. They are welcome because they can develop the Make in India because we want to make everything in India,” Singh said.

Rajnath Singh said that in-

creasing cooperation between India and the US will be important to accessing global economies and maintaining peace and security.

“Today’s defence bilateral and 2+2 meeting between India and the US is very important to strengthen the strategic defence engagement. This meeting will make us more capable to work in areas of mutual interest. Our increasing cooperation will be important to accessing global economies and maintaining peace and security,” the Defence Minister said. He underlined that the world’s two biggest democracies – India and the US – share the same views on almost all global issues including terrorism and maritime security.

“Both our nations are common

and complementary; we have shared goals to achieve. It’s great that the world’s two biggest democracies share the same views on almost all world issues. During the meeting, we discussed our assessments of the Indian Ocean region and its neighbours.”

The Defence Minister thanked the Secretaries and delegation for great interaction and appreciated their commitment to the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday held a virtual meeting with United States President Joe Biden wherein both the leaders had an extensive exchange of views on several regional and global issues, such as the Ukraine situation, the Indo-Pacific region. **ANI**



Several injured in shooting in New York subway

NEW YORK: Multiple people were shot on a train platform in Brooklyn, New York City, on Tuesday, with police saying at least 13 were injured.

The incident took place during the morning rush hour, at the 36th Street station in the Sunset Park neighbourhood of Brooklyn, a 15-minute train ride to Manhattan.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene as the platform filled with smoke and commuters lay on the floor injured, while others rushed to flee the scene.

New York City’s fire department said 13 people had been injured and police sources told broadcaster ABC News that at least five people were shot. I was not yet clear how the others were injured.

Authorities said they found no active explosive devices at the scene, though officials had said earlier that several “undetonated devices” were recovered from the scene. An investigation into what caused the smoke on the platform is being carried out.

Broadcaster NBC cited NYPD and senior law enforcement officials in reporting that a man in a gas mask and orange construction vest was seen tossing a smoke canister on the platform.

The incident took place during the morning rush hour, at the 36th Street station in the Sunset Park neighbourhood of Brooklyn a 15-minute train ride to Manhattan

A rise in violent attacks
Gun ownership is legal in the US. Gun violence and shooting incidents continue to plague major cities across the country.

According to local newspaper The New York Times (NYT), the city has been gripped by a spate of violent attacks since pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Shootings in New York City rose in the first months of 2022 compared to the same period last year, even as homicides declined, NYT reported. There has also been a rise in crimes like burglaries, robberies and grand larcenies.

Officials and the city’s mayor Eric Adams have vowed to clamp down on rising criminality. **DW**

NEW REGULATIONS

US tightens regulations on ‘Ghost Guns’, requires serial numbers on kits

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration announced new regulations on so-called ghost guns designed to make tracing of the weapons parts possible by requiring serial numbers on the gun kits, the US Department of Justice said on Monday.

“[T]his rule will clarify that parts kits that are readily convertible to firearms are subject to the same regulations as traditional firearms,” the Justice Department said in a press release. “These regulatory updates will help curb the proliferation of ‘ghost guns,’ which are often assembled from kits, do not contain serial numbers, and are sold without background checks, making them difficult to trace and easy to acquire by criminals.”

The US government will require retailers to run background checks before selling kits that contain the parts necessary for someone to make a gun, the release said.

“One year ago, the Department committed to address the proliferation of ghost guns used in violent crimes,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland.

“This rule will make it harder for criminals and other prohibited persons to obtain untraceable



guns, will help ensure that law enforcement officers can retrieve the information they need to solve crimes, and will help reduce the number of untraceable firearms flooding our communities. I commend all our colleagues at the ATF who have worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to get this important rule finalized, and to do it in a way that respects the rights of law-abiding Americans.”

Under the new rule, federally licensed firearms dealers and gunsmiths will be required to have a serial number added to 3D printed guns or other un-serialized

firearms they take into inventory, according to the release.

The rule also requires federal firearms licensees, including gun retailers, to retain records for the length of time they are licensed, which expands records retention beyond the prior requirement of 20 years, the release said.

The Justice Department said that from January 2016 to December 2021, US authorities received some 45,240 reports of suspected ghost guns recovered by law enforcement, which included 692 homicide or attempted homicide investigations. **ANI**

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Racing champion Ahmed Al Harthy set for ELMS debut

Al Harthy is to take on the GTE class of the European Le Mans Series

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Experienced GT3 motor racing champion Ahmad Al Harthy has officially confirmed a brand new challenge for his main 2022 motorsport season, a move into GTE competition in the prestigious European Le Mans Series with Oman Racing.

Al Harthy, a double Pro-Am Champion in the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup, is to take on the GTE class of the European Le Mans Series along with British driver Sam De Haan – whom the Omani partnered in February's ALMS – and star Aston Martin factory driver Marco Sorensen.



Notably, Al Harthy enjoys fantastic continuity in terms of his partners for the ELMS with the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS all providing their key support for the full six event season.

“I am incredibly excited to be taking on this fantastic new challenge in GTE in the European Le Mans Series and, of course, so very proud to be representing Oman on such a prestigious stage”, said Al Harthy, “We have a fantastic team in Oman Racing

and I’m absolutely delighted to be teaming with Sam and Marco for this new chapter, I really am looking forward to racing alongside them both.

“The Aston Martin GTE is a new challenge for me, but testing so far has gone well and working with a driver as successful as Marco and the guys at TF Sport – who know the car – means we’re taking a lot of positivity forward into the ELMS season.”

He added: “I’m delighted to have the ongoing support of my incredible sponsors, it’s wonder-

ful to have OQ returning as a key strategic partner alongside the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Omantel, MHD-ITICS. Hopefully we can all enjoy a successful season and be in the fight for podiums, race wins and the championship at the end of the season.”

Following a two-day officially timed test at Circuit Paul Ricard in France, which concludes today, Tuesday, 12th April, the opening four-hour race of the 2022 European Le Mans Series will take place this coming Sunday, 17th April, at the Le Castellet track.

The championship will then visit legendary circuits Imola and Monza, both in Italy of course, Barcelona in Spain and Belgium’s Spa-Francorchamps, before reaching a conclusion on Sunday, 16th October, at Portimao in Portugal.

Oman Racing’s stunning black and silver No.69 Aston Martin GTE will be prepared and engineered by long-time partner team TF Sport which has been instrumental in the many successes enjoyed by Al Harthy over recent seasons.



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Gujarat Titans and Royal Challengers Bangalore the team to beat

Anis Sajjan, Managing Director, Danube group

The second week of IPL which got over on Tuesday surprised one and all with the two big teams Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings at the bottom of the table with four losses and no wins under their belt.

On the other hand, new team Gujarat Titans had three wins from three games showed that you don’t need big names and if you click as a team results will go your way.

Mumbai Indians lost both their games this week comprehensively to Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore as they were first not able to put a big total and when bowling unable to pick wickets when defending the target. Their average score in this tournament has been 160 and in the four games they have lost they have picked 4 wickets per game which is hurting them. They are heavily depending on Jasprit Bumrah who barring the match against Rajasthan Royals have not been able to get them the desired breakthroughs. Moreover they lack a quality spinner who can run through the side and will have to find a way to get their first win of the tournament.

Royal Challengers Bangalore has been very clinical by winning their last three games after the first loss to Punjab Kings. They beat Kol-

kata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals and are looking good as a team under Faf du Plessis captaincy. Their bowling has been spearheaded by Harshal Patel who has gone at just 5.50 overs in the four games and picked 6 wickets and has been ably supported by Hasranga who has picked 8 wickets.

But the team which surprised one and all has been Gujarat Titans who won their first three games beating Lucknow Giants, Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings. Not many had given them any chances as barring Hardik Pandya and Rashid Khan, they did not have any big names but every player has performed for them. Hardik Pandya has carried all the experience of playing under a champion Mumbai Indians side and has been a very proactive captain. In the game against Delhi Capitals which was running away from them,

He brought on Lockie Ferguson and broke the back of Delhi and won that game. Also he has been bowling his 4 overs very tightly and leading from front. So far everything seems to be going well and the momentum is with them and look the team to make it to the playoffs.

Out of the 20 games played in two weeks, 12 games have gone to the wire and the team which has held its nerve has been able to cross the line. We need to see which would be that team next week.

CRICKET

OCT Ruwi cruise past OCT Seeb to seal spot in final

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OCT Ruwi maintained their spotless record in the All-Omani tournament with a 9-wicket victory over OCT Seeb in the semi-final, held at the Oman Cricket Academy on April 11, 2022.

After electing to bat first, OCT Seeb’s opening pair of Issa Al Balushi and Othman Al Zidjali looked in fine nick for the first 5 overs. The former led the scoring for his side with a run-a-ball 22. Their dismissals in the space of 6 balls came as a body blow, but the one that dropped OCT Seeb to the



canvas was Ali Akbar Mohamed Al Balushi’s three-wicket over. Younis Ab, Mahmood Sufyan and Samir Othman were all sent packing, triggering a collapse that

saw none of the following batters, bar Sami Mahmood, reach double figures. From 62/2, OCT Seeb proceeded to be cleaned out for 97 with an over to spare. Alongside Ali Akbar, Mohammed Al Balushi and Nawed Abdulmajeed Al Balushi picked up 3 wickets each for OCT Ruwi.

In response, OCT Ruwi chased the target down in 12.5 overs. Mohammed Al Balushi continued his brilliant form in the tournament with an unbeaten 36. Fellow opener Wasim Ismail Mohamed Al Balushi blitzed his way to a 11-ball 23, but his haste to wrap proceedings up as early as possible

led to his demise in the 4th over.

Newcomer Zubair Ali Akbar Al Balushi was much more composed and his 66-run partnership with Mohammed sealed a richly deserved win for OCT Ruwi. He finished with 34 runs himself.

OCT Ruwi now await the identity of the second finalist and will contest them for the crown on April 21, 2022. OCT Seeb on the other hand are one of the teams vying for third place, with their match also scheduled on the same day.

Simultaneously on Turf 2, OCT Al Mabala registered their first win of the tournament in the Eliminator against OCT Al Amerat.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2022 reaching \$97.77, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 35 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$97.42. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4247.82 points, up by 0.16 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.27 per cent at 488.99 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 8.7 per cent, was the top gainer, and Renaissance Services, down 3.56 per cent, was the top loser.

Credit extended by banks in Oman exceeds OMR27 billion

Credit to the private sector saw a moderate increase of 1.6 per cent year-on-year to reach OMR23.5 billion, according to the data released by the Central Bank of Oman

MUSCAT: The total credit extended by Other Depository Corporation (ODCs), which consist of conventional and Islamic banks in Oman, recorded a growth of 3.5 per cent to reach OMR27.9 billion at the end of February 2022, accord-

ing to the data released by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

Credit to the private sector saw a moderate increase of 1.6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to reach OMR23.5 billion.

The non-financial corporate sector received the highest share of the total private sector credit of 46.6 per cent, followed by the household sector which accounted for 45.1 per cent at the end of February 2022. The share of financial corporations reached 4.6 per cent and other sectors received the remaining 3.7 per cent.

Total deposits held with ODCs registered a Y-o-Y growth of 4.2 per cent to reach OMR25.8 billion at the end of February 2022. Total private sector deposits increased by 2.2 per cent to OMR17.4 billion.

In terms of the sector-wise composition of private sector deposits, the biggest share goes to deposits of households at 50.9 per cent, followed by non-financial corporations at 32.4 per cent, financial corporations at 14.2 per cent and other sectors at 2.5 per cent. - **ONA**



CBO DATA: The non-financial corporate sector received the highest share of the total private sector credit of 46.6 per cent, followed by the household sector which accounted for 45.1 per cent at the end of February 2022. - **File picture**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR293 million

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR293 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from April 13 until July 13.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.790 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.750 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.84313 per cent and

0.84493 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. CBO acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations

with CBO is 0.75 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 1.25 per cent.

Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

Introductory meeting on smart GCC investor award organised



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) organised an introductory meeting on the Smart GCC Investor Award in collaboration with the Directorate General of Education, Governorate of Muscat.

The meeting, which targeted the teachers of plastic arts in the governorate, comes in the framework of the GCC investment awareness programme supervised by the GCC capital market commissions.

Economic development

The meeting presented by Huda

Rashid Al Maamariyah, Director of the Internal Audit Department - CMA, included an introductory presentation on the capital market and its importance in the economy and the role of the sector in boosting the economic development in the country.

Huda Salim Al Aisaei, member of the executive committee of the GCC investment awareness programme 'Mulim' presented a paper on the GCC Smart Investor Award which included an explanation of the initiative launched by the GCC awareness programme to encourage the citizens and residents to produce creative content enriching the awareness content

in the financial culture to enhance sound financial practices.

The award aims to open the participation for the citizens and residents in the GCC states to participate with creative ideas in three categories i.e. video, painting and photography in subjects related to financial planning, saving, investment and investor protection.

The award was launched in March and continues until August this year, and then will be subject to arbitration under evaluation standards for each category of arts and the winners will be announced in October. Participation via the website of the campaign www.mulimgcc.org

ENHANCING POWER NETWORK

Mazoon Electricity makes investments worth OMR80 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In accordance with its project plans for 2022, Mazoon Electricity, (member of Nama Group) is constructing a number of primary substations with related 33 kV and 11 kV feeders to expand the power network, enhance network performance, and ensure service sustainability for customers across governorates under its coverage area.

The projects are being executed in governorates including Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Sharqiyah, South Al Sharqiyah, South Al Batinah and the Wilayat of Suwaiq in North Al Batinah.

Strategic projects

Over the past months, Mazoon Electricity has completed and operated some strategic projects in the field of electricity distribution at a total cost of OMR28 million. Among the projects completed are the 33 kV portion in Wadi Bani Awf grid station in Rustaq and another primary substation in Suwaiq. In addition, operations



were commissioned for primary substations in Fanja, Masrun in Ibra and Sayma, Humaydah, Afyah in Al Dakhiliyah.

Moreover, operations were commissioned for transformer stations in Ras Al Hadd in Sur, Jibreen in

Bahla, Hayy Al Turathin Nizwa, Ezz station in Manah, and Wadi Al Tayeen, and related lines to the aforementioned substations.

The company is currently working to complete other vital projects, the most important of

which are the primary stations in Al Bashaer in Rustaq and Tharmad in Suwaiq with capacity (3 x 20 MVA) and stations in Nizwa with capacity (2 x 20 MVA), Hayy Asim in Barka with capacity (2 x 20 MVA), Seih Al Nama

in Al Mudhaibi with capacity (2 x 20 MVA), Adam, Barakat Al Moaz and Samail industrial stations in Al Dakhiliyah and three stations in South Al Sharqiyah covering a number of wilayats including Sur, Jalan Bani Bu Hassan and Jalan Bani Bu Ali.

The completion ratio of these projects ranges from 20 per cent to 95 per cent, and plans are underway to complete them during 2022. The value of the investment in these projects is OMR34 million.

To implement the company's projects that have been approved by Authority for Public Services Regulatory, the company awarded a number of tenders at an estimated value of OMR11 million.

They include the construction of primary stations in Niyabat, Sinaw in North Al Sharqiyah and Nizwa, stations each in Hayy Asim in Barka and Wadi Al Maawil in South Al Batinah, along with the related feeder and distribution lines. The projects will be implemented from April 2022 onwards.

Commenting on the company's investments, Eng. Mohammed

bin Rashid Al-Quri, Senior Project Manager at Mazoon Electricity Company, said, "In addition to these projects which aim to enhance the electricity network in the aforementioned governorates, work is underway to invest in low voltage (LV) network extension projects to supply the customers as well as reinforcement of the existing LV network and developing this network to comply high-level HSE and stability standards with annual investments worth more than OMR40 million."

Al-Quri added that these projects are of utmost importance for the provision of sustainable service to the company's customers. In addition, they contribute to supporting the electricity sector with a high-quality network consistent with international standards. Moreover, the company is introducing and developing electronic systems to operate and monitor the performance of the power network and ensure service continuity. The company's total investment in the project plan to the end of the year reached OMR80 million.

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MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 8.7 per cent, was the top gainer, and Renaissance Services, down 3.56 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4247.82 points, up by 0.16 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.27 per cent at 488.99 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 8.7 per cent, was the top gainer, and Renaissance Services, down 3.56 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Muscat Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 737 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.47 million, with more than 19.61 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 15 advanced, 11 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR 92,000 and foreign investors for OMR1,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6742.84 points, up 0.52 per cent. Prices of Muscat Finance, National Bank Oman, Bank Dhofar, Oman United Insurance, Oman Arab Bank and HSBC Bank Oman were up by 4.29 per cent,

3.67 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.7 per cent, 1.58 per cent, and 0.89 per cent respectively. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment, and United Finance were down by 2.38 per cent, 2.3 per cent, 2.06 per cent, 1.02 per cent, and 0.96 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6183.41 points, down 0.18 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Al Maha Ceramics, and Galfar Engineering were up by 8.7 per cent, 1.17 per cent and 1.03 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, National Aluminium and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 2.17 per cent, 2.08 per cent and 0.99 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.09 per cent before closing at 1662.02 points. Prices of Sohar Power, Al Batinah Power, Oman National Engineering, OIFC, and Al Jazeera Services were up by 7.69 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.35 per cent, and 1.33 per cent respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services were down by 3.56 per cent respectively. –

United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,250.96	4,236.57	4,247.82	4,241.20	6.62	0.16
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,742.84	6,699.23	6,742.84	6,707.87	34.96	0.52
Industry Index	6,203.58	6,180.11	6,183.41	6,194.70	-11.29	-0.18
Services Index	1,665.89	1,660.97	1,662.02	1,663.44	-1.42	-0.09
MSX Shariah Index	488.99	487.68	488.99	487.68	1.31	0.27
MSX TR INDEX	5,354.86	5,336.73	5,350.90	5,342.56	8.34	0.16
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,049.66	7,004.07	7,049.66	7,013.11	36.55	0.52
SERVICES TR IDX	1,716.64	1,711.58	1,712.65	1,714.12	-1.46	-0.09
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,438.27	6,413.91	6,417.34	6,429.05	-11.71	-0.18

Trading Summary	Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
	19,614,926	4,466,518	737	22,356,966,576	15	11	18	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 12

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001590..... MUSCAT FINANCE	5,912,104	431,953	186	0.070	0.075	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.003	4.286	0.074	0.072	0.077	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000001087..... OMAN UNITED INSUR.	6,000	2,160	2	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.354	0.006	1.695	0.360	0.354	0.360	0.100	36,000,000
OM0000001525..... OMAN INVEST & FIN	29,4513	39,552	22	0.148	0.152	0.148	0.150	0.148	0.002	1.351	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	35,550,000
OM0000002226..... ALJAZEERA SERVICES	76,000	23,086	8	0.302	0.304	0.302	0.304	0.300	0.004	1.333	0.304	0.292	0.306	0.100	18,606,099
OM0000005005..... ALMAHA CERAMICS	657,200	340,508	39	0.512	0.520	0.512	0.518	0.512	0.006	1.172	0.520	0.512	0.520	0.100	28,490,000
OM0000001160..... NATIONAL GAS	15,220	2,176	3	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.100	12,155,000
OM0000001418..... RAYSUT CEMENT	1,217	232	2	0.194	0.194	0.190	0.196	0.196	0.000	0.000	0.194	0.182	0.194	0.100	39,200,000
OM0000001707..... OMAN CARLES INDSTR	5,000	4,860	4	0.972	0.972	0.972	1.050	1.050	0.000	0.000	0.972	0.948	0.972	0.100	94,185,000
OM0000001749..... OMAN CEMENT	62,725	14,691	5	0.236	0.236	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.000	0.000	0.234	0.230	0.237	0.100	77,424,214
OM0000003026..... OMAN TELECOM	390,100	349,113	14	0.896	0.900	0.892	0.896	0.896	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.892	0.890	0.100	672,000,000
OM0000003968..... OCREDOO	1,004	339	2	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.000	0.000	0.338	0.338	0.344	0.100	220,019,159
OM0000002796..... BANK MUSCAT	3,586,663	1,948,583	54	0.548	0.548	0.538	0.544	0.548	-0.004	-0.730	0.540	0.538	0.540	0.100	2,041,740,001
OM0000003398..... SOHAR INT. BANK	276,000	31,744	8	0.116	0.116	0.114	0.115	0.116	-0.001	-0.862	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.100	343,857,163
OM0000002176..... JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	345,842	138,155	38	0.400	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.404	-0.004	-0.990	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.100	49,959,184
OM0000001772..... ALANWAR INVESTMENT	788,300	74,802	35	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.097	0.098	-0.001	-1.020	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	19,400,000
OM0000002440..... AL SHARGIA INV	445,000	42,275	13	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.097	-0.002	-2.062	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	8,550,000
OM0000002168..... AL ANWAR CERAMIC	348,900	156,999	14	0.454	0.458	0.446	0.450	0.460	-0.010	-2.174	0.448	0.446	0.448	0.100	99,000,000
OM0000003224..... RENAISSANCE SER	532,915	231,739	27	0.448	0.448	0.428	0.434	0.450	-0.016	-3.556	0.430	0.430	0.428	0.100	102,601,940
Total	18	13,694,703	3,832,767	476											

Parallel Market															
OM0000001301..... DHOFAR CATTLE	38,233	2,867	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.069	0.006	8.696	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	6,063,750
OM0000003711..... SOHAR POWER	45,945	1,919	9	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	0.039	0.003	7.692	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.100	9,282,420
OM0000001483..... NATIONAL BANK OMAN	420,406	83,259	12	0.195	0.200	0.195	0.198	0.191	0.007	3.665	0.200	0.195	0.200	0.100	321,857,276
OM0000007910..... AMAN REAL ESTATE	7,000	679	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.095	0.002	2.105	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	19,400,000
OM0000004925..... ALBATINAH POWER	84,081	4,204	6	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000001132..... OMAN NAT ENG	108,306	12,110	10	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	15,980,000
OM0000002549..... BANK DHOFAR	35,000	4,060	1	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.114	0.002	1.754	0.116	0.114	0.116	0.100	347,570,767
OM0000005260..... OMAN ARAB BANK	9,000	1,164	2	0.128	0.131	0.128	0.129	0.127	0.002	1.575	0.131	0.128	0.131	0.100	215,353,890
OM0000003521..... GALFAR ENGINEER	2,184,082	214,543	69	0.096	0.099	0.096	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	19,892,672
OM0000001517..... HSBC BANK OMAN	345,000	39,985	11	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.001	0.893	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	226,035,345
OM0000002275..... SHELL OMAN MKK	3,097	2,738	2	0.884	0.884	0.884	0.884	0.884	0.000	0.884	0.884	0.884	0.884	0.100	83,960,000
OM0000002648..... NATIONAL FINANCE	11,194	1,243	3	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.124	0.100	64,947,654
OM0000002804..... ASAFFA FOODS	15,000	1,650	3	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.104	0.110	0.100	13,200,000
OM0000003281..... TAAGEER FINANCE	151,735	15,025	20	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	25,607,518
OM0000003681..... VOLITAMP ENERGY	3,000	360	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.122	0.100	9,769,330
OM0000004420..... BANK NIZWA	398,600	38,027	16	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000004669..... SHARGYAH DESALIN	1,043	115	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.118	0.100	10,758,238
OM0000004933..... AL SUWADI POWER	115,480	5,774	9	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	35,720,317
OM0000005963..... PHOENIX POWER	105,631	5,282	8	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.055	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000006912..... ARJUN INSURANCE	3,300	990	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	30,000,000
OM0000009710..... BARKA DESALINATION	3,000	435	2	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.150	0.100	11,026,215
OM0000002374..... UNITED FINANCE	1,129,000	116,237	32	0.098	0.103	0.098	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.096	0.101	0.100	35,961,874
OM0000001319..... ALUMINIUM PROD.	11,980	1,128	2	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2.083	0.094	0.093	0.095	0.100	3,155,716
OM0000001681..... OMAN EMIRATES HO.	171,841	14,608	15	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.085	0.087	-0.002	-2.299	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	10,359,375
OM0000003125..... GLOBAL INV H	524,269	43,949	21	0.084	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.084	-0.002	-2.381	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,400,000
Total	25	5,895,223	608,750	259											

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Business Year appoints Carlos Martinez as COO

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Business Year, a global media group that has been providing investors, businesses, and governments with first-hand insights into the world's most dynamic markets for over a decade, has announced the appointment of Carlos Martinez as Chief Operating Officer (COO).

The former Regional Director for Europe & Africa is expected to bring new energy to the company as it expands and deepens its coverage of markets around the world.

Carlos Martinez is an experienced editor, manager, and sales professional, having held roles at Telefonica Movistar and Iberia Airlines before joining The Business Year in 2015. After heading up research projects for The Business Year as Country Editor and Project Director in Kazakhstan, Sharjah, Dubai, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Colombia, and Panama, he took on the role of Country Manager, successfully overseeing Spain and Portugal operations before becoming



Regional Director for Europe & Africa, overseeing 13 countries. In this role, he was instrumental in expanding The Business Year's research operations into Angola.

Speaking on Martinez's appointment, CEO Ayse Valentin said, "Carlos was the natural choice for

Carlos Martinez is an experienced editor, manager, and sales professional, having held roles at Telefonica Movistar and Iberia Airlines before joining The Business Year in 2015

COO thanks to his wealth of experience and many successes with The Business Year so far. He is an inspiring leader with keen business sentiment and I'm in no doubt that he will help the company grow in new and exciting ways."

Martinez also released a brief statement following his appointment, telling stakeholders, "I am thrilled to take on this new role at The Business Year. For years, we have strived to provide investors with accurate, sentiment-driven information on the world's most dynamic markets and sectors, and as COO I hope to find new ways to drive even deeper and more expansive coverage at a critical time for the global economy."

Martinez holds a triple bachelor's degree in journalism, media, and communications and advertising and public relations from the European University of Madrid. He lives in Madrid.

The Business Year is a global media group that has been providing investors, businesses, and governments with first-hand insights into the world's most dynamic markets for over a decade. It conducts hundreds of interviews a week with top decision-makers in the Middle East, Latin America, Central and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Global renewable generation capacity amounted to 3,064GW in 2021: IRENA

ABU DHABI: Renewable energy continued to grow and gain momentum despite global uncertainties. By the end of 2021, global renewable generation capacity amounted to 3,064 Gigawatt (GW), increasing the stock of renewable power by 9.1 per cent, according to the new data released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Although hydropower accounted for the largest share of the global total renewable generation capacity with 1230 GW, IRENA's Renewable Capacity Statistics 2022 shows that solar and wind continued to dominate new generating capacity.

Together, both technologies contributed 88 per cent to the share of all new renewable capacity in 2021. Solar capacity led with a 19 per cent increase, followed by wind energy, which increased its generating capacity by 13 per cent.

"This continued progress is another testament to renewable energy's resilience. Its strong performance last year represents more opportunities for countries to reap renewables' multiple socio-economic benefits.

"However, despite the encouraging global trend, our new World Energy Transitions Outlook shows that the energy transition is far from being fast and widespread enough to avert the dire consequences of climate change," says IRENA Director-General,



STATISTICS: Although hydropower accounted for the largest share of the global total renewable generation capacity with 1230 GW, IRENA's Renewable Capacity Statistics 2022 shows that solar and wind continued to dominate new generating capacity. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

Francesco La Camera.

"Our current energy crisis also adds to the evidence that the world can no longer rely on fossil fuels to meet its energy demand. Money directed to fossil fuel power plants yields unrewarding results, both for the survival of a nation and the planet. Renewable power should become the norm across the globe. We must mobilise the political will to accelerate

the 1.5 C pathway."

To achieve climate goals, renewables must grow at a faster pace than energy demand. However, many countries have not reached this point yet, despite significantly increasing the use of renewables for electricity generation.

Sixty per cent of the new capacity in 2021 was added in Asia, resulting in a total of 1.46 Terawatt (TW) of renewable capacity by

2021. China was the biggest contributor, adding 121 GW to the continent's new capacity. Europe and North America led by the USA took second and third places respectively, with the former adding 39 GW and the latter 38 GW. Renewable energy capacity grew by 3.9 per cent in Africa and 3.3 per cent in Central America and the Caribbean. Despite representing steady growth, the pace in both regions is much slower



PARENTS WHO POST PHOTOS OF THEIR KIDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA TEND TO HAVE FRIEND-LIKE PARENTING STYLE

A new study led by the University of Central Florida has found that parents who post photos of their children online tend to have a more friend-like parenting style and allow their kids to use social media at younger ages.

The study was published in the journal, 'Computing Machinery'. These parents also tend to share posts beyond small networks of family and friends, regularly posting on more public networks, which raises privacy and safety concerns. The findings also showed that parents don't see parental sharing as much different from regular photo sharing and rarely ask for their young children's input.

"There is no doubt that many parents are very careful regarding what they share online about their children. And there are significant benefits to sharing photos with grandparents and groups who can offer support and help keep families connected. But we need to be aware of some of the privacy issues when sharing children's information online and conduct further research to figure out long-term impacts. This is all still so new. We're still learning," said Mary Jean Amon, an assistant professor in the School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training (SMST) at UCF who is one of the researchers on the study.

The team of researchers from UCF surveyed 493 parents who are regular social media users and have children under the age of 10.

"We were interested in looking at what parents consider private when it comes to sharing young children's information online and the

perceived risks," Amon said.

"We were surprised. Contrary to previous research that highlights the significant benefits of parental sharing, our study reveals that such sharing of children's photos is associated with permissive parenting styles. That means parental sharing is linked to those parents having more friend-like relationships with their children and offering less guidance than other parents. Notably, permissive

parenting has been linked to problematic internet usage among children," she added.

The research team's findings also suggested that parents do not strongly differentiate between parental sharing (sharing photos of their children) and general photo sharing on social media and may therefore underestimate the unique risks of sharing children's photos online and engaging children with social media at early ages.

The study found most parents surveyed were comfortable sharing photos and with others resharing their photos. Most parents felt relatively comfortable with other adults sharing their children's photos and anticipated the child would enjoy the photos posted, rather than be embarrassed by them.

Although the Children's Online Privacy Act provides many rules to safeguard children, the data doesn't lie and

shows that many children engage with social media at an early age. Social media platforms have a minimum age for use (13), but without a verification system, it is not uncommon to see children — some very young with their own YouTube channel or TikTok accounts.

About one-third of parents with children ages 7 to 9 reported that their kids used social media apps via phones or tablets, according to the 2021 C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Health. About half the parents with children ages 10-12 reported the same.

In the survey, the team asked questions including how often a parent posted their children's photos, as well as their own social media activity. Other questions asked about their children's social media interests and behaviour, as well as how parents made decisions to post photos of their children. Participants had accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Pinterest, TikTok, Myspace, and Flickr, with most users favouring Facebook, Instagram and Twitter in that order.

The study raised important questions about ensuring the comfort and privacy of young children as they are introduced to social media. Research in this area also aims to help parents who use this mode of communication to support in raising their children.

"There are broader questions about children's privacy in social media, where a central question remains as to how much autonomy and control children, including children of different ages, should have over their photos and information online," Amon said. -ANI



IN PICTURES



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Spring view of mountains in Tashkent region, Uzbekistan
People hike in mountains in Tashkent region, Uzbekistan. *xinhua*



Flamingos seen at Mogan Lake in Ankara, Turkey
Aerial picture shows flamingos at Mogan Lake in Ankara, Turkey. *xinhua*



Algeria to increase gas exports to Italy
Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (centre right) meets with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi (centre left) in Algiers, Algeria. *xinhua*

Explosion in southern Lebanon kills 1, injures 7
Cars damaged by the explosion are seen in Benafoul, Lebanon. *xinhua*



Bringing Tang Dynasty armour back to life
A researcher desalts the first complete set of unearthed Tang Dynasty (618-907) iron armour while the other records the process in the laboratory of the Gansu provincial institute of cultural relics and archaeology in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province. *xinhua*



Naina Ganguly speaking at the press meet of her upcoming crime thriller 'Dhahanam'
Bollywood actress Naina Ganguly speaking at the press meet of her upcoming crime thriller 'Dhahanam.' *ANI Photo*

Sydney Royal Easter Show
People visit the Sydney Royal Easter Show in Sydney, Australia. *xinhua*





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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat’s mBanking app enhances customer experience

Customers can use the highly-secure mBanking app for Zakat, Sadaqah and Eidiyah to enjoy a customer-centric banking experience

MUSCAT: In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and commitment to customer-centric services, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, has reminded its customers about a large number of innovative and enhanced features available on its digital banking channels, especially mobile and Internet banking. These include single click fa-



cility charity contributions like Zakat and Sadaqah and also Eidiya (Eid gift) transfers. Customers can download the latest version of the Bank Muscat Mobile Banking app from Apple App Store, Google Play

dullah Hamood Al Jufaili, Assistant General Manager, Digital Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “We are delighted to provide innovative and enhanced digital banking services through mBanking and Internet Banking. The bank always adopts a strategy and culture of innovation to enhance the experience of its customers. “Our valued customers can especially use the highly-secure mBanking app for Zakat, Sadaqah and Eidiyah to enjoy a customer-centric banking experience. Customers can transfer Zakat and Sadaqah easily through the app. All transactions are made in Omani Rials and the amount will be debited from the account chosen by the customer. It must be noted that the customer will receive SMS notifications for the amounts transferred to each beneficiary, and the process of making donations is highly intuitive thanks to the state-of-the-art technology used in the Mobile Banking application. Personal Banking customers

can also use the Mobile Banking app to make Eidiya transfers to as many as 10 beneficiary accounts at a single time. To use the feature, a customer simply needs to click on ‘Transfer > Eid Gift’ after logging in. The customer will be taken to a page with the options to ‘Initiate a Transfer’ and ‘Manage Your Groups’. The ‘Manage your Groups’ option allows the viewing/modification/deletion of all the groups created, while the ‘Add Groups’ option will allow new groups to be added. Group names and beneficiary details can be viewed under the details of each group. Customers can create multiple groups and select up to 10 beneficiaries in each group. The ‘Initiate Group Transfer’ feature allows the user to select a group of beneficiaries and transfer to all the accounts at a single time. Security is enhanced while adding names and conducting transactions by the necessity to enter an OTP. Bank Muscat has always been distinguished by its deep understanding of customer needs and a

strategy of continuous innovation in response to global trends and customer feedback. Today, customers use various digital options available to them through Mobile or Internet Banking for a number of transactions such as bill payments, mobile top-ups, payments within Bank Muscat and Oman and international transfers. The bank’s customer-centric vision and the adoption of global best practices have resulted in numerous accolades in the past including being recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the “Top 100 Companies in the Middle East” and as one of the “Top 50 banks in the Region”. The bank has also won a number of awards from prestigious international publications like Global Finance, Euromoney, The Banker and EMEA Finance for its different lines of business in the past. The bank also won the Best Consumer Digital Bank (Oman) and Best Corporate / Institutional Digital Bank (Oman) from Global Finance in 2021.

Kia’s all-new 2023 Sportage now in Oman



MUSCAT: Reliable International Automotive, the dealer for Kia in Oman, recently launched the All-New Sportage in Oman. The all-new Sportage is an SUV that has been carefully constructed to inspire customers with its striking interior and exterior design. The 2023 Kia Sportage is ringing in a new era for one of the brand’s most sought-after models, with a comprehensive redesign that is unquestionably dramatic. The fifth-generation model challenges design norms and moves the Sportage identity to the next level while paying homage to its rich heritage. The all-new Sportage is now available with Kia’s most exciting campaign. Own a Sportage, this Ramadan and get a chance to scratch and win 2 Kia at one time. Additional scratch & win prizes include Win your purchased Kia back, Win all-new Sportage, Win up to 20 per cent on display price, Win periodic service up to 100,000 km and VAT is on us. The campaign is valid until 1st May 2022. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details.) “Reinventing the Sportage provided our tremendously talented design teams with the opportunity to curate something completely different; to take inspiration from

our brand relaunch to inspire customers through contemporary and pioneering SUV design. With the all-new Sportage, we wanted to take more than just one step forward, instead, we moved it on to a different level in the SUV class,” commented Karim Habib, Senior Vice President of Head of Global Design Centre. “As Kia’s flagship SUV, the all-new Sportage is as practical as it is compelling, offering copious amounts of space, and a modern suite of hi-tech features that cater to the interests and demands of seasoned drivers and passengers,” said Yaser Shabsogh, Chief Operating Officer of the Middle East and Africa, Kia Corporation. The all-new Sportage’s exterior epitomizes contrast with its bold, impactful lines and assertive presence, balanced with innovation and instinctive characteristics suitable for any road, anywhere. The elongated grille links Kia’s modern signature Tiger Nose grille – which acts as the visual focal point of the car –LED DRLs (daytime running lamps), which in turn create solid boundary lines for the striking LED headlamps. At the rear, the all-new Sportage maintains strong road presence with a muscular swooping fast-back design that flows into the

rear lamps, allowing the SUV to personify strength and stability. Depending on spec and model, the 2023 Sportage rides on 17-inch, 19-inch choice of different alloy designs, colours and finishes. The interior of the all-new Sportage plays with boldness in character. The interior offers a unique hi-tech environment that is visually impressive, as well as spacious and intuitive. Throughout the cabin, the highest quality materials that are opulent to touch have been used, while dynamic and vibrant colour options add vibrancy and energy. Fully immersive, in-car sound is delivered to the occupants of the all-new Sportage via an 8” audio display system and steering audio control. The Sportage is also equipped with rear AC vent, Bluetooth with voice recognition, Android auto and car play, drive mode select, remote engine start, paddle shifter and more. The all-new Sportage is equipped with comprehensive range of powerful, responsive and efficient powertrains. A 2.0 RVC 4WD with Nu 2.0 MPI churning 157 hp at 19.5 kg.m torque. This is paired to a 6-speed AT. The Sportage is also available as 1.6T 2WD SRF, 1.6T 2WD SPL and 1.6T 4WD SPL with Gamma 1.6T GDI

with 176 HP and 27 kg.m. torque. These are paired to a 7-speed DCT. Kia’s acclaimed safety technology helps the Sportage to avoid potential hazards, fully protecting occupants and other road users on every journey. The all-new Sportage features driver and front passenger airbags, anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic stability program (ESP), hill-start assist control (HAC), downhill brake control (DBC), tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS), blind spot collision warning (BCW) and side and curtain airbags. Customers can experience the all-new Kia Sportage at any Kia showroom. Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers. Excellent product attributes and unmatched facilities easily ensure their absolute satisfaction, every mile of the way. No wonder then that Reliable International Automotive has been ranked amongst the top Kia distributors worldwide and has been honoured with prestigious accolades including the ‘Good Partnership award’, ‘Family Like Care’ Service award’, and ‘Kia ‘Distributor of Distinction’ award.

Spiritual essence of art: Art as a healer

MUSCAT: Have you ever noticed yourself humming when you are alone? Why do we tend to draw some lines or shapes when we are listening to a boring lecture in the classroom? Why do we really listen to some music and remember it by heart, even if we are not musicians? Art and mysticism, or in a broader sense all religions, share five features; connection with nature, presence at the moment, solitude, love and creativity. Art draws a fine connecting line between the world of matter and spirituality. It comes from the world within the artist, reflects the essence of the soul, and explodes in the form of a materialistic presentation. The route from the internal world of the artists to the external world that we observe is a private path that is only taken by the artists themselves. However, artists also need to reach peace internally for that reflection. Artists try to improvise while the universe is the master of improvisation. It is dynamic and robust in its ways of supplying us with resources or using our potential for good. It reminds us to take a moment to reflect on our days and nights and get more out of what we can get. It treats us with feasts and fiestas when we indulgently overuse the resources. The universe goes along with what we do but never agrees when we exceed. The artistic manner of the universe in healing its wounds lies not only in reusing the utilised sources but also in introducing new ways to enjoy natural resources. Artists are inspired by nature most of the time and nature is the best role model for healing wounds. When nature is harmed, it mends its wounds by harmonising the elements and redefining the scene. Nature composes the songs of existence by putting extra emphasis on some notes and omitting some others. In another turn, it brings about new notes and takes a different pitch. The climax is a mature new section on the stage. The natural artist within your “Self” acts the same if you remind it of its real potential. It can be the real healer for your painful memories and experiences. The



wounds and scars on the soul and psyche cannot be removed but they can be healed if the remedy comes from within. The artist within you is the wizard with a magical stick that can make a miracle. Try this magician and see the results for yourself! Art cannot be produced but felt. What we see as a work of art can be described as a resemblance of original thought. Many artists have tried hard to showcase what they have received as a revelation. Like nature, artworks also show transcendental elements. Nature flows and artistically renews itself while artists capture a moment which they feel and freeze that moment in the shape of painting, poetry, composition or any other form of art. Art has a magical touch on our souls which overlooks the worldly elements of our lives. This transcendental essence is a mystery that touches our hearts. When you see traces of art in nature and all around you, you can be sure of its power and purity. The day we begin listening to the musical voice of nature calling out for our attention we start learning about the spirituality reflected in art. The chirping birds, the whooshing sound of the breeze, and the celestial sounds of planets moving around their orbits and the galaxies are all sources of revelation for artists. The artists listen, watch, touch and feel the essence of nature meticulously, flowing into the sacred world of spirituality. This is a retreat for the artist to step back from the materialistic world and feel the spiritual ether of the universe. Artists usually seek tranquility and solitude to turn their intuitions into artworks.

The writer, Dr Zahra Akbari, is an art-therapist and researcher.

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Attractive Ramadan offer on Foton Oman’s range of vehicles

The ‘Reward Your Business With More’ extends a host of incentives for Foton customers this Ramadan



MUSCAT: Gulf Great Sands, the exclusive importer of Foton vehicles in Oman, has announced a ‘Reward Your Business With More’ offer on the Foton range of vehicles as part of its exclusive Ramadan promotion.

Foton’s Ramadan scheme which will go on till May 20, 2022, offers free periodic maintenance service, free insurance, free registration, an assured fuel card, and a Lulu gift voucher.

The Ramadan offer is available on models including Foton Tunland Pickup 2.4L Single Cab, 134hp, 2WD, Foton Tunland Pickup 2.4L Double Cab, 134hp, 2WD, Foton View CS, CS2 Mini Bus 2.7L Engine, 147hp, Foton Aumark S Light Truck (3.8L Turbo Engine, 140hp) and Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck 6.7L Engine, 245 hp.

Partnering with Foton Motor Group, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of commercial vehicles, Gulf Great Sands (GGS) had launched a full range of commercial vehicles in Oman.

Through this exclusive distribution partnership, Gulf Great Sands has commenced the supply of a range of Foton’s commercial vehicles in Oman which includes heavy duty trucks, medium duty trucks, light duty trucks, pickups, mini buses, panel vans, and SUVs.

A GGS spokesperson said, “The ‘Reward Your Business With More’ extends a host of incentives for Foton customers this Ramadan. We are certain our customers will benefit immensely from it. All Foton vehicles boast highest levels of quality and design, due to its partnership with leading names like Daimler, Cummins, and others. Foton invests heavily in research, development, and state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities. This ensures all Foton vehicles are created with current as well as emerging technologies. This is a great time to buy Foton vehicles.”

All customers purchasing Foton Tunland (Pickups) and Foton View (Vans) during this scheme period will be eligible for free 1st year vehicle registration only.

All customers purchasing Foton Tunland Pickups and Foton View Vans during this Scheme period will be eligible for free 1st year vehicle Insurance. (Oman & UAE) for private registration only.

Free service package (periodic maintenance service only) assured free service pack on Foton Commercial vehicles model purchase. No wear & tear parts covered.

Customer of Foton Tunland

Pickup model variants to get assured 1 year or 10,000 kms service. (Periodic Maintenance Service Only). Customer of Foton View Minibus and Panel vans model variants to get assured 2-year or 20,000 km service. (Periodic Maintenance Service Only)

Customer of Foton Aumark Light Duty Truck model variants to get assured 1 year or 20,000 km service. (Periodic Maintenance Service Only)

Customer of Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck model variants to get assured 1 year or 20,000 km service. (Periodic Maintenance Service Only)

Assured free gift on every purchase: Fuel card

During the Ramadan offer period, we will provide assured gift as Fuel Card on all Foton Commercial vehicles model/variant purchase as below:

Customer of Foton Tunland Pickups model variants to get assured RO 50 Fuel card

Customer of Foton View Minibus and panel van model variants to get assured RO 50 Fuel card

Customer of Foton Aumark Light Duty Truck model variants to get assured RO 100 Fuel card

Customer of Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck model variants to get assured RO 100 Fuel card.

Assured free Lulu gift voucher on every purchase of Foton models: (Lulu gift voucher)

During the Ramadan offer period, we plan to share lulu gift voucher on all Foton commercial vehicles model/variant purchase as below...

Customer of Foton Tunland Pickup model variants to get assured OMR100 value vouchers

Customer of Foton View Minibus and panel van model variants to get assured RO 100 value vouchers. Customer of Foton Aumark Light Duty Truck model variants to get assured RO 200 value vouchers. Customer of Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck model variants to get assured RO 200 value vouchers.

All customers purchasing Foton Range of commercial vehicles will be eligible for 3 years /100,000 kilometers Manufacturer’s Warranty during the above said period.

Aumark – Light Duty Truck

Geared to provide customers with the best experience for their customised transportation needs, the

Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is equipped with a wide range of world-class features.

The Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is powered by legendary Cummins fuel efficient 3.8L turbo Cummins diesel engine and generates a ZF 6-speed manual transmission. The Light Duty Truck has many features including cruise control, low engine noise, reversing sensor, remote control central door-locking, ABS +EBD, Air Exhaust Brakes, power windows among others.

The Light Duty Truck, which is perfect for intra city use and city to city movements of goods, offers industry leading technology that augments the truck’s driving experience while providing supreme safety.

Tunland – Single cabin and Double Cabin Pickup

Foton Tunland Single and Double Cab Pickup (2WD) which is powered by a 2.4 litre engine combines an original, robust design with the power, performance and reliability of established, globally reputed brands for its major drivetrain features. It is powered by the new generation 2.4 Litre Turbo TGD1

gasoline engine making it the most powerful pickup in its class.

Features of the Tunland include Bosch electronics and ABS + EBD, ESC, On-Board Diagnostics (OBD, TPMS), dual airbag, Bluetooth and Parking sensors.

Foton View CS2 Mini Bus and Panel Van

Built to extend drivers and passengers an optimal blend of ride comfort and agility, the Foton View CS2 Mini Bus offers exceptional features and technologies with advanced comfort, convenience, and safety. Devoted to innovation, Foton View CS2 Mini Bus demonstrates an air of elegance in every designing detail. The chase for perfection in space, performance safety, and workmanship never ends with Foton View CS2 -PANEL VANS comes in two variants of narrow body standard roof and wide body high roofand provides great value and high efficiency.

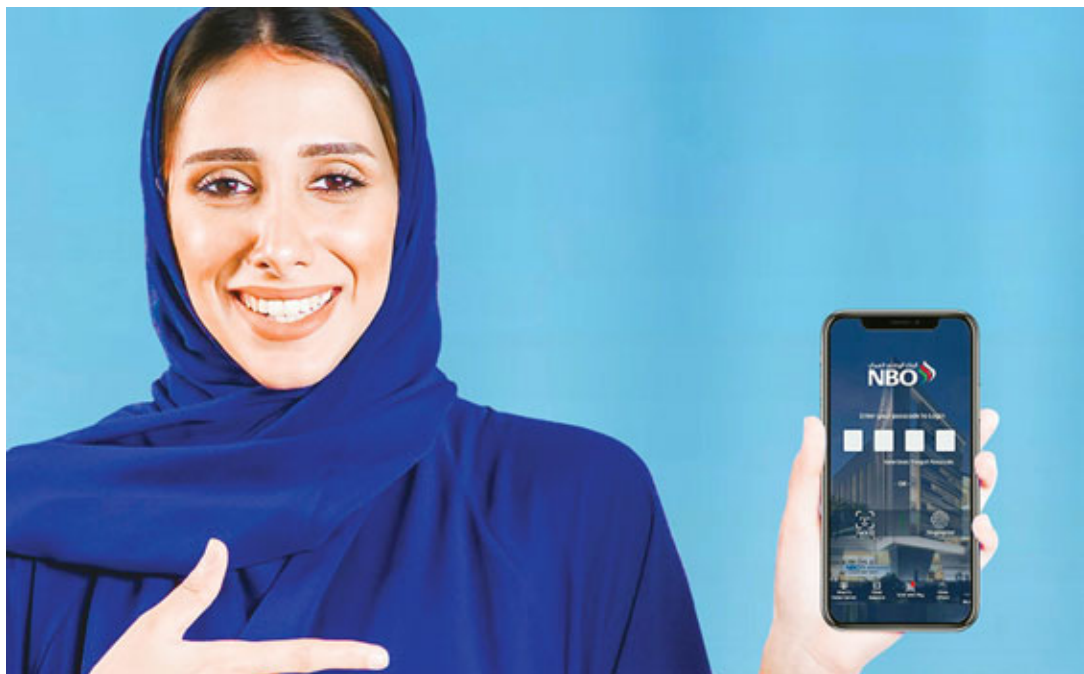
Auman - Medium and Heavy Duty Trucks

Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck boasts of a 6.7L Engine and 245 horsepower. Its Cummins ISF engine features high burst pressure and strong power, with the maximum power output at 245hp-coupled with 8 speed Manual Transmission. This 1,000,000km overhaul-free Cummins engine is manufactured strictly in accordance with the Cummins global quality system and manufacturing standard and passed the 2,000,000km stringent road reliability and durability test.

The vehicle took the lead to pass the stringent German DEKRA test, with the accumulative test mileage.

The Foton Auman EST A (Heavy Duty Truck) is equipped with 11.8L Cummins Engine, 430hp coupled with 12 Speed Automated Manual Transmission.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN



NBO’s suite of solutions offers customers seamless digital payments

MUSCAT: Continuing to deliver best-in-class digital solutions, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has equipped its customers with more ways than ever to manage their payments, wherever and whenever they need to make a transaction.

Whether shopping, paying bills or transferring money abroad, the bank offers a variety of user-friendly options, from payments by QR code to mobile wallets, and mobile apps to the newly introduced multi-purpose banking kiosks. Meanwhile, National Bank

of Oman seeks ever more innovative ways to enhance Oman’s payments sector, while catering to the growing demands for a speedy, seamless, and secure banking experience.

Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail and Digital Banking Officer at National Bank of Oman said, “In a world where convenience, time savings and instant access reign paramount, digital is rapidly becoming the preferred option for payments. “As we continue to transform and grow our business, our constantly

enhanced digital capabilities tap into leading technologies, while offering the latest security features to ensure every transaction is convenient, inclusive, and altogether more enjoyable.”

National Bank of Oman’s latest digital payment solutions include the constantly-enhanced mobile app, instant payment transfer, the pay+ mobile wallet, the multi-purpose kiosk, opening an account digitally, and the new merchant app, which enables instant mobile-to-mobile business payments.

SOCIAL COMMITMENT

Alizz Islamic Bank continues to give back in month of giving



MUSCAT: For the ninth consecutive year, Alizz Islamic Bank continued its humanitarian role toward the community by celebrating the holy month of Ramadan by distributing food packages for low-income families in various governorates and wilayats across the Sultanate.

Implementing the principle of social solidarity, this initiative is part of the bank’s CSR strategy to conduct various initiatives that enhance its partnership with society beyond Islamic banking.

A large number of Alizz Islamic Bank branch managers and staff volunteered in distributing packages for the low-income families in the governorates of Muscat, North and South Al Batinah, Al Dakhiliyah, Dhofar, and Al Shar-

qiyah North Governorate ensuring that the packages are distributed to those in need.

To support these families to prepare for the month of Ramadan, the bank distributed 800 food packages filled with essential foods including but not limited to rice, wheat, oil, milk, sugar etc. The secondary goal of this initiative is to encourage employee volunteerism and raise awareness about the benefits of giving back to society such as strengthening employee morale, creating a more positive and productive work environment, and promoting helping those in need.

Such initiatives reflect the bank’s CSR commitment and its efforts to encourage various businesses across the Sultanate

to contribute to supporting low-income families, particularly during the month of Ramadan.

Murtadha Jawad, AGM - Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Alizz Islamic Bank, said “At Alizz Islamic Bank we are committed to supporting the growth and welfare of the communities in which we live and operate in, as we believe that the growth of individuals and businesses relies on the prosperity of these communities. Our flagship CSR initiative the Iftar Say’im aims to promote the spirit of solidarity and cooperation among the bank’s employees and the community by providing necessities to low-income families. It is our responsibility as a bank to give back to society and we are proud to do so.”



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RIAL 0.350
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Assorted per pc



RIAL 0.740
Sulabham Marayoor Jaggery 1 kg



SAVE 34.524%
RIAL 0.420
RIAL 0.275
Royal Mark Rice
Ada 200 gms



SAVE 22.000%
RIAL 0.500
RIAL 0.390
Royal Mark Palada
200 gms



RIAL 0.425
Eastern Sambar
Powder 165 gms



SAVE 34.795%
RIAL 1.825
RIAL 1.190
Parachute
Coconut Oil
1 Ltr



RIAL 0.400
Eastern (Mango / Kadumango /
Lemon) Pickle 400 gms per pc



SAVE 52.857%
RIAL 2.100
RIAL 0.990
Double Horse
Matta Rice 5 kgs



RIAL 0.950
Lulu Pure Cow Ghee
200 ml



RIAL 0.890
Al Ain Drinking
Water 24 x 330 ml



RIAL 1.190
Al Mudhish UHT
Full Fat Milk 4 x 1 Ltr



RIAL 0.750
Lulu Coconut Milk
2 x 400 ml



RIAL 0.490
Mazoon Fresh Yoghurt
Full / Low Fat
1kg Assorted per pc



RIAL 0.850
Lulu Vermicelli
4 x 400 gms



RIAL 0.650
Lulu Tamarind
500 gms



RIAL 0.450
Mysore Banana
(Oman) per kg



RIAL 0.775
Pineapple
(Philippines)
per pc



RIAL 0.990
Ada Pradaman
500 gms



RIAL 0.990
Ari Payasam (Rice)
500 gms



RIAL 0.990
Banana Payasam
500 gms



RIAL 0.490
Papaya Fruit
(India) per kg



RIAL 0.450
Vellery (India)
per kg



RIAL 0.990
Mambazha Payasam
(Mango) 500 gms



RIAL 0.990
Ney Payasam (Ghee)
500 gms



RIAL 0.990
Pal Payasam
500 gms



RIAL 0.990
Palada Payasam
500 gms



RIAL 0.250
Suran (Yam)
India per kg



RIAL 0.025
Banana Leaf
(Oman) per pc



RIAL 0.990
Parippu Pradaman
500 gms



RIAL 0.990
Sabudhana Payasam
500 gms



RIAL 0.990
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500 gms



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