

OMAN TAKES PART IN GCC,
CENTRAL ASIAN MEETING
The Sultanate of Oman took
part in the first joint ministerial
meeting of the strategic dialogue
between the GCC states and
Central Asia countries. >A5



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREET'S PRESIDENT OF MACEDONIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Stevo Pendarovski of the Republic of North Macedonia on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Pendarovski and the people of his country. - ONA



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His Majesty issues Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Wednesday issued Royal decree No. (58/2022) on granting Oman Tower Company a first-class licence to establish and operate the inactive

infrastructure for telecommunication towers. Article (1) grants a first-class license to Oman Tower Company to establish and operate the inactive infrastructure for telecommunication towers, in accordance with the provisions of the license attached to this decree. Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. - ONA

cordance with the provisions of the license attached to this decree. Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. - ONA

TORRENTIAL RAINS

At HM's behest, tenders floated to repair roads damaged in rains

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to accelerate repair of infrastructure damaged by recent torrential rains and overflow of wadis in some governorates in the Sultanate of Oman, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Wednesday floated some tenders to repair the aforesaid damages.

Repair of damages

The tenders were floated in co-ordination with the committee tasked with accelerating the repair of damages caused by the torrential rains and overflow of wadis in some governorates of Oman.

The tenders will be awarded to the companies specialised in roads by the end of September 2022. Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Transport Undersecretary said that the tenders floated to repair the damages following the torrential rains include all roads affected by the recent climatic conditions in the



governorates of North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, North Al Sharqiyah, Musandam and parts in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah.

He added that the Governorate of Musandam took the brunt of the climatic conditions, followed

by the road linking the wilayats of Nakhal and Al Awabi, as well as Wadi A'Sahtan, Wadi Bani Aouf and Wadi Mastal. He explained that the repair works also include the maintenance of the current Al Batinah road. - ONA

New residential
complexes to help citizens
realise housing dreams

A2



PROTECTION OF TURTLES

Environment Authority to track sea turtles through satellites

SUR: The Environment Authority has launched a project for satellite tracking of turtles to study their nesting conditions and natural habitats.

The satellite tracking devices identify the movement and behaviour of turtles and their habitat and feeding habits.

The project, launched on 6 September, witnessed the participation of personnel from the Marine Environment Conservation Department, the Environment Preservation Office, the Environment Control Office and supervisors of eco-systems in the coastal governorates along with personnel from the Five Oceans Environmental Services Company.

Sea migration

A'aida bint Khalaf Al Jabri, marine environment specialist at the Environment Authority and head of the study team said the project for satellite tracking of turtles aimed to control sea migration of turtles and to apply the best practices



for protection of turtles as also to study their nesting conditions and habitats. It also aims to understand the behaviour of turtles in their habitat and feeding conditions.

She said the programme included training of 20 specialists from various coastal governorates in the Sultanate on the method of instal-

lation of satellite tracking devices at Ras Al Hadd and Ras Al Jinz in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

It may be mentioned that turtles represent one of the natural wealth of the Sultanate and that turtles nesting areas in the Sultanate are considered as important areas for some species of turtles. - ONA

More than 20,000
hotel rooms will be
available for football
aficionados in the
Sultanate of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is preparing itself to become "one of the major gateway" to the 2022 Qatar World Cup, the CEO of the Oman Air, Abdulaziz Al Raisi said.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, the CEO of Oman Air said, "Oman is getting ready to welcome the football fans from all over the world from 21 November to 3 December 2022."

With free 60-day multi-entry visa to Oman and 24 daily Match Day Shuttle Flights, Oman will ferry spectators from Muscat to Doha every day.

"It will be easy for the entire family to stay in Oman and catch all the football excitement in Qatar," the national airline said on its twitter handle.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, on Wednesday unveiled the details of its joint programme for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and its preparations with public and private establishments.

Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Head of the Steering Committee for the management of the programme, affirmed that the Sultanate of



VISA INCENTIVES FOR WORLD CUP FANS TO ENTER THE SULTANATE OF OMAN (HAYYA CARD HOLDERS)

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FROM THE STATE OF QATAR

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TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

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FIRST-DEGREE RELATIVE TO
ENJOY THEIR STAY IN THE
SULTANATE OF OMAN

THE VISA HOLDER CAN
CHANGE THE VISA
CATEGORY WHILE
STAYING IN THE SULTANATE
OF OMAN (CONDITION APPLY)



Oman supports the efforts of Qatar in hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 through several areas of cooperation.

Promoting Muscat

Al Busaidi added that the objectives of the programme focuses on promoting Muscat as a major city chosen to receive the World Cup fans, and to provide an easily accessible and exceptional experience for the fans visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Busaidi highlighted the main components of the programme, which include a World Cup fan visa to enter the Sultanate of Oman (Hayya card holders), daily flights between Muscat and Doha, a programme for airport and transportation facilities, a programme of hotels and tourist packages and a programme of events and activities, as well as accompanying promotional campaigns.

>A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Asyad in pact with UK's e-commerce retailer

1 Asyad Express has entered into a strategic partnership with Evri, the UK's largest e-commerce delivery company. The partnership aims to explore strategic collaboration in terms of setting up a regional courier express parcel (CEP) network serving the Middle East through Evri/Asyad Express and partner networks. >A5

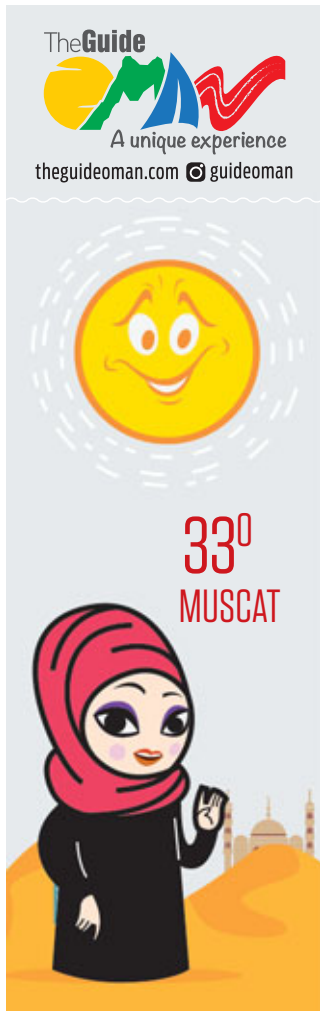
WORLD Liz Truss vows to tackle energy crisis

2 In her first speech as the UK's new Prime Minister, Liz Truss immediately confronted the enormous task ahead of her amid increasing pressure to curb soaring prices, ease labour unrest and fix a health care system burdened by long waiting lists and staff shortages. >A6

SPORTS Chelsea sack manager Tuchel



3 Chelsea have sacked manager Thomas Tuchel following Tuesday's night's Champions League defeat by Dinamo Zagreb. The 49-year-old former Borussia Dortmund and Paris St-Germain boss leaves Stamford Bridge after 20 months. Owner Todd Boehly has placed Tuchel's coaching staff in temporary charge until a replacement is found. >A8





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TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:10pm
Asr.....	3:37pm
Maghrib.....	6:24pm
Isha.....	7:35pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:35am

New residential complexes to help citizens realise housing dreams

The five sites are distributed among the governorates of Musandam, Dhofar, South Al Sharqiyah, North Al Sharqiyah, North Al Batinah and South Al Batinah

MUSCAT: Provision of integrated residential complexes with modern specifications and different sized buildings to provide stability for families is among the major objectives of Sorouh Initiative for Integrated Residential Neighbourhoods. The initiative represents one of the pillars of housing policies in the Sultanate of Oman. Within the framework of this initiative, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning will offer five new sites during this month (September 2022) for real estate developers.

Those locations are distributed among the governorates of Musandam, Dhofar, South Al Sharqiyah, North Al Sharqiyah, North Al Batinah and South Al Batinah. The new neighbourhoods will be set up based on the system of a partnership agreement with real estate developers. Eng. Masoud Said Al Hashmi, Director General for Real Estate Development told Oman News Agency (ONA) that these types of integrated projects are provided with all necessary and modern services. Al Hashmi added that the first project implemented within this initiative is “Hai Al Naseem” and it contains 1,000 housing units, divided into 320 apartments, 120 villas and 475 twin-villas. “Hai Al Naseem” is set up on an area of 350,000 square metres. In this project, the real estate developer is tasked with building the infrastructure and services within the boundaries of the project, while the government provides services beyond its boundaries. He said that housing units of “Hai Al Naseem” project will be handed over to citizens in May 2023. Applications for those units were open during March 2022 for people eligible to receive residential land plots. -ONA



NEW HOUSES: The housing units of ‘Hai Al Naseem’ project will be handed over to citizens in May 2023. Applications for these units were open during March 2022 for eligible people. - ONA





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QATAR WORLD CUP 2022

Sports facilities in Oman ready to host training of participating teams

<FROM A1 Lt. Col Ahmed Said Al Ghafri, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Directorate General of Passports and Civil Status at the Royal Oman Police (ROP), said the exceptional advantages of ‘Hayya card holders’ are represented in a free multi-entry visa, with the feature of obtaining the visa upon arrival and a validity period of up to 60 days. Al Ghafri further said the visa holder can bring first-degree relatives to enjoy a stay in the Sultanate of Oman and can change the visa category while staying in Oman (conditions apply). Eng. Abdulaziz Saud Al Raisi also said that Oman Air has offered ticket packages that include accommodation and special fares at more than 120 booking outlets worldwide. In his turn, Dr. Khalid Abdulwahab Al Balushi, Senior Manager of Government Affairs at Oman Air said the fares for booking one-day flights start from OMR 99 for economy class and OMR 305 for business class, during the World Cup matches from 20 November to 3 December 2022. He added that to encourage citizens, special fares have been provided for them, starting from OMR49 for economy class and OMR155 for business class. Shabib Mohammed Al Ma'amari, Managing Director of the National Travel Operator representing Omran Group, pointed out that tourism products offered under the programme exceed 20,000 hotel rooms and more than 200 tourism products through 35 local operators and 10 land transport companies. Those companies struck partnerships with 52 airlines from around the world, which operate flights to the Sultanate of Oman. He said that the programme will include events and activities, most notably the World Cup Fans Festival, which will be held in the gardens of Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) on an area of more than 9,000 square meters. This event aims to provide a festive atmosphere for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. An official site for the Fan Village will also be launched. Mohammed Ahmed Al Amri, Director General of Sports Activities at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, said a continuous coordination is maintained by Oman Football Association (OFA) to host the international teams in the Sultanate of Oman. He affirmed that sports facilities in the Sultanate of Oman are ready to host the trainings of the team. Meanwhile, Saud Nasser Al Hubaishi, Acting Chief of Operations highlighted Muscat International Airport's preparation to ensure smooth flow of fans at the airport. The preparations include special routes for inbound and outbound flights through gates designated for aircrafts carrying fans of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, outlets dedicated to verifying fans, identification devices for customs inspection and an integrated crew of the customer service team to guide travelers through the designated routes. Khaled Al Mawlawi, Deputy Director General for Marketing, Communications and Event Experience at Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy said that Qatar has been keen to cooperate and form broad global and regional partnerships for the World Cup, including the fan-

To encourage citizens, special fares have been provided for them, starting from OMR49 for economy class and OMR155 for business class

hosting cities programme, which includes Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. Al Mawlawi stressed that the Sultanate of Oman's programme to support the State of Qatar in hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has been beyond expectations. Moreover, Said Al Kuwari, Executive Director of the Hayya platform in the State of Qatar, gave a presentation on the official platform tasked with managing the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 cards and the facilities it provides to the fans according to organized and easily accessible mechanisms for all. The Sultanate of Oman's Programme for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 seeks to provide an exceptional experience for the spectators who would like to visit Oman through the visa issued for Hayya Cards holders. Those fans will enjoy a set of packages including competitive flight offers and transport services. The programme is run by a joint team under the purview of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. The team includes various government and private units, namely, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth; Royal Oman Police; Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran); Oman Air and Oman Airports. The programme provides accommodation services and tourism experiences in the form of accommodation offers, tourism products, experiences and tours. These services will be rendered by tourism management companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It also includes a festival and events for the fans, activities to attract visitors, offers and incentives for business partners and package options at competitive prices. The joint programme also includes exceptional promotional campaigns, coinciding with the World Cup 2022, through the implementation of two plans for marketing and promoting for the unique tourism features enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA



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Plan to link north and south power grids to avert future blackout

Public Services Regulatory Authority expects to integrate the two networks of electricity in the north and south of the Sultanate of Oman by 2026

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Following the unprecedented power outage, which hit normal life in many governorates of the Sultanate, experts have come up with ways to prevent the recurrence of such failure in the future.

The one that finds almost unanimous favour and is being executed by the Public Services Regulatory Authority is the linking of the two networks in the north and south of the Sultanate by 2026.

His Excellency Dr. Mansour bin Talib Al Hinai, Chairman of the Public Services Regulatory Authority, said: "We expect to link the two systems of electricity in the north and south of the Sultanate of Oman by the year 2026. The first phase of the work will be completed by 2023, and studies are underway to implement the second phase."

Linking the two power networks will help avoid power outages in future, Engineer Abdullah



bin Nasser Al-Saeedi, CEO of Nafath Renewable Energy Company, said. "Besides preventing many problems, the plan will put into place backup stations in both the regions, which will be operated in the event of failure of the national grid." This, however, not free from its negative aspects. "If both the power networks were linked, as is being proposed, the entire network will suffer disruption in the event of a snag in one of the networks, like it did in case of the Ibri state power line developing a snag and causing disruptions extending from north to south on Monday."

It may be mentioned that yesterday, a number of regions in the Sultanate witnessed power outage from 1pm till it was fully restored by 2:22am on Tuesday.

Engineer Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Saeedi said: "Losses incurred from Monday's power cut should also be estimated."

Al-Saeedi continued: "This outage is an exceptional event as the engineer in his service span of roughly 20-35 years rarely comes across an outage of such gigantic

proportions. It is indeed an exceptional event in an exceptional circumstance. And, at the core of this lies the imbalance between electrical production and consumption, besides some technical reasons. Sometimes these reasons are internal, including the failure to manage information and data correctly, or maintenance operations or the like. Then there are external factors such as natural disasters such as cyclones, rains, flooding, etc."

"The Public Services Regulatory Authority stated that the cause of the power outage yesterday was a snag in the transmission lines in the Wilayat of Ibri in the Dhahira Governorate which triggered several outages in almost 90% of the network in the Sultanate," Al Saeedi said.

On whether the authorities could be in preparedness for power outages of such magnitude as the one that occurred on Monday, Eng. Al Saeedi said: "The electricity sector has qualified and trained cadres and although such outages are normally not expected, there are

procedures that must be followed directly and quickly which can protect against such an outage."

Al Saeedi continued: "We are waiting for an independent investigation by the Public Services Regulatory Authority to find out the real technical reasons behind this outage. There are initial reasons that were announced, but I think that a comprehensive report will be published by the authority later."

Suggesting a way out of Monday's mishap, Eng. Abdullah said that transmission lines in the Wilayat of Ibri could be disconnected once it was hit by the snag. Alternative lines could then be used to feed some areas so that the scope of the power outage remained limited, geographically. This would have kept the effects of the outage restricted to a wilayat or a governorate, or at most, over two governorates of the Sultanate.

"But the extension of this impact on a large number of governorates and the exit of about 3.8 gigawatts of electricity, which represents more than 60-70 percent, requires more research and investigation because what happened yesterday affects the confidence of the public, ports, airports, the health sector and all sectors on the electricity network."

Engineer Al-Saeedi stressed that the event of the power outage that occurred yesterday will not go unnoticed and will be studied, researched and investigated so that it will not be repeated in future.

Eng. Abdullah added: "The unified Gulf interconnection system, which is a project at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, is of great importance, very useful and positive in such circumstances."

KERALA EXPATS CELEBRATE ONAM

Expats from Kerala in Oman celebrated the festival of Onam with fervour on Wednesday. Onam is an annual harvest festival predominantly celebrated in Kerala. The festival embodies the diverse culture of Kerala and is generally celebrated at the end of August or beginning of September. — Picture by Shabine E/Times of Oman



THREE-DAY EVENT

Oman participates in Regional Arab Guides Conference



ABU DHABI: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education's Directorate General for Scouts and Guides, is currently taking part in the 23rd Regional Arab Guides Conference themed "Together we Thrive".

The three-day event, held in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, aims to avail a promising generation of female guides. It adopts programmes and initiatives to prepare guides for the future of scouting. — OMA

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

36,960 REACH | 1,437 LINK CLICKS

Match report on India vs Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup

The match report on India vs Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup reached 36,960 people and had 1,437 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

19,200 VIEWS

Midday Minute news update video

The Midday Minute news update video had 19,200 views and reached 3,100 people on Facebook.

📺 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

707 VIEWS

Maghrib Minute video news-wrap

The Maghrib Minute video news-wrap had 707 views and 39 likes on Instagram.

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Located in Wilayat Al Hamra, Al Dhakilya region, **Jabal Shams** is the highest peak in Oman and is located at about 3000 feet above the sea level and is a part of the Al Hajar Mountains range. You need a four wheel drive to reach Jabal Shams. From Muscat take the Nizwa road from the Al Sahwa roundabout, then take the road to Wilayat Al Hamra and from there turn left to Wadi Al Goul where you will see the mountain route. There are signs that will guide you all along the way. While taking the route to the peak, you will find Shurfat Al Nakhr canyon a few miles before reaching the peak. The view of the canyon from the peak is spectacular. It is the drainage and collection hole of rain waters coming from the mountains. Its height is more than 2400 metres.

What makes Jabal Shams so popular is its climatic conditions. In winter, the mountain is covered with snow and summer it continues to be pleasant through and cooler in the evening, given its distance from the sea level.

While being there, you can enjoy camping, and watching the sunrise and sunset. You can also visit the historical village of “Goul,” which is entirely built with rocks and mud, uniquely sitting on the edge of Jabal Shams, overlooking vast areas of farms.





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JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING

Oman takes part in GCC and Central Asia meeting

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the first joint ministerial meeting of the strategic dialogue between the GCC states and Central Asia countries.

The meeting, held at the GCC Secretariat General in Riyadh, stressed the importance of enhancing mechanism of the joint action which is based on values, joint interest and cooperation in various areas.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman was led by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

The meeting saw the participa-



tion of the GCC foreign ministers and their counterparts in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan, in addition to the GCC Secretary General. -ONA

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

Asyad inks partnership deal with major UK e-commerce distributor

LONDON: Asyad Express, part of Asyad Group, has entered a strategic partnership with Evri, the UK's largest e-commerce delivery company.

The partnership aims to explore strategic collaboration in terms of setting up a regional courier express parcel (CEP) network serving the Middle East through Evri/Asyad Express and partner networks.

The partnership seeks to develop a unique value proposition serving Oman and select middle east countries from the UK, Europe and US markets, using Asyad Group network capability and infrastructure.

Commenting on the importance of this strategic partnership for Oman, Nasser Ahmed Al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post & Asyad Express said "this important partnership is in line with our extensive efforts to position Oman as a global logistics hub by tapping into a pool of more than 2 billion potential e-commerce customers and providing global access to the



GCC through our extensive sea, road and air networks."

"This agreement provides local and regional traders access to key European and American markets through Evri's expansive network. It also connects Evri's clients with the Asian and Middle East markets through leveraging Asyad's world-class logistics services and its network, covering more than 220 destinations globally," he added.

Speaking on behalf of Evri, John Sansby, Director of International Network & Partnership Development stated, "we're excited to start this collaboration and believe that using the Evri Global e-commerce network, will support the capability build of both networks in the UK, Middle East, US and Asian markets.

This partnership will give Oman and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regional cross border sellers, a 'best in class' global e-commerce delivery product. Our agreement with Asyad Express demonstrates our commitment to increasing Evri's network and service capability growth in the Middle East region.

- ONA

Alila

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Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/093	Implementation of E-Services
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Each Tender. Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender application form from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for form.
Experience	The Tenderer shall have at least 8 years of experience in implementation of the following - Share Point Upgrade - E-Services Implementation for both Website and Mobile Application including payment solutions.
Pre-qualification	The Service Provider should have experience of implementing similar proposed solution for similar utility industry in Sultanate of Oman including implementation of E- Payment and Mobile Application Solutions. The implemented solution must be working successfully for the last 5 years.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 22 nd September 2022
Site Visit	NA
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 26 th September 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 29 th September 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 6 th October 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة

Dhofar Integrated Services Company

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جمعية دار العطاء
DAR AL ATTAA

Tender announcement for the construction of 36 housing units

Tender No.	Subject	Last date of tender submission
107 - 143	Constuction work	22-9 - 2022

Subject

The construction of 36 housing units (Al-Ata' neighborhood project) in the Governorate of North Al Batinah in the Wilayat of Al-Khaboura "Sana'a Bani Ghafer".

Companies and institutions licensed to work in the construction and contracting field from the Ministry of Commerce and Investment Promotion must visit the association's headquarters in Bausher and purchase a price brochure.

Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes in the Tender Box of the Association in the Financial Department during the working period from 9-2 pm.

For more information, please contact us by email:
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حكومة
سلطنة عمان
للتعليم والتطوير
٢٠٢٢ و ٢٠٢٣



TAWHIDA
٢٠٢٠ ١٤٤٢



TAWHIDA
٢٠٢٠ ١٤٤٢

FIRST SPEECH

UK PM Liz Truss vows to tackle energy crisis in her first speech

LONDON: In her first speech as the UK's new Prime Minister, Liz Truss immediately confronted the enormous task ahead of her amid increasing pressure to curb soaring prices, ease labour unrest and fix a health care system burdened by long waiting lists and staff shortages.

"I will deal with the energy crisis caused by Putin's war," Truss told reporters on the steps of 10 Downing Street. She blamed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which triggered the global energy crisis.

Truss further highlighted that the Russia-Ukraine war threatens to push energy bills to unaffordable levels, shuttering businesses and leaving the nation's poorest people shivering in icy homes this winter.

"I will take action this week to deal with energy bills and to secure our future energy supply," she said.

Truss also said she had a "bold plan" to grow the economy through tax cuts and reform that would "boost business-led growth and investment."

Truss, who refused to spell out her energy strategy during the two-month campaign to succeed Boris Johnson, now plans to cap energy bills at a cost to taxpayers of as much as 100 billion pounds (USD 116 billion), British news media reported Tuesday. She is expected to unveil her plan on Thursday.



Improving health services was the third priority listed by the former Foreign Secretary. "I'm confident that together we can ride out the storm, we can re-build the economy and we can become the modern brilliant Britain that I know we can be," Truss concluded.

Meanwhile, Truss is appointing her new cabinet hours after becoming prime minister. Kwasi Kwarteng has been named Chan-

cellor, James Cleverly is Foreign Secretary and Suella Braverman is Home Secretary, reported UK-based media.

Therese Coffey is the new Health Secretary and deputy PM. For the first time, not a single white man will occupy one of the "great offices of state" - PM, Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Chancellor.

Prominent backers of Truss's leadership rival Rishi Sunak are

out of a job, including Dominic Raab and Grant Shapps.

Truss, 47, took office Tuesday afternoon at Balmoral Castle in Scotland when Queen Elizabeth II formally asked her to form a new government in a carefully choreographed ceremony dictated by centuries of tradition.

It was the first time in the queen's 70-year reign that the handover of power took place at Balmoral, rather than Buckingham Palace in London.

The ceremony was moved to Scotland to provide certainty about the schedule because the 96-year-old queen has experienced problems getting around that have forced palace officials to make decisions about her travel on a day-to-day basis.

Truss became prime minister a day after the ruling Conservative Party chose her as its leader in an election where the party's 172,000 dues-paying members were the only voters.

As party leader, Truss automatically became prime minister without the need for a general election because the Conservatives still have a majority in the House of Commons.

But as a national leader selected by less than 0.5 per cent of British adults, Truss is under pressure to show quick results. **ANI**



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FIRE

12 killed, 40 injured in building fire in Vietnam

HANOI: A fire tore through a large karaoke bar in southern Vietnam on Tuesday night, killing at least 12 people and injuring 40 more, local authorities said on Wednesday.

The blaze engulfed the second and third floors of the building in the town of Thuan An, just north of Ho Chi Minh City. Among the injured, 11 were in serious condition, state media reported.

Witnesses said the fire spread quickly across foam soundproofing and wooden paneling in the karaoke bar's 30 private rooms. As smoke blocked the fire escape, some people jumped eight meters (26 feet) from the second-floor balcony to the ground.

"Many people ran outside

through the main entrance, but many others could not stand the heat and they jumped down, breaking their hands and legs," one witness told local news website VnExpress.

Investigation underway

The incident is Vietnam's deadliest fire since 2018.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Wednesday ordered the Ministry of Public Security and provincial authorities to investigate the cause of the blaze. "Rescue teams are still looking for victims at the scene," Nguyen Thanh Tam, a top official with the ruling communist party in Thuan An, told the AFP news agency. **DW**

NEW GLOBAL ORDER

Vladimir Putin slams sanctions in pitch for new global order

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has admitted some sectors of the Russian economy are suffering due to sanctions and political pressure, which he referred to as the "economic, financial and technological aggression of the West," but remained bullish on building new ties with Asia.

Putin made the comments in a landmark speech at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far east city of Vladivostok on Wednesday.

"Other challenges of a global nature that threaten the whole world have replaced the pandemic," the Russian president said.

"I am speaking of the West's sanctions fever, with its brazen, aggressive attempt to impose models of behavior on other countries, to deprive them of their sovereignty and subordinate them to their will."

However, Putin added: "No matter how much someone would like to isolate Russia, it is impossible to do this."

Grain shipments under threat

During his speech, Putin said Russia had been "grossly swindled" by a grain shipping deal that was reached with Ukraine in July.

The deal, brokered by Turkey and the UN, was intended to shield the world's most vulnerable people from a looming food crisis.

The Russian president claimed only two out of 87 ships went to poor countries, and said Russia had been unable to resume lucrative fertilizer exports which had been promised as part of the deal. Putin said he would now consider limiting the destinations for grain exports under the agreement.

Ukrainian authorities hit back



later on Wednesday, with presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak calling Putin's proposal "unexpected" and "groundless."

"The agreements signed in Istanbul ... concern only one issue, and that is the transfer of cargo ships through the Black Sea," Podolyak told Reuters.

"Russia can't dictate where Ukraine should send its grain, and Ukraine doesn't dictate the same to Russia."

Oil and gas in limbo

Russia is the world's largest natural gas exporter, and the second-largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia.

Putin said Russia would renege on energy contracts if the Group of Seven (G7) countries imposed a price cap on Russian oil, threatening to cut the flow of gas to Europe.

"Will there be any political decisions that contradict the contracts? Yes, we just won't fulfil them. We will not supply anything at all if it contradicts our interests," Putin said. "We will not supply gas, oil, coal, heating oil - we will not supply anything."

Hours after Putin's comments,

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters: "We will propose a price cap on Russian gas... We must cut Russia's revenues which Putin uses to finance this atrocious war in Ukraine."

Putin outlines new geopolitical order

Putin used his speech to lay out a new vision for global cooperation following the February invasion of Ukraine - one in which Iran and other Middle Eastern countries could play a leading role.

"Western countries are striving to maintain a former world order that is beneficial only to them, to force everyone to live according to the infamous rules that they themselves invented and regularly violate, rules they are constantly changing for themselves depending on the current circumstances," the Russian president said.

This was also reflected in the attendees at the summit in Vladivostok, who included Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and senior Chinese legislator Li Zhanshu. **DW**

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NEW LOOK

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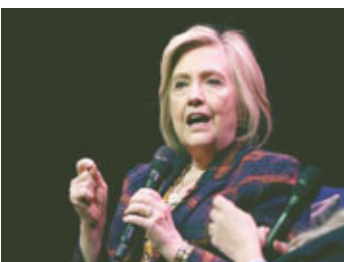
Hillary Clinton says she will not run for President in 2024

WASHINGTON: Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said that she will not be running for President again following her two failed bids in 2008 and 2016.

Clinton was speaking at a news channel where she was asked by the anchor if the leader would ever run for president again. “No,

no,” Clinton said as quoted by The Hill. “But I’m going to do everything I can to make sure that we have a president who respects our democracy and the rule of law and upholds our institutions,” she added.

The anchor further asked Hillary Clinton “What if Donald Trump runs again?”



The former US Secretary of State responded that Trump would not fit into that category and that “he should be soundly defeated” if he runs again.

Clinton was defeated by Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

During the 2016 election cycle, Clinton was plagued in scandal following the revelation that she

had a private email server while serving as secretary of state during the Barack Obama administration, prompting a lengthy FBI probe, Fox News reported.

Donald Trump has been teasing another run for president in 2024, and according to The Hill, polls show that he has a good shot of clinching the Republi-

can nomination.

Clinton has said that she would endorse President Biden if he runs for reelection the same year.

“Joe Biden beat in a huge landslide victory in the popular vote Donald Trump. I think that says a lot,” Clinton said had said on television in late June, The Hill reported. **ANI**

NEW HOME SECRETARY

Indian-origin barrister Suella Braverman appointed UK’s new Home Secretary

LONDON: Suella Braverman, an Indian-origin barrister, was appointed as the UK’s new Home Secretary, replacing fellow colleague Priti Patel who is also of Indian descent.

The new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Liz Truss had appointed Suella Braverman as her Home Secretary. “Great to be at @ukhomeoffice this evening to meet the team as we begin our work: making our streets safer, supporting our security services and controlling immigration,” she said in a tweet.

“Thank you to everyone at @attorneygeneral for enjoyable 2-and-a-bit years. You are an excellent and dedicated team and achieved a huge amount of which you can be proud,” she said in another tweet.

Suella Braverman was previously Attorney General between 2020-2022.

Prior to that, she was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for exiting the European Union from January to November 2018. Suella was elected as the Conservative MP for Fareham in May 2015. Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday appointed the Conservative Party leader Liz Truss as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



“The Queen received Liz Truss at Balmoral Castle today. Her Majesty asked her to form a new Administration. Truss accepted Her Majesty’s offer and was appointed Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,” The Royal Family tweeted.

Truss was elected the head of the UK’s Conservative Party on Monday after defeating former chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak. Truss became the first prime minister to be appointed by the Queen in Scotland, and not at Buckingham Palace, as tradition requires. After meeting the Queen, the new prime minister will return to London and speak

outside the Downing Street office.

Forty-seven-year-old Liz Truss became the third female prime minister of the UK.

Truss defeated Rishi Sunak through a postal ballot of all Conservative members. She secured 81,326 votes while Sunak got 60,399 votes.

“I am honoured to be elected Leader of the Conservative Party. Thank you for putting your trust in me to lead and deliver for our great country. I will take bold action to get all of us through these tough times, grow our economy, and unleash the United Kingdom’s potential,” Truss wrote on Twitter. **ANI**

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/Tender/2022/142
Subject	UNE - LOT 08L - 2022
Tender Fee	RO. 52,500 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender application form DISC’s office or send an e-mail to below mention mail ID for tender application form.
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid “DCRP Registration Certificate” and valid “CEP Authorized card copy issued by DISC” Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 22 nd September 2022
Tender document publish date	03:00 PM on 23 rd September 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	N/A
Last date for Response for pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 2 nd October 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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BALLISTIC MISSILES

US announces intercontinental ballistic missile test



WASHINGTON: The US military will test an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Wednesday, the Pentagon said in an unusual pre-launch announcement.

It will be the second such US nuclear defense drill in less than a month.

“There will be an operational test launch of an Air Force Global Strike command unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile early tomorrow morning, September 7, from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California,” Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.

Ryder said that this “routine” test had been long-scheduled and that the US had notified Russia and other countries of the plans.

The aim of the test “is to dem-

onstrate the readiness of US nuclear forces and provide confidence in the security and effectiveness of the nation’s nuclear deterrent,” Ryder told reporters.

Two tests in one month

The US Air Force successfully launched a Minutemen III ICBM on August 16, after having postponed the test twice to avoid stoking tensions over Ukraine and Taiwan.

The missile carried a test re-entry vehicle, which in a strategic conflict could be armed with a nuclear warhead.

The re-entry vehicle traveled about 4,200 miles (6,760 kilometers) to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands in the western Pacific.

Ryder said the two tests were scheduled well in advance and are held close together due to the postponement of the first. **aw**

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Chelsea kick out head coach Tuchel

Chelsea's coaching staff will take charge of the team for training and the preparation of the upcoming matches

LONDON: Chelsea Football Club on Wednesday announced that it has parted ways with head coach Thomas Tuchel.

"Chelsea Football Club has today parted company with Head Coach Thomas Tuchel. On behalf of everyone at Chelsea FC, the club would like to place on record its gratitude to Thomas and his staff for all their efforts during their time with the club. Thomas will rightly have a place in Chelsea's history after winning the Champions League, the Super Cup and Club World Cup during his time here," said the club in an official



statement on its website. "As the new ownership group reaches 100 days since taking over the Club, and as it continues its hard work to take the club forward, the new owners believe it is the right time to make this transition," added the club in its statement.

Chelsea's coaching staff will take charge of the team for training and the preparation of the upcoming matches as the club moves swiftly to appoint a new head coach.

There will be no further comment until a new head coach appointment is made.

Tuchel joined the club back in January last year. He was the first-ever German to be appointed as the head coach of Chelsea and came to the club after guiding the Paris Saint-Germain Football Club, a French Club to four major titles and a Champions League final.

During his time with Chelsea, he won the UEFA Champions League 2020-21, UEFA Super

Cup 2021 and FIFA Club World Cup 2021. His side also finished as runner-up in the FA Cup in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 season. In the EFL Cup 2021-22 as well, his side finished as runner-up.

In the current 2022-23 season of Premier League, Chelsea is at number six with 10 points under their belt. They have won three games out of their first six games, lost two and drawn one.

Chelsea's Champions League campaign got off to a nightmare start in Zagreb with an early goal for the home side being enough to seal the three points for Dinamo.

In one of Tuesday's early kick-offs, it was Dinamo Zagreb who took the chance to go top of the group against a sluggish Chelsea side.

Chelsea dominated possession throughout, but struggled to create meaningful chances, particularly in the first half and the hosts were good value for their lead at the break, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported.

Delight for Dinamo Zagreb, but Chelsea will go home knowing they underperformed and now have to make up ground in the group.

Their next match in the League is against Fulham on Saturday. **ANI**

ICC MEN'S T20I PLAYERS RANKINGS



Suryakumar Yadav drops to fourth spot, Rizwan becomes top batter in T20Is

DUBAI: India's in-form T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav has dropped one spot to fourth place in the latest ICC Men's T20I Players Rankings issued on Wednesday.

India captain Rohit Sharma has gained four slots to reach 13th position after scoring 72 against Sri Lanka in their Super Fours match while former captain Virat Kohli has gained four places and is 29th in the list after scoring 60 against Pakistan. Ravichandran Ashwin (up eight places to 50th) and Arshdeep Singh (up 28 places to 62nd) have also progressed. Also, Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan has overtaken his opening partner and captain Babar Azam to seize the top position among batters in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings after the weekly update.

Rizwan followed up his Player of the Match effort of 78 off 57 deliveries in an Asia Cup Group A match against Hong Kong with a crucial 71 off 51 against India in a Super Fours match in Dubai, to move from 796 rating points to a career-best 815 and claim the top position for the first time.

Rizwan is only the third Pakistan batter to be No. 1 in the T20I batting rankings after Babar, who has been at the top of the table for 1,155 days in all, and Misbah-ul-Haq, who was at the top for 313 days, from 20 April 2008 to 27 February 2009. Meanwhile, Mohammad Nawaz's match-winning

42 off 20 in the same match sees him move up 142 slots to 358th in the rankings.

Sri Lanka openers Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis have made notable progress after scoring half-centuries in a memorable win against India on Tuesday. Nissanka is up one place to eighth while Mendis has advanced 63 places to 41st position.

Dasun Shanaka (up 11 places to 39th) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (up 31 places to 68th) have also moved up the rankings for batters while off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana has progressed five places to eighth among bowlers.

Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz's Player of the Match effort of 84 off 45 balls that helped beat Sri Lanka in a group match, has helped him progress 14 places to 15th while Najibullah Zadran has moved up two places to 28th after scoring 43 against Bangladesh. Spinners Mujeeb ur Rehman (up three places to sixth) and Mohammad Nabi (up two places to 32nd) have also gained in the latest update. In the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings updated after the second and third Australia versus Zimbabwe matches and first Australia versus New Zealand match, Australia's David Warner has moved up one place to sixth position among batters and New Zealand's Kane Williamson up one place to 10th. **ANI**

CRICKET

Kirsten to hold cricket camp for youth in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: It is not often that young cricketers and coaches in Oman get lessons and training sessions from one of world's renowned cricket academies. Oman Cricket's endeavour to get the local talent and coaches high-class coaching and training has led them rope in Gary Kirsten Cricket Academy for a high-performance camp at the Oman Cricket Academy in Al Amerat from October 5-9. The five-day



camp will have three days devoted to youngsters (age group from 14-19) and a course for Oman coaches. With an aim to have a strong foun-

dation, the visiting team from Gary Kirsten Cricket will also organise a day-long grassroots camp.

Evert Laubscher, Oman Cricket Academy manager, said that a team of three high-performance coaches from Gary Kirsten Cricket (GKC) will be conducting the camp. Among the GKC coaches expected to arrive in Oman are Ryan Cook, Jimmy Cook, Ryan Van Niekerk, Garreth Von Hoesslin, Murray Ranger, Justin Kemp and Russel Symcox.

Laubscher said the inaugural camp will be organised by three GKC coaches but in the future there may be more coaches coming down. GKC founder Gary Kirsten is also likely to pay a visit to Oman in the future.

In a video message, Kirsten said: "We can't wait to share our best thinking with Oman's best talent. This camp is only the beginning of some exciting things to come. I look forward to seeing and meeting everyone as this partnership grows."





MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,522.19 points, down by 0.49 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.62 per cent at 484.75 points. Oman Chlorine, up 9.79 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 6.67 per cent, was the top loser.

Middle Eastern airlines' traffic jumps 193% in July: IATA report

July capacity rose 84.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period, and the load factor climbed 30.5 percentage points to 82.0 per cent, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its passenger data for July 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern airlines' traffic climbed 193.1 per cent in July compared to July 2021 showing that the recovery in air travel continues to be strong, according to a new report.

July capacity rose 84.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period, and the load factor climbed 30.5 percentage points to 82.0 per cent, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its passenger data for July 2022.

Total traffic in July 2022 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) was up 58.8 per cent compared to July 2021. Globally, traffic is now at 74.6 per cent of pre-crisis levels.

Domestic traffic for July 2022 was up 4.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period and is now driving the recovery. Total July 2022 domestic traffic was at 86.9 per cent of the July 2019 level. China saw a strong month-to-month improvement compared to June.

International traffic rose 150.6 per cent compared to July 2021. July 2022 international RPKs reached 67.9 per cent of July 2019 levels. All markets reported strong growth, led by Asia-Pacific.

"July's performance continued to be strong, with some markets approaching pre-COVID levels. And that is even with capacity constraints in parts of the world that



PRE-CRISIS LEVEL: Total traffic in July 2022 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) was up 58.8 per cent compared to July 2021. Globally, traffic is now at 74.6 per cent of pre-crisis levels. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

were unprepared for the speed at which people returned to travel. There is still more ground to recover, but this is an excellent sign as we head into the traditionally slower autumn and winter quarters in the Northern Hemisphere," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

International markets

Asia-Pacific airlines posted a 528.8 per cent rise in July traffic compared to July 2021, the strongest year-over-year rate among the regions. Capacity rose 159.9 per cent and the load factor was up 47.1 percentage points to 80.2 per cent.

European carriers saw July traffic rise 115.6 per cent versus July 2021. Capacity rose 64.3 per cent, and load factor climbed 20.6 percentage points to 86.7 per cent, the second highest among the regions.

North American carriers had a 129.2 per cent traffic rise in July versus the 2021 period.

Capacity rose 79.9 per cent, and load factor climbed 19.4 percentage points to 90.3 per cent, which was the highest among the regions for a second month.

Latin American airlines' July traffic rose 119.4 per cent com-

pared to the same month in 2021. July capacity rose 92.3 per cent and the load factor increased 10.5 percentage points to 85.2 per cent.

The bottom line

"Aviation continues to recover as people take advantage of their restored freedom to travel. The pandemic showed that aviation is not a luxury but a necessity in our globalized and interconnected world. Aviation is committed to continuing to meet the demands of people and commerce and to do it sustainably," Walsh said.

"We have set a goal to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050, which is in line with the targets of the Paris Agreement. Governments will have the opportunity to support our commitment by agreeing to a Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) of net zero aviation CO2 emissions by 2050 at the upcoming 41st Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). With governments supporting the same goal and timeline, we and our value chain partners can move forward with confidence towards a net zero carbon future," he added.

Global air cargo demand remains near pre-pandemic levels in July 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for July 2022 global air cargo markets showing that demand continued to track at near pre-pandemic levels in July (-3.5 per cent), but below July 2021 performance (-9.7 per cent).

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs*), fell 9.7 per cent compared to July 2021 (-10.2 per cent for international operations). Demand stood at -3.5 per cent compared to July 2019.

Capacity was 3.6 per cent above July 2021 (+6.8 per cent for international operations) but still 7.8 per cent below July 2019 levels.

IATA has noted several factors in the operating environment. It said that new export orders, a leading indicator of cargo demand, decreased in all markets, except China which began a sharp upward trend in June.

Also, the war in Ukraine continues to impair cargo capacity used to serve Europe as several airlines based in Russia and Ukraine were key cargo players.

Besides, global goods trade continued to recover in the second quarter (Q2) and the additional easing of COVID-19 restrictions in China will further boost recovery in the coming months. While maritime will be the main beneficiary, air cargo is set to receive a boost.

"Air cargo is tracking at near 2019 levels although it has taken a step back compared to the extraordinary performance of 2020-2021. Volatility resulting from supply chain constraints and evolving economic conditions has seen cargo markets essentially move sideways since April," said Willie Walsh,



IATA's Director General.

"July data shows us that air cargo continues to hold its own, but as is the case for almost all industries, we'll need to carefully watch both economic and political developments over the coming months," he added.

July regional performance

Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 10.9 per cent year-on-year decrease in cargo volumes in July 2022. Significant benefits from traffic being redirected to avoid flying over Russia failed to materialise and stagnant cargo volumes to/from Europe impacted the region's performance. Capacity was up 4.9 per cent compared to July 2021.

Asia-Pacific airlines saw their air cargo volumes decrease by 9.0 per cent in July 2022 compared to the same month in 2021. This was a significant decrease over the 2.1 per cent decline in June. Airlines in the region continue to be impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, labour shortages, and lower levels of trade and manufacturing activity due to Omicron-related restrictions. The scale of the decrease indicates volatility in volumes, as pent-up demand from the last Omicron-related lockdowns in China should prevent such notable declines in volumes. Available capacity in the re-

gion increased by 2.7 per cent compared to July 2021.

North American carriers posted a 5.7 per cent decrease in cargo volumes in July 2022 compared to the same month in 2021. This was an improvement over the 13.5 per cent decline in June. The lifting of restrictions in China is expected to boost demand in the coming months. Capacity was up 4.2 per cent compared to July 2021.

European carriers saw a 17 per cent decrease in cargo volumes in July 2022 compared to the same month in 2021. This was the worst performance of all regions for the third month in a row. This is attributable to the war in Ukraine. Labour shortages and lower manufacturing activity in Asia due to Omicron also affected volumes. Capacity increased 0.9 per cent in July 2022 compared to July 2021.

Latin American carriers reported an increase of 9.2 per cent in cargo volumes in July 2022 compared to July 2021. This was the strongest performance of all regions. Airlines in this region have shown optimism by introducing new services and capacity, and in some cases investing in additional aircraft for air cargo in the coming months. Capacity in July was up 21.4 per cent compared to the same month in 2021.

RECOGNITION

OQ Polymer Lab meets global testing standards with ISO 17025 certification

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ, the multifaceted Oman-based enterprise, has achieved ISO 17025 certification across seven parameters covering its Polymer Lab.

Focusing on testing and calibration laboratories, ISO 17025 enables organisations to demonstrate and certify that they can competently operate testing systems and generate valid results, thereby promoting confidence in their products both nationally and around the world.

Furthermore, the certification enables cooperation between laboratories and other entities by generating alignment and more efficient acceptance of results across the globe.

For OQ, this certification represents an important milestone. As the company continues to grow, being certified to these globally recognised standards will help to unlock commercial opportunities in the future.

Specifically, OQ achieved accreditation across seven main parameters, covering key processes measuring properties relating to PP and PE, such as polymer oxidation, film quality, and identification of contaminants.

The seven parameters are:
ASTM D1238: Melt flow rate



ASTM D1895: Density measurement

ASTM D5492: PP crystallinity determination

ASTM D6247: XRF analysis for additive concentration

ASTM D6290: Yellowness index evaluation

Novolen N07: Evaluation of PP film purity

Univation PEG 504: Evaluation of PE resin purity

Gilles Rochas, Managing Director - OQ Polymer Marketing, commented: "This reassures customers of the reliability of OQ's quality

control. ISO 17025 was developed by laboratory experts from all over the world together with key industry bodies such as the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. By adhering to these globally recognised standards, our customers can be confident in our existing product quality as well as the research that underpins our product development."

Khalid Al Asmi, Vice President - OQ Downstream Technical Services, commented: "We take ISO certifications incredibly seriously, and spent three years putting in

tremendous effort and resources to secure ISO 17025 for our Polymer Lab. Our two refinery labs, MAF and Sohar, also have this accreditation.

"On top of this, OQ has key ISO certifications in quality management, environmental management and occupational health and safety, demonstrating our commitment to meeting international standards in everything we do."

This latest certification breakthrough marks another chapter in OQ's ongoing growth story. Since 2020, the company has grown its client base tenfold from 300 to 3,000, while the volume of products shipped had jumped from 900 containers per month to 4,000 - all during a well-documented shipping crisis.

Today, OQ operates out of 17 countries and serves more than 80 countries with its range of polymer products, which include PP and PE variations.

Looking ahead to the future, the company is seeking to deepen its ISO 17025 certification across several new parameters to support further the company's growth aspirations.

OQ invites existing and prospective customers to discover more about its testing capabilities by joining the company in Hall 6/A23 at the upcoming K 2022 event, held in Düsseldorf on October 19-26.

APPOINTMENT

Opaz appoints general managers and managers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz), issued decisions appointing many general managers and managers for its different sectors and departments.

The decisions stipulated the appointment of Mahmood bin Hamoud bin Mattar Al Rawahi as General Manager of Planning and IT Sector, Dr Said bin Khalifa bin Ali Al Tuirshi as General Manager of Investment Development Sector, Ahmed bin Saleh bin Ahmed Al Farsi as General Manager of Compliance and Legislation Sector and Eng. Ahmed bin Ali bin Issa Akaas as In-Charge of Managing the Operations of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

On the other hand, other decisions stipulated appointing Eng. Ahmed bin Harib bin Hamed Al Balushi as Manager of Compliance and Environmental Affairs, Said bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Harthi as Manager of HR, Adil bin Saif bin Hamed Al Raqadi, Manager of IT, Salim bin Said bin Khuwaydem Qatan, Manager of Investors Services in Duqm, and Eng. Abdullah bin Salim bin Su-



waweed Al Hakmani, Manager of Technical Affairs in Duqm.

It is noteworthy that the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) was established as per the provision of Royal Decree No. (105/2020), issued on August 18, 2020. It oversees the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, free zones in Sohar, Salalah and Al Mazunah and any other special economic zone or free zone in the Sultanate of Oman. Opaz also oversees the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) as per the provision of the Royal Decree No. (53/2022).



MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Oman Chlorine, up 9.79 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 6.67 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,522.19 points, down by 0.49 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.62 per cent at 484.75 points. Oman Chlorine, up 9.79 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminium, down 6.67 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Bank Nizwa 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 372 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.64 million, with more than 8.09 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 8 advanced, 27 declined, and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR343,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR175,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR169,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,230.64 points, down 0.34 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank and Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 1.5 per cent and 1.16

per cent respectively. Prices of Taageer Finance, DIDIC, Al Anwar Investment, United Finance and Bank Nizwa were down by 5.1 per cent, 3.62 per cent, 2.41 per cent, 2.22 per cent and 1.02 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,435.49 points, down 0.77 per cent. Prices of Oman Chlorine, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Construction Materials and Muscat Thread Mill were up by 9.79 per cent, 6.82 per cent, 5.2 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively. Prices of National Aluminium, Oman Refreshment, Gulf Mushroom Products, Raysut Cement and Galfar Engineering were down by 6.67 per cent, 4.76 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 1.21 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.66 per cent before closing at 1,648.46 points. Al Suwadi Power was the only gainer for the day up by 2.38 per cent. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Musandam Power, Shell Oman Marketing, OIFC and Sembcorp Salalah were down by 5.41 per cent, 2.45 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 1.55 per cent and 1.43 per cent respectively. –

United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,553.17	4,519.98	4,522.19	4,544.54	-22.34	-0.49
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,273.64	7,207.01	7,230.63	7,254.99	-24.35	-0.34
Industry Index	6,502.40	6,434.88	6,435.48	6,485.39	-49.91	-0.77
Services Index	1,659.41	1,646.15	1,648.46	1,659.41	-10.95	-0.66
MSX Shariah Index	488.23	484.19	484.75	487.75	-3.00	-0.62
MSX TR INDEX	5,742.61	5,700.75	5,703.54	5,731.72	-28.18	-0.49
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,611.05	7,541.33	7,566.05	7,591.52	-25.48	-0.34
SERVICES TR IDX	1,723.14	1,709.37	1,711.77	1,723.14	-11.37	-0.66
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,748.40	6,678.33	6,678.95	6,730.74	-51.79	-0.77

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,095,159	1,638,526	372	23,308,583,602	8	27	13	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	773,500	104,328	10	0.131	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.100	263,203,758
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	32,428	8,593	4	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.260	0.265	0.100	430,875,784
OM0000002176	JAIZERA STEEL PROD.	8,000	2,230	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.284	0.100	36,220,408
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	315,213	287,474	9	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.000	0.000	0.912	0.912	0.924	0.100	684,000,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	8,453	6,768	8	0.804	0.804	0.800	0.800	0.804	-0.004	-0.498	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.100	55,200,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	200,000	60,000	6	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.302	-0.002	-0.662	0.300	0.300	0.322	0.100	99,261,813
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	770,406	460,331	13	0.598	0.598	0.594	0.594	0.598	-0.004	-0.669	0.594	0.594	0.594	0.100	229,399,927
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	35,500	17,821	5	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.506	-0.004	-0.791	0.502	0.498	0.502	0.100	118,677,820
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	30,000	3,360	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.113	-0.001	-0.885	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.100	15,680,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	30,000	12,417	6	0.414	0.414	0.412	0.414	0.418	-0.004	-0.957	0.412	0.414	0.412	0.100	91,080,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	223,100	23,034	8	0.106	0.106	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	472,778,416
OM0000003368	OOREODO	11,000	4,290	3	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.394	-0.004	-1.015	0.390	0.390	0.398	0.100	253,868,250
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	166,289	21,120	11	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.129	-0.002	-1.550	0.127	0.127	0.129	0.100	30,099,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	10,886	994	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.098	-0.005	-5.102	0.093	0.093	0.097	0.100	24,055,547
Total		14	2,614,585	1,012,850	86											

Parallel Market

OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	21,129	10,270	6	0.466	0.516	0.466	0.516	0.470	0.046	9.787	0.516	0.466	0.516	0.100	35,141,488
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	26,000	2,371	9	0.089	0.094	0.089	0.094	0.088	0.006	6.818	0.094	0.090	0.094	0.100	7,599,900
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	1,000	81	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.077	0.004	5.195	0.081	0.077	0.081	0.100	5,062,500
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	76,452	3,211	5	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.041	0.043	0.100	30,719,473
OM0000002136	Muscat Thread MILL	174	10	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.054	0.060	0.100	964,339
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	50,000	3,150	6	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	29,684,742
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	32,316	2,745	5	0.086	0.087	0.084	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.080	0.087	0.100	10,603,125
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	30,500	4,213	3	0.136	0.142	0.136	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.100	11,985,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	31,750	3,622	8	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.114	0.116	0.100	20,839,016
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	14,000	938	2	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.068	0.100	20,578,804
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	176,400	53,618	9	0.304	0.304	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.296	0.296	0.324	0.100	35,520,000
OM0000003661	JOZJAM ENERGY	119,879	13,187	9	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.113	0.100	8,864,303
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	88,148	7,678	9	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	15,575,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	9,126	384	3	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.042	0.043	0.100	28,345,272
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	14,800	666	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	65,817,066
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	342	49	1	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.000	0.143	0.100	10,769,646
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	14,041	1,829	3	0.131	0.131	0.130	0.130	0.131	-0.001	-0.763	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.100	388,525,687
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,592,042	155,988	10	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.098	-0.001	-1.029	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,508,306	249,575	92	0.166	0.168	0.162	0.163	0.165	-0.002	-1.212	0.163	0.161	0.163	0.100	33,086,791
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	40,800	9,062	15	0.220	0.224	0.218	0.222	0.225	-0.003	-1.333	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.100	44,400,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,000	576	1	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.146	-0.002	-1.370	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.100	4,320,000
OM0000004735	SEBBOORP SALALAH	10,890	755	5	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	65,865,465
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	600	152	2	0.250	0.265	0.250	0.265	0.270	-0.005	-1.852	0.265	0.265	0.279	0.100	11,025,397
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	762	74	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.099	-0.002	-2.020	0.097	0.090	0.103	0.100	19,400,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MTK	20	18	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.920	0.920	-0.020	-2.174	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	85,500,000
OM0000002274	UNITED FINANCE	40,200	3,447	4	0.085	0.088	0.084	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.225	0.088	0.084	0.088	0.100	30,724,708
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	555,000	45,227	34	0.084	0.084	0.081	0.081	0.083	-0.002	-2.410	0.081	0.081	0.082	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,000	218	1	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.326	-0.008	-2.454	0.318	0.300	0.318	0.100	22,384,020
OM0000001590	DHOFAR CATTLE	157,796	20,450	3	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	54,439,760
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	930	1,395	1	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.575	-0.075	-4.762	1.500	0.000	1.500	0.100	75,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	64,622	22,887	24	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	0.037	-0.002	-5.405	0.035	0.034	0.037	0.100	6,987,246
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	50,000	4,290	4	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.090	-0.006	-6.967	0.084	0.084	0.089	0.100	2,820,002
Total		32	5,311,985	622,244	280											

REPORT

Increase in volume to drive growth for consumer durables in FY22-23

NEW DELHI: The revenues for the consumer durables sector in India are expected to grow by 15 to 18 per cent to Rs 1 lakh crore this fiscal, led by an increase in their volume. The volume is expected to rise 10-13 per cent in 2022-23, said rating agency CRISIL in a report on Wednesday.

“Demand will be driven by both urban and rural segments, though rural demand will come into play in the second half of the fiscal,” it said.

The industry had crossed the pre-pandemic mark in value terms last fiscal and in the current fiscal year it is expected to scale past the pre-pandemic mark by 3 per cent, it said.

Profitability, however, will decline marginally due to higher raw material prices and adverse foreign exchange movements, it added, the credit risk profiles of the sector will remain comfortable due to their strong balance sheets.

“In the last two fiscals, pandem-

The industry had crossed the pre-pandemic mark in value terms last fiscal and in the current fiscal year it is expected to scale past the pre-pandemic mark by 3 per cent, CRISIL report said

ic-led disruptions had impacted consumer sentiment and peak season demand. This fiscal, healthy growth in urban income and higher crop prices, which are expected to sustain farmer incomes, will push demand for consumer durables,” said Pushan Sharma, Director, at CRISIL Research.

However, the drought situation

in eastern India and monsoon progress remain key aspects to monitor, Sharma added.

According to Anand Kulkarni, Director, CRISIL Ratings: “Over the near-to-medium term, capital expenditure may increase because of the government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for ACs, though this is likely to be done in a phased manner, without impacting credit profiles.”

Demand for televisions would be driven by shorter replacement cycles, multiple ownerships, and a preference for larger screens. Technological advancement, high competition and a consequent significant reduction in prices have also aided demand in this segment.

PLI scheme on ACs is aimed to gradually reduce India's import dependency on some of the key raw material components of ACs such as compressors, heat exchangers and control assemblies over the next five years. -ANI

Real GDP of Saudi Arabia grows by 12.2%

RIYADH: According to estimates by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Saudi Arabia grew by 12.2 per cent in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022 compared to second quarter (Q2) of 2021.

Growth

In comparison to Q1 of 2022, the real GDP growth was 2.2 per cent. This growth is mainly due to the high increase in oil activities by 22.9 per cent y-o-y (4.4 per cent q-o-q). Non-oil activities increased by 8.2 per cent y-o-y (4.5 per cent q-o-q). Government activities increased by 2.4 per cent y-o-y (0.4 per cent q-o-q).

GASTAT is the only official statistical reference for statistical data and information in Saudi Arabia. It carries out all the statistical work, in addition to the technical oversight of the statistical sector. -SPA



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RESEARCHERS WARN ABOUT RISING CANCER CASES AMONG ADULTS UNDER 50 YEARS OF AGE

In recent decades, an increasing number of people under the age of 50 are developing cancer. According to a study undertaken by Brigham and Women's Hospital researchers, the incidence of early-onset malignancies (those detected before the age of 50), including cancers of the breast, colon, oesophagus, kidney, liver, and pancreas, has substantially increased around the world, with this drastic rise beginning about 1990. Scientists undertook thorough studies of accessible data in the literature and on-

line, including information on early life exposures that may have contributed to this trend, in order to explain why many younger people are being diagnosed with cancer. The findings of the research were published in Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology. "From our data, we observed something called the birth cohort effect. This effect shows that each successive group of people born at a later time (e.g., decade-later) have a higher risk of developing cancer later in life, likely due to risk factors they were exposed to at a young age," explained Shuji Ogino, MD, PhD, a professor and physician-scientist in the Department of Pathology at the Brigham. "We found that this risk is increasing with each generation. For instance, people born in 1960 experienced higher cancer risk before they turn 50 than people born in 1950 and we predict that this risk level will continue to climb in successive generations." To conduct this study, Ogino and lead author Tomotaka Ugai,

Surprisingly, researchers found that while adult sleep duration hasn't drastically changed over the several decades, children are getting far less sleep today than they were decades ago.

MD, PhD, also of the Department of Pathology, and their colleagues first analyzed global data describing the incidence of 14 different cancer types that showed increased incidence in adults before age 50 from 2000 to 2012. Then, the team searched for available studies that examined trends of possible risk factors including early life exposures in the general populations. Finally, the team examined the literature describing clinical and biological tumor characteristics of early-onset cancers compared to later-onset cancers diagnosed after age 50. In an extensive review, the team found that the early life exposome, which encompasses one's diet, lifestyle, weight, environmental exposures, and microbiome, has

changed substantially in the last several decades. Thus, they hypothesized that factors like the westernized diet and lifestyle may be contributing to the early-onset cancer epidemic. The team acknowledged that this increased incidence of certain cancer types is, in part, due to early detection through cancer screening programs. They couldn't precisely measure what proportion of this growing prevalence could solely be attributed to screening and early detection. However, they noted that increased incidence of many of the 14 cancer types is unlikely solely due to enhanced screening alone. Possible risk factors for early-onset cancer included alcohol consumption, sleep deprivation, smoking, obesity, and eating highly processed foods. Surprisingly, researchers found that while adult sleep duration hasn't drastically changed over the several decades, children are getting far less sleep today than they were decades ago. Risk factors such as highly-processed, highly processed foods, sugary beverages, obesity, type 2 diabetes, sedentary lifestyle, and alcohol consumption have all significantly increased since the 1950s,

which researchers speculate has accompanied altered microbiome. "Among the 14 cancer types on the rise that we studied, eight were related to the digestive system. The food we eat feeds the microorganisms in our gut," said Ugai. "Diet directly affects microbiome composition and eventually these changes can influence disease risk and outcomes." One limitation of this study is that researchers did not have an adequate amount of data from low- and middle-income countries to identify trends in cancer incidence over the decades. Going forward, Ogino and Ugai hope to continue this research by collecting more data and collaborating with international research institutes to better monitor global trends. They also explained the importance of conducting longitudinal cohort studies with parental consent to include young children who may be followed up for several decades. "Without such studies, it's difficult to identify what someone having cancer now did decades ago or when one was a child," explained

Ugai, "Because of this challenge, we aim to run more longitudinal cohort studies in the future where we follow the same cohort of participants over the course of their lives, collecting health data, potentially from electronic health records, and biospecimens at set time points. This is not only more cost effective considering the many cancer types needed to be studied, but I believe it will yield us more accurate insights into cancer risk for generations to come."

-ANI



Among the 14 cancer types on the rise that we studied, eight were related to the digestive system. The food we eat feeds the microorganisms in our gut," said Ugai. "Diet directly affects microbiome composition and eventually these changes can influence disease risk and outcomes.



ROUND-UP



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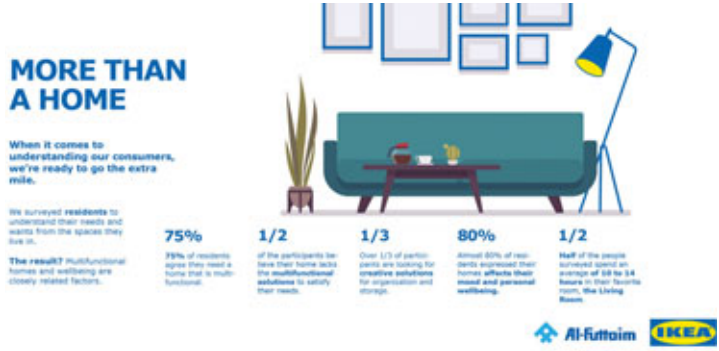


Al-Futtaim IKEA’s new collection offers diversified home furnishing solutions

This year’s offering focuses on multifunctional products that can help consumers achieve the right balance between the spaces they live in and their overall wellbeing, therefore, making their home a space that changes with them

MUSCAT: The world is changing, faster than ever before, and so are people’s needs and dreams. To create a better everyday life for the many, Al-Futtaim IKEA announced the launch of its new collections, room setups and home furnishing solutions. This year’s offering focuses on

multifunctional products that can help consumers achieve the right balance between the spaces they live in and their overall wellbeing, therefore, making their home a space that changes with them. Homes are spaces that do it all. Al-Futtaim IKEA believes that better products enable better



homes. As work and personal lives become more flexible, designing homes to mirror flexibility and functionality has become increasingly important. Therefore, Al-Futtaim IKEA undertook an independent research study in Oman to further understand consumer behaviour when it comes to the space they live in, and if it satisfies their needs and wants with the right amount of rest.

Based on the research, 75 per cent of the respondents agree that their home is a multifunctional space. However, over half of the respondents do not own furniture that will help satisfy their diverse needs. Whilst the Living Room remains the favourite room in the home, one-third of the respondents would like to establish a more multifunctional, creative and organized space with appropriate

storage solutions. Over 80 per cent of the respondents also agreed that their home atmosphere influences their mood, solidifying the relation between multifunctional homes and personal wellbeing.

Affordability remains priority

Al-Futtaim IKEA believes that creating a functional home shouldn't feel like a luxury for anyone. Affordability is key to the business idea, which is built into every product and service to ensure that many people can enjoy a better life at home. Despite rising inflation over the years impacting transportation and delivery costs, the brand remains committed to creating a better everyday life for many people and has not passed these costs on to customers. With no compromise on quality, the prices of over 40% of products in Oman remain unchanged.

Omar Abushaban, Store Manager of Al-Futtaim IKEA, Oman Avenues Mall said, 'As a brand that believes in creating a better everyday life for many people, it is important that we constantly improve the way we do things. Everyone deserves a space that can be used to create a better everyday life no matter what it is being used for. We have a vision, a commitment and a task to empower everyone to create the home they desire at affordable prices. Our latest collections are all rooted in the idea that a better home is a multifunctional home. Our role is to encourage people and share our know-how, which will enable customers to create their better home in their way.'

Head to your nearest Al-Futtaim IKEA store to experience a season that promises to provide you with products and solutions that will help create a home where you can be yourself.

UAE HEALTHCARE LEADER

Burjeel Holdings appoints Shah Rukh Khan as brand ambassador

ABU DHABI: Burjeel Holdings, a leading private healthcare services provider in the Mena region and one of the largest in the UAE, has partnered with superstar Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador.

The partnership was confirmed during a ceremony held in Abu Dhabi. The Indian actor will appear in a region-wide, multi-platform advertising campaign for the healthcare group that will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

The partnership with Burjeel Holdings marks the first healthcare ambassador role for Shah Rukh Khan. Burjeel Holdings, which operates 39 hospitals and medical centres across the MENA region, hopes to leverage the immense popularity and credibility the actor enjoys internationally as it connects with an increasing number of people travelling to the UAE for their medical needs and



also expands its global research partnerships while growing its operations across the GCC. "Healthcare is an industry we can all relate to and one we've all had experiences with. Visiting Burjeel Medical City and listening to Dr Shamsheer Vayalil was both insightful and inspirational. Meet-

ing employees and witnessing the immense passion and pride they have in their work was humbling. They live the value of being for the people, by the people, and I'm excited to be a part of that story," said Shah Rukh Khan. Burjeel Holdings' Founder and CEO D. Shamsheer Vayalil, said,

"Shah Rukh Khan embodies excellence and, as a global superstar, has won the hearts of millions across the region. Burjeel Holdings and Shah Rukh Khan share a common desire to enrich and transform people's lives. His personality and principles strongly resonate with the Burjeel Holdings brand. This partnership reflects our core values and inspires us to keep serving the community through world-class healthcare in the region and beyond."

Burjeel Holdings' partnership with Shah Rukh Khan follows the recent announcement of its planned expansion into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KSA's Ministry of Investment, which will see it seek opportunities to invest up to \$1 billion in the Kingdom by 2030.

BEST OFFERS

Halal Booking.com continues its exclusive offers for Alizz Islamic Bank customers

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank continues to offer its customers the best hotel reservations and holiday packages in the most affordable way through its partnership with Halal Booking.com.

Through this offer Alizz Islamic Bank provides its customers the best offers and discounts for both debit and credit card holders. This partnership comes within the vision of Alizz Islamic Bank to provide exclusive and exceptional services, products and discounts that the customers deserve and customers can benefit from these packages and a variety of offers un-



til the end of December 2023. To take advantage of these discounts, cardholders only need to visit the HalalBooking.com web-

site and enter the first 6 digits of their card number in the designated area, then follow the easy registration instructions to benefit

from a world of offers from the best hotels around the world.

Upon registration in HalalBooking.com, Titanium Debit or Credit Card holders will have access to some special offers and discounts. They can get up to 15% discounts on a variety of selected hotels, and a free upgrade to the Platinum Category of several services, including late check-out, room upgrade, breakfast at selected Platinum Partner Hotels upon the availability of reservation, plus a one-time \$30 cash discount on the first reservation with a minimum booking amount of \$300.

LATEST AIR CONDITIONER MODEL

Panasonic’s new Nanoe X™ technology AC makes breathing nature indoors possible

DUBAI: Panasonic, a global leader in ventilation and healthy indoor living solutions, has announced the launch of its latest Air Conditioner model with the revolutionary nanoe X™ Technology. Designed to deliver cleaner air quality, the new wall-type AC is also equipped with Panasonic's key innovations, including JET-STREAM and AEROWINGS, ensuring comfortable cooling whilst achieving high energy efficiency.

nanoe X™ is a patented technology by Panasonic backed by over two decades of dedicated research and development. The nanoeX™ generator placed inside the AC's indoor unit spreads trillions of hydroxyl radicals into the air in a second. These hydroxyl radicals are highly reactive components that inhibit pollutants, viruses and bacteria, as well as deodorize contaminated air. When hydroxyl radicals come in contact with viruses, bacteria and other pollutants, they remove Hydrogen from the substances, thereby inactivating the

toxic contaminants. This way, nanoe X™ works to inhibit pollutants and deodorize unwanted smells.

"True to our commitment to provide solutions that make life simpler, safer, healthier, and more enjoyable for our customers, the Panasonic Air Conditioner with nanoe X™ Technology is a breakthrough product designed to take 'wellbeing for life' a step further. The nanoe X™ technology has been proven to inhibit pathogenic microorganisms – such as bacteria, fungi and viruses – as well as other allergens, breaking down PM 2.5 components that have adverse effects on the human body," Dipendu Goon, General Manager - Air Conditioner and Audio Video Department, PMMAF, said.

"The great thing about the nanoe X™-equipped AC is, we are able to bring nature's balance indoors by harnessing the benefits of hydroxyl radicals.

These hydroxyl radicals within the nanoeX™ react to hydrogen contained in pollen, bacteria, vi-



ruses, and odour compounds, altering their molecules and inhibiting them. Thanks to this advanced technology, even tightly woven fabrics can be treated using this solution, meaning that curtains, blinds, carpets and furniture can all benefit from this technology to inhibit hazardous substances – including on hard surfaces and, of course, the air that we breathe.

With all these, we are able to help our customers feel confident about their homes and indoor spaces, and more importantly, have peace of mind when it comes to the air they breathe," he added.

In addition to the nanoe™ X technology, the new AC model also features the JETSTREAM innovation for powerful cooling. JETSTREAM achieves a maxi-

mum airflow length of 25 metres. This Long Reach Airflow provides users with a comfortable space and optimal room temperature wherever they may be in the room. Pressing the JETSTREAM function on the AC's remote control delivers Rapid Cooling as large air intake draws in a large amount of air, whilst a large-diameter fan generates a stronger airflow. The AEROWINGS also boost the AC's rapid cooling power through a pair of wings that send air out further.

Whilst boasting rapid cooling power, the nanoe X™ AC is also energy-efficient, environment friendly and designed to meet the extreme weather conditions of the region. The appliance is built with the eco-friendly R32 refrigerant, which is an excellent heat transfer medium for energy efficiency and cost savings. R32 refrigerant also has low global warming potential, making it friendlier to the environment.

Panasonic, with its DNA of Japanese craftsmanship and quality, ensured that the new AC model

went through rigorous quality control procedures to deliver unmatched performance.

For instance, the operating noise of the indoor and outdoor units of the AC is low enough to allow users to talk and sleep comfortably while the appliance is running.

The AC's waterproof test, meanwhile, revealed high safety standards as contact sections on the printed circuit boards are resinspotted to prevent adverse effects caused by an unlikely exposure to droplets of water.

The nanoe X™ AC is also designed with an industry-leading long piping length for greater design flexibility.

The maximum length of the piping is 40 m, while the maximum height difference is 30m, making it ideal for both residential and commercial installations. The Panasonic PN series Air Conditioner with nanoe X™ Technology is now available across Panasonic outlets in Kuwait, UAE and Oman, and online on Amazon UAE.



GIBIGIANNA

Looking for contemporary fashion that holds good for all seasons? Here’s a brand that’s making waves in Oman’s luxury wear market

MUSCAT: Gibigianna is a luxury womenswear label crafted by Sheetal that carries a global identity for a contemporary woman.

Designed in Oman, Gibigianna offers an all-season collection of timeless elegance and sophistication. Bridging the gap between day and evening wear, the clothes are designed for an aura of all-day exquisiteness. In essence, the Gibigianna range of clothes exemplifies fashion that transcends time.

Deeply invested in using only the finest fabrics, Gibigianna sources its materials from the heart of Italy, a country that boasts the best fabric manufacturers in the world. Little wonder then that Gibigianna is an Italian word that means the reflection of light that glimmers on the surface of the water. Sheetal's brand philosophy is doing everything consciously in terms of design and production without contributing to the environmental and social imbalance.

She has this to say about the range of luxury womenswear she designs: "I have always loved the combination of pairing a dress with a blazer. It gives an air of classy and sophisticated femininity. So you will always find high-quality suiting separates and feminine dresses in my collections."

As Sheetal prepares to launch her debut collection titled, "Prelude" this year, here is what she had to say when asked about her favourite pieces, "Although I love them all, if I have to choose, my favourites from the collection are the Brera top and the Brera skirt." Presently, Gibigianna does

not have a standalone outlet, but Sheetal is an optimist. "I understand that the fashion industry rides on tangibility, so I will be organising a small exhibition soon, quite similar to a pop-up store where women can come and personally view the collection. At the same time, they will be able to interact with me, place their pre-orders, and more. Insha Allah, someday I will open up a boutique," she explains.

Talking about her next move, Sheetal says: "Aside from planning an exhibit to showcase the brand, I will be working on a small project where I design exclusive pieces from fabric remnants, whose proceeds will then be contributed toward a good cause."



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ROUND-UP



2022 Subaru Forester: A compact SUV with propensity for adventure

Engineered for motoring pleasure within the city as much as for adventure amid the outdoors, the 2022 Subaru Forester which has been crafted in Japan, provides a great combination of quality and value

MUSCAT: Long the top pick of off-road enthusiasts in the region, Subaru's best-selling compact SUV – 2022 Forester – has a bolder look, upgraded capabilities and next-level safety features that together deliver unmatched peace of mind and driving comfort.

Engineered for motoring pleasure within the city as much as for adventure amid the outdoors, the 2022 Subaru Forester which has been crafted in Japan, provides a great combination of quality and value. Crafted to provide complete driving confidence, Subaru's acclaimed Symmetrical All Wheel

Drive (AWD) system distributes power to all wheels for better traction, which is very reliable on wet and slippery roads as well. With its well-balanced low centre of gravity design, the Symmetrical AWD ensures a more stable and safe ride – giving the Forester its much-deserved reputation as the most versatile SUV in its segment.

Under the hood of every Forester is its beating heart – a boxer engine – that has provided Subaru vehicles with their legendary durability and reliable performance for over 50 years. Standard across all Forester trims, the iconic boxer engine de-



livers 156 horsepower and 196 Nm of torque. Together with its Lineartronic transmission system, the engine performs at its most efficient range, offering smooth acceleration, driving performance and better fuel efficiency.

Underpinning Forester's stable performance is the Subaru Global Platform (GPS), upon which the next generation of Subaru vehicles

will be built. The GPS enhances all-round safety and performance while offering a singularly Subaru-like driving experience.

An enduring favourite across all age groups, the Forester boasts a spacious interior with plenty of headroom inside the cabin and ample legroom for three people in the rear. The cabin is also packed with all of the conveniences of smart-

phone connectivity, including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Designed with both advanced functionality and ease of use in mind, the Forester also comes with advanced infotainment functions and intuitive controls.

Cargo space is similarly generous in the 2022 Forester. With the rear seats stowed away, cargo space can soar to a staggering 1481

litres, up from 422 litres when the seats are in an upright position. This feature allows for lots of luggage and even long items to be safely carried in the roomy compact SUV.

As can be expected of all Subaru vehicles, safety is one of the 2022 Forester's strong suits. This is exemplified by the inclusion of Subaru's latest and most sophisticated EyeSight driver assist. Other safety features unlocked by the EyeSight system include Autonomous Emergency Steering, Lane Centring Function, Lane Departure Prevention, Pre-Collision Braking and Adaptive Cruise Control functions. Completing the safety package, the 2022 Forester also has the Subaru Rear Vehicle Detection System (SRVD) as well as Reverse Automatic Braking (RAB), and High Beam Assist (HBA).

Leading Omani automotive firm OTE Group is the exclusive distributor of Subaru vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman. Visit any of OTE's showrooms, located around the country, for a first-hand look and feel of the 2022 Forester range across multiple trims and colours.

COLLEGE OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL STUDIES

CBFS sponsors Oman Chapters of 5 globally reputed professional bodies

MUSCAT: The College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) has sponsored the Oman Chapters of 5 globally reputed professional bodies - Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA, USA), Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA, USA), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE, USA) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA, USA).

A meeting of the office bearers of the 5 Chapters was held at the College on August 30, 2022 under the auspices of Dr. Zahran Al Salti, Dean, CBFS.

In his welcome address, Dr. Zahran Al Salti observed that the College has been sponsoring professional Chapters since 2000. The College views these Chapters as important tools of industry engagement and community engagement, which are key elements of the College Strategy for 2020-2025.

Their knowledge building programs (known as Continuing Professional Education or CPE seminars) are attended by their members drawn from across all sectors in Oman and other invitees from local banks and other corporates as well as the staff



and students of CBFS. The College has also partnered with the Chapters for organising training courses and executive development programmes for the banking and financial sector in Oman. The Chapters also offer guidance for students seeking to pursue their Certification examinations.

The highlight of the meeting was sessions on past achievements and plans by each of the 5 Chapters. During the deliberations that followed, few greenfield areas were identified for the Chapters to support the nation building and local capacity building endeavours.

According to Dr. Zahran Al Salti, "The College is delighted to sponsor the professional Chapters, which add significant value to professionals and students through

real-time insights into latest practices in their respective areas of specialization. The sponsorship is a key element in a series of measures reflecting the consistent commitment of the College to the national cause".

A government organization established by a Royal Decree in 1983, CBFS is under the juristic supervision of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and is also supported by all commercial banks operating in the Sultanate. The College has over 1500 students attending various academic and professional programs. The College also offers about 200 training courses annually, both under its Annual Training Plan and customized courses, which are attended by about 3000 participants.

POPULAR

Foton Aumark raises benchmark for light-duty trucks in Oman

MUSCAT: Foton Aumark, the popular light-duty truck is a preferred choice for the customers in Oman and has a strong value proposition. Aumark is designed to meet the Oman users' pursuit of efficient and worry-free logistics.

The truck which is powered by a legendary Cummins 3.8L turbo diesel engine, ZF Transmission and DANA Axles is known for its excellent fuel economy, safety, and top-quality performance in the logistics and cargo industry.

The Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck (3 Tonne) coupled with Cummins Engine and ZF (6-speed) manual transmission. Available in two wheelbases 3360 and 3800 mm, the Light Duty Truck has many features including cruise control, low engine noise, reversing sensor, remote control central door-locking, ABS+EBD, air with exhaust brakes, and 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 and provides customers with the best experience for their customized transporta-



tion needs, Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is an ideal choice for its superior loading, fuel efficiency and less frequent service requirements features (Service can be done at every 20,000 km). With its outstanding features, Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is great value for money too.

Owner of three Foton Aumark Ali Ghasi Mabrook Saleem is captivated by the light duty truck's high-class engine Turbo engine with good power and excellent fuel economy, outstanding braking system, Exceptional loading capabilities and excellent stability during long distance.

He calls it a highly capable light truck that delivers superior performance; Aumark signifies Foton's dedication to developing innovative driving technologies

that deliver an incredible personalized experience to customers. Thanks for Gulf Great Sands team for proving outstanding service, I am very much impressed with Foton Aumark light duty truck he adds.

A spokesperson for GGS said, "Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck has grown to be a popular choice in Oman. Its attributes and fundamental fortes have garnered great responses from customers in the Sultanate. Aumark is designed to meet the Oman users' pursuit of an efficient and worry-free logistics, which leads the world-class product. The Light Duty Truck (3 Tonn) comes in two wheelbase 3360 and 3800 mm. It can be modified into a cargo truck, refrigerator truck, light dump truck and open cargo body truck."

FREE CAMP

Kairali Ruwi Unit organises medical camp



MUSCAT: Kairali Ruwi Unit organised a free medical camp in collaboration with Badr Al Sama Hospital and Ruwi Lulu Hypermarket.

More than 200 people benefited from the camp which was held on Friday 2 September from 2pm to 8pm at Ruwi Lulu Hypermarket Hall. Free eye check-up, dietician and general medicine were all available as part of the camp. Also the services of 3 doctors were available in these departments. The eye exam was more impressive.

The examination was mainly conducted in the categories of eye examination, blood pressure, sugar, dieting and general medicine.

Kairali has been organizing social activities unmatched in Oman for ages. The organizers said in a press release that such camps and other social welfare activities will be organised extensively in the coming days and in other parts of Oman.

OFFICIAL VISIT



Wali of Bidbid visits Aster Royal Hospital

MUSCAT: Aster Royal Hospital was honoured by the visit of Sheikh Hamoud bin Ali Al Marshudi, Wali of Bidbid.

This visit comes as a continuation of the schedule of official visits under Zwarat Aster, in which the team joins to introduce the new building of Aster Royal Hospital.

The hospital is one of the largest hospitals locally and the latest in technology, in addition to a distinguished elite of medical, nursing and administrative staff.

Al Marshudi expressed his admiration for the modern design

of the building that takes into account all the psychological and health aspects of the patient and accompanying persons. Al Marshudi was acquainted with the hospital departments, modern operating rooms and advanced techniques for samples and medical procedures. He also expressed his fascination with integrated radiology, operations and centres of excellence.

At the end of the tour, Al Marshudi received a souvenir from the hospital as an expression of our thanks for coming on this tour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Becoming a leader with Toastmasters

MUSCAT: With over 280,000 members across 144 countries, in 14,700 clubs or more, the Toastmasters movement continues to inspire many individuals to become active members to hone their speaking, listening, and thinking skills. In Oman alone, 75 clubs conduct regular sessions. English, Arabic and some regional languages like Hindi and Malayalam clubs too are thriving in Oman helping those interested to participate actively and take leadership roles in the organization.

One such corporate club, Rise and Climb Toastmasters club under the aegis of Al Hashar Pharmacy and Capital Pharmacy recently celebrated its 200th meeting, with aplomb and festivities recognizing those who have achieved milestones in their learning journey. Members of the club conducted a quiz, and table topics session to pep up the audience, followed by a video glimpse of some landmark events during the 5 years plus journey of the club.

TM Suresh Gandhi, Area Director of Area 13, Sponsor of Rise and Climb club said, "It is important for individuals to overcome their fear of public speaking by moving out of their comfort zones and step into learning and growth zones to become effective leaders."

Masterclass session was held as an Area 13 educational initiative on "How to develop Independent Thinking" by Toastmaster Dr Elamaparathy, Research Coor-



dinator Department of English, University of Technology & Applied Science, Ibra, evoked great interest and helped the audience with amazing clarity in developing thinking skills through mindfulness and removing biases that engulf us. Toastmaster Dr Elamaparathy is also the current Division E Director within Toastmasters International District 105.

Another Masterclass was presented by TM Teby Joy, PQD, Area 13 and Finance Manager at Al Hashar Pharmacy on 'Toastmasters influence in our daily lives'. This Area 13 initiative was appreciated by Toastmaster attendees.

The event was also attended by DTM Shaiju Victor, District, CGD, who graciously accepted the invitation. Senior distinguished toastmasters from Area 13 and Division E were other dignitaries present in the Masterclass. The venue partner was Sheraton Hotel which co-hosted this event.

A milestone session like this would never be complete without awards and a recognition ceremony.

ny. 14 members of the club were recognized for various educational pathways level completion with a token cash gift. The club also congratulated TM Teby Joy, for her exemplary performance at District Annual Conference (DTAC-2021-22). The former Division E Director DTM Rajasekaran awarded special recognition on behalf of District 105, to 9 members of Rise and Climb club with Triple crown badge.

The 200th milestone celebrations culminated as a memorable event for the members of Rise & Climb club which was chartered in 2017 and currently boasts 43 members. The club meets every Sunday from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm in Learner's Laboratory at Al Hashar Pharmacy office premises located in Madinat Sultan Qaboos, .

Area 13 of District 105 organised Masterclass educational sessions to develop Leadership, Mastery with Purpose for all its 6 club members namely – Rise & Climb, NTK, Tasnim, Horizon, Trendsetters and Salalah Toastmasters' clubs.



ROUND-UP



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‘Explore the world with MG’ campaign unveiled



Every new MG owner will get free insurance, free registration, free service, and free window tinting

MUSCAT: Following the massive success of MG Motors’ previous campaigns, the MG returns with something excitingly different. Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), the sole MG Motors dealership in Oman, has announced the “Explore the world with MG” campaign, where all participants can win a trip to their dream destinations and get other prizes.

Every new MG owner will get free insurance, free registration, free service, and free window tinting. Also, MG offers up to 10 years of warranty for its vehicles — it’s the country’s first-ever 10 years warranty.

Did you ever dream of visiting a particular place on Earth but still never did? Walking through the Rome Colosseum, checking your wristwatch with the famous Big Ben clock, or simply watching the sunset on the top of the Empire

State Building, the Eiffel tower, or the Burj Khalifa skyscraper? Now it’s your chance to make a dream come true at last. All new MG car buyers will participate in a draw where they will get the chance to win travel vouchers.

To enjoy the benefits of this offer, customers can choose from the exceptional range of MG models. This range consists of the rebellious MG GT, the stylish MG 6, and the exciting MG 5 sedans. If you prefer SUVs, you may choose among MG’s largest 7-seater SUV RX8, the dynamic MG HS, the adventurous MG RX5, and the ambitious MG ZST.

This all-new fleet of MG vehicles will satisfy almost all the needs and tastes of modern customers.

Looking for something special? — Let’s start with the MG GT, the coupé-like fastback sedan that embraces MG’s latest design ethos. It is really hard to miss. This car’s exterior will catch your eyes at first glance, with its recognizable predator’s grill and bold sporty lines. Red colour or yellow? — It’s up to you. The car looks stunning on any road in both of these colours.

But the appearance isn’t the only advantage of this beast — MG GT exceeds expectations with its performance. Available in two engine variants, it impresses from when you ignite the engine. With up to 173HP and 250Nm maximum torque, it accelerates from 0 to 100km/h in only 8.5 seconds!

If you prefer something more calm and classic, consider MG 5 — one of the most popular MG sedans in Oman. The three trim levels - STD, COM, and DEL- offer impressive performance. Its state-of-art features include Interactive Technology, 5-Star CNAP Safety, 1.5L CVT and a Dual Cooling Cycle Engine, 29 storage spaces, and 512 L super trunk space. — Don’t limit yourself regarding the list of things you want to take with you. The exciting MG 5 model is a manifestation of confidence on the roads that gets you to embrace life and its many journeys in style.

Another remarkable MG sedan to look at is the MG 6, which also comes in three trim levels. It’s like a “brother” of MG 5 but with a more adventurous character. The lively 1.5L turbocharged engine gives this model a dynamic performance, complemented by the sporty styling and head-turning aesthetics inside and out. Its other strong points include its C-NCAP 5-Star safety rating and its stability control system for complete peace of mind.

Looking for an exceptional SUV? — The MG HS offers a thrilling driving experience and a sense of adventure, thanks to its X-Motion design concept. The dynamic MG HS is an innovative and practical car with charm and capability, letting you experience life like never before. Powered by its 2.0-litre high-efficiency turbo

engine and its praiseworthy design makes, it an irresistible choice for people who wish to experience life to its fullest.

Another SUV option — the ultimate MG RX5 – makes every journey memorable. Versatile, capable, sporty, and bright, the MG RX5 perfectly encapsulates the “Do More” motto of the brand and offers a sporty yet elegant design. Enjoy violin-style tail lights and an 8-inch touchscreen console. It has a panoramic sunroof for stargazing and spacious interiors with up to 1,639 L of storage space. It is also available in the choice of Red, Blue, Black, White, and Silver colours.

Meet the MG RX8, a class-leading SUV. Epitomising seven-seat perfection, the MG RX8 is a bold and capable SUV built to be noticed. This vehicle is packed with all the latest features allowing it to top competitors in the category. With the 2.0T engine paired with a six-speed automatic transmission, MG RX8 is unstoppable on any terrain. Add that to the exceptional safety features, technology-enabled control, and exquisite exterior this car boasts. MG RX8 is a vehicle where luxurious comfort meets the need for adventures.

Designed and built with a British heritage in mind, MG ZST has already proved its popularity in the Middle East. This striking crossover offers more equipment with an upgraded engine, additional styling features, and the latest technology.

FOR HIGH-NET-WORTH CUSTOMERS



Ahli Islamic launches Al Shumookh Banking

MUSCAT: As part of its continuous endeavour to provide premium banking services to high-net-worth individuals, Ahli Islamic has launched the Al Shumookh Banking segment, targeting its growing base of elite clients.

Tailored for premium, private and wealth management clients, it offers a range of exclusive products and services to enhance their everyday banking experience.

The new Al Shumookh banking segment is open for existing and prospective Omani, and expatriate customers, whose monthly incomes- OMR 3,500 and above- are transferred to the bank or have a total deposit of OMR 35,000 and more. Under this segment, customers of Al Shumookh Premium Banking, Al Shumookh Private Banking, and Wealth Management, will enjoy the facilities of a designated service centre and will be attended by dedicated relationship managers who will assist them in their investments and financial planning. In addition, they will be offered exclusive rates on financing and will have special access to the airport lounges.

Yousuf Al Rawahi, DGM, and Head of Ahli Islamic said, “Al Shumookh reflects our commitment to create and implement banking solutions that are convenient and suitable for the current market conditions. We believe innovation is the key to progress, and our value-added approach to banking has helped us enhance our product portfolio with segments tailored to meet the needs and requirements of

our growing base of clients. Al Shumookh, designed for our elite customers, is a testament to the bank’s commitment to protecting and managing wealth in the best interests of its customers.

“We are aware of the newfound global popularity of Islamic banks and are capitalizing on this wave with our top-class service standards, where the focus is on partnering with customers. Our Shari’a-compliant banking solutions have, and will continue to shape, the fortunes of our customers and pave the path of our progress in the local and regional banking sector. The recent past has demonstrated our strong intent to enhance our presence in the country with newer branch networks, and to meet everyday banking needs of our growing customer base with relevant and timely products.”

Reiterating similar sentiments, Noora Sabah Sultan – AGM, Head of Retail, Ahli Islamic, commented: “We rely on customer feedback and market trends in conceptualising new products. As a key player in the Omani banking sector, we have strengthened our wealth management portfolio to meet the specific requirements of our growing client base, empowering them with financial flexibilities designed to enhance their wealth - for now, and in the future. We expect this to bolster Oman’s economic and social development further.”

Al Shumookh clients will have access to a bundle of investment options via Wealth Management; they will have dedicated Relationship Managers at selected branches at their disposal.

ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Zubair EDC launches contest to design interface for Brandz+ app

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to support national institutions and enterprises, the Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) in cooperation with Al Zahra College for Women launched a competition for college students to design an interface for the Brandz+ App, which falls within the platforms supported by the Center.

This initiative comes within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed by the Zubair EDC with Al Zahra College for Women with the aim of empowering and motivating college’s students and highlighting their skills.

The college held a workshop presented by Dr. Salah bin Said Al Mahthori, CEO of Brandz+, an affiliated member of the Center.

The workshop touched on a number of themes, most notably the role of the Zubair EDC in supporting small and medium enterprises, and the guidance and planning that Brandz+ had.

He also talked about the basis of the idea of the Brandz+ app and the advantages that it can add as a marketer for the brands that benefits from the app’s services.

Then the workshop shed light on the details of the competition and the criteria for selecting designs for the interface. The workshop concluded with a question and answer with the students.



Commenting on this initiative, Rawan Al Kiyumi, Business Administration Specialist at Zubair EDC said, “We are pleased with the interaction we saw from the participants in the competition.

“We are confident that this initiative will contribute to the development of the students’ skills and provide them with outstanding abilities in the field of design, through which we seek to attract and discover talents and provide them with an effective platform to showcase their innovative ideas and achieve the desired growth. This initiative embodies the continuous efforts of the Zubair EDC in terms of social responsibility and support for the people of the society.

“Over the past years, the Center

has been implementing and supporting a number of targeted community initiatives that target all segments of society in an effort to create benefits for the whole nation,” she added.

The Brandz+ application is an integrated digital platform specialising in trademarks.

Through this means, the company aims to empower entrepreneurs and businessmen to monitor the performance of their brand from their smartphones from any location. Also, the company enables the marketing and promotion of brands to maximise its revenues and sales alongside increasing its market value as well as enhancing its presence among well-known international brands.

THREE NEW INDIAN FLAVOURS PIZZA

Papa John’s reopens its new outlet at Al Asfoor Plaza in Qurum

MUSCAT: Papa John’s, a leading pizza chain, has launched a new store at Al Asfoor Plaza to provide customers with a vibrant ambiance in addition to the highest standards of quality and food safety. Customers can now enjoy a new dining experience at the Al Asfoor outlet.

A major highlight is that Papa John’s is adding 3 new Indian flavour pizzas to the menu: Paneer Makhani, Paneer Garden Party & Chicken Makhani.

Paneer Garden Party
We’re loving the Indian party vibes with colorful vegetables, spiced tikka paneer cheese and Makhani sauce. onions, green pepper, tomatoes, black olives & mushrooms.

Paneer Makhani
Experience the taste of Northern India with our take on fresh spicy paneer, makhani sauce, onions, green pepper, tomatoes, special garlic drizzle.

Chicken Makhani
Experience the taste of Northern India with our take on golden grilled chicken, Makhani sauce, onions, green pepper, tomatoes, special garlic drizzle.

The General Manager of Papa John’s Qatar & Oman, Joseph Jo-



seph, commented on the concept of the brand, “Better Ingredients, Better Pizza” has proved to be popular in Oman for creating a better pizza with the freshest ingredients. Now our customers can enjoy the taste of North India with our paneer, chicken and makhani sauce, which is fresh, juicy and spicy.”

Pizza lovers will be able to get their hands on the Paneer Makhani, Paneer Garden Party & Chicken Makhani from any Papa John’s Store. To order from Papa Johns or call on 24826400.



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*ON SELECTED ITEMS

* Terms & Conditions Apply

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