

OMAN MARKS GCC YOUTH DAY

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, on Monday marked the GCC Youth Day, which falls on 6 June each year. **>A2**



6 085010 120010

HM GREETES KING OF SWEDEN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments to King Carl XVI, wishing him good health and happiness. His Majesty also wished the people of Sweden further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 68 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

40
عاشاً من التقدم
YEARS OF PROGRESS



Personal & Home Loans at **4.75%**

Home Loans at **4.5%**
(For select employers)

Even lower rates for short term loans



T&C apply

Know more



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

ROYAL DECREES

His Majesty issues two Royal Decrees



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday issued two Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal decree No. (32/2022) amending some provisions of Royal decree No. (84/2020) on the Secretariat General of the Tender Board.

Article (1) replaces annexes (1) and (2) attached to the aforesaid Royal decree No. (84/2020) with the two annexes attached to this Royal decree. Article (2) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official

Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (33/2022) on the ratification of an agreement between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on mutual visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, special, service and official passports, signed in Hanoi on 28 April 2022. Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version 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**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Remarks on the Prophet (PBUH) condemned

1 Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs met with Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate and expressed Oman's condemnation of the insulting remarks made about Prophet Mohammed Peace be Upon Him (PBUH), Islam and Muslims by an official of the Bharatiya Janata Party. **>A2**

WORLD

UK confidence vote

2 British PM Boris Johnson was set to face a vote of no-confidence. **>A6**

MARKET

12.3% rise in earnings

3 The earnings of Omani-listed firms rose by 12.3 per cent in Q1. **>B1**

Higher revenue will provide welcome relief after the economic impact of the COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Exports from Oman soared by more than 50 percent between 2021 and 2022, according to data published by the government.

A 55.9 percent rise in exports was recorded between January 2021 and January 2022, reveal figures released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information, in its monthly statistical bulletin.

Merchandise exports from Oman totalled OMR17.145 billion last year. Revenue from oil and gas accounted for OMR10.03 billion, while non-oil exports brought in a further OMR5.79 billion. Re-exports earned the country OMR1.32 billion.

In 2022, exports of both oil and non-oil products in January outstripped their values for 2021. Oman earned OMR1.15 billion from oil and gas at the end of January 2022, compared to OMR724.8 million at the end of January 2021.

Similarly, non-oil exports in January 2022 amounted to OMR626.8 million, up from OMR370.4 million during the first month of 2021.

"For Oman, greater revenue will provide welcome budgetary relief in the short-term, after the economic impact of COVID-19," said Dr CK Anchan, an advisor on economics, international trade and investments. "The government may use a portion of these earnings to invest in efforts to diversify the economy and energy investments, particularly renewable and hydrogen."

Non-oil exports

Oman's major non-oil exports over the past year include chemical products, which brought in OMR1.235 billion, base metals



10bn
Revenue from oil and gas accounted for OMR 10.03 billion, while non-oil exports brought in a further OMR 5.79 billion. Re-exports earned the country OMR 1.32 billion.

and metal products (OMR1.327 billion), minerals (OMR843 million), and plastics and plastic products (OMR890.5 million).

The country's key imports include minerals (OMR2.18 billion), base metals and metal products (OMR1.51 billion), transport equipment (OMR1.22 billion), chemical products (OMR1.15 billion), prepared food and beverages (OMR605.5 million), vegetable products (OMR677.4 million), and live animals and their products (OMR577.4 million).

Expansion of Oman's non-oil sectors is a major element of both Tanfeedh, the country's economic diversification plan, and Vision 2040, which looks to build a sustainable, diverse economy and provide good living standards and employment opportunities to people. **>A5**

Buoyant crude pushes up public revenue by 52.3%

MUSCAT: The public revenue by the end of April 2022 amounted to OMR4.217 billion, comprising a surge by 52.3 percent.

The increase is attributed mainly to a rise in oil revenue, driven by improved oil prices and higher oil production. At the end of April 2022, oil revenue amounted to OMR3.310 billion, up by 74.3 percent compared to OMR1.796 billion reported over the same period in 2021.

At the end of April 2022, public spending amounted to OMR3.749 billion, constituting an increase by OMR152 million (4.2 percent) compared to the same period in 2021.

The development expenditure of civil ministries and government units amounted to OMR252 million, representing 23 percent of total development expenditure of



OMR1.100 billion allocated for 2022. Current expenditure of civil ministries and government units reached a total of OMR1.278 billion, remaining at the same level as at the end of April 2021.

The Ministry of Finance affirmed that the surplus will be utilised to strengthen economic recovery by increasing spending on priority development projects and reducing public debt. **- ONA**

AVIATION

Travel boom causing long wait for Schengen visas

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in Oman who have planned to visit Europe for a vacation, or for work, are facing waiting times of up to two months to secure Schengen visas, making it difficult and expensive for them to finalise their itinerary.

The reason for this, say travel agents in the country, is the sudden spike in tourists who want to fly to Europe, after being unable to do so for about two years, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For two years, people were unable to travel because most international travel was stopped, on account of the coronavirus," said Faiyaz Khan, general manager at Travel Point. "Ever since restrictions on travel were lifted, however, there has been a huge surge in travel, and simply put, visa processing centres are unable to handle the volume of applications."

A recent returnee from Europe said that although he wanted to travel to Greece, there were no appointments available in the short-term. As an alternative, he booked his Schengen visa from the French visa processing centre, but that meant he had to fly to Paris, stay there for a day, and then continue onward to Greece.

"Some immigration officials may allow you to go directly to your chosen country, but the standard rule is that if you have applied for a Schengen visa for a particular country, you need to enter Europe through that country alone, and then fly to your intended destination," added Khan. "We always advise our customers to never skirt the rules when it comes to booking a visa."



Visitors who want to travel to the Schengen Zone need to have a confirmed hotel booking, return tickets, travel insurance, and proof of funds that ensures they can meet their expenses while in Europe. With people required to book their tickets even before securing their visa appointments, long waiting times to apply for a visa makes it difficult for them to properly plan their travel.

Among many of the Schengen Zone countries for which visas are processed in Oman, France has among the shortest waiting times: Visa appointments are available as early as 23 June.

Those who wish to travel to Germany, however, need to wait until 2 August to secure an appointment.

Potential travellers to Italy can't even secure appointments right now, with those who attempt to make a booking through the online system receiving a message that reads: "No appointment slots are currently available, please try another application centre if applicable."

The earliest slots to apply for a Schengen visa from Austria are on 18 July, at the time of writing, while people planning to travel to the Netherlands need to wait eight days more: their nearest slot is on

the 26th. People hoping to travel to Spain are also out of luck: all the slots for June are completely filled.

The UK government has also admitted that it is facing longer processing times for visas. "Standard visitor visa applications are currently taking on average six weeks to process," said UK Visas and Immigration in an online advisory on 11 May. "We are working hard to process applications to get back to the three-week service standard."

UK transit visas are also taking up to six weeks to process, and as UK Visas and Immigration devotes its attention to Ukraine Visa Scheme applications, in the wake of the ongoing conflict, applications for study visas and work visas may also take longer to process. Processing times for family visas for the UK could take up to 24 weeks.

The Guide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

390
MUSCAT





OMAN



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:11pm
Asr.....	3:29pm
Maghrib.....	6:57pm
Isha.....	8:19pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:53am

Oman celebrates GCC Youth Day

Youth workers were honoured during the event, alongside 12 successful youth and 30 high performing athletes

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, today marked the GCC Youth Day, which falls on 6 June each year.

Youth workers were honoured during the event, alongside 12 successful youth and 30 high performing athletes. The honouring ceremony was held under the pa-



FUNCTION: The honouring ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information. - ONA



tronage of Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information.

The GCC Youth Day is a testimony to the role of pioneering youth in building nations. It comes within the framework of activating joint cooperation among the GCC youth to advance societies.

Basil Ahmed Al Rowas, Undersecretary for Youth said that marking the GCC Youth Day is an opportunity to promote the role of youth and to celebrate their achievements in various fields.

It is also a platform to honour senior leaderships who contributed to the support accorded to youth. - ONA



The first dermo-cosmetic Filler for **at-home use**. Swiss Patents

Avail 30% discount offer valid till June 30th 2022

Visit any of Al Hashar Pharmacy LLC, Capital Pharmacy and other leading pharmacies. For more information please contact @95889504 OR CONSULT TO YOUR DOCTOR.



AL HASHAR PHARMACY L.L.C.
YOUR TRUSTED HEALTHCARE PARTNER IN OMAN

LABO

LABO COSPROPHAR

Oman condemns remarks insulting the Prophet PBUH

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs met with Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Harthy expressed Oman's condemnation of the insulting remarks made about Prophet Mohammed Peace be Upon Him (PBUH), Islam and Muslims by an official of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Al Harthy also reiterated Oman's rejection of insulting all religious symbols.



Peaceful coexistence

He pointed out that such comments and incidents do not serve peaceful coexistence among people of different religions and only

causes public outrage.

He also expressed Oman's welcome of the statement issued by the ruling party in India which announced the suspension of the official who made the

insulting remarks.

Al Harthy reaffirmed Oman's commitment to the culture of tolerance, coexistence, resisting hatred and respecting all faiths and religions. - ONA

Oman, European Union discuss bilateral relations



MUSCAT: A third round of political consultations was held here on Monday between the Foreign Ministry and the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union (EU).

The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Dip-

lomatic Affairs Undersecretary and Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary General and Political Director of the EEAS.

The discussions covered the bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the EU and means of developing them

to serve the joint interests of the two sides.

The two sides also discussed the procedures to waiver Schengen visa for Omani citizens. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern. - ONA



Every day, all day!



Call Center Number
24 596 999



**YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER**
Download the app

Download the app

OMAN



#MAISARAHWORLD

Open a **High Yield Account** today!

24/7

Expected Monthly Rate up to **2.5%**

24/7

To know more

2477 57 77

www.maisarah-oman.com

/MaisarahOman

@MaisarahIslamic

@MaisarahIslamic

Terms & Conditions Apply

making it easy

Maisarah Islamic Bank

Maisarah Islamic Bank

15 years on, memories of Gonu yet to fade off

People across many areas of the coastline where the cyclone was predicted to have maximum impact were evacuated to safer regions of the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Although Cyclone Gonu occurred 15 years ago, those who were in the cyclone's area of effect, and had to deal with its aftermath still have vivid memories of its devastating impact on parts of Muscat.

The cyclone's impact led to vehicles in Muscat tossed aside as effortlessly as a child might throw around his toys. It tore through roads and highways, uprooted trees from the ground, and left many areas in the capital submerged under several feet of water.

People across many areas of the coastline where the cyclone was predicted to have maximum impact were evacuated to safer regions of the country. One of them was Zeinab from Masirah Island.

"Thousands of people on the island of Masirah, including me and my family, and in the coastal areas of the country, were evacuated before the cyclone struck," she recalled.

The low-lying areas around Qurum Commercial Centre, a hotspot for locals and expatriates in the capital, as well as a commercial and tourism hub, were submerged under several feet of water that



IMPACT: The cyclone's impact led to vehicles in Muscat tossed aside as effortlessly as a child might throw around his toys.

needed to be drained by specialist crews and equipment.

Mansoor Al Hooti from Muscat Governorate said: "The powerful tropical cyclone Gonu hit the Omani coastline, especially the area in and around Muscat, and caused heavy rains over the capital. The authorities also closed the capital's airport, but the maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, through which a quarter of the world's oil passes, did not stop."

Ahead of Gonu's predicted landfall, which saw waves several feet high lash furiously against the coastline, people were given time to stock up on supplies and batten down the hatches.

Among them was Jose Manuel, an expatriate from the Philippines, who worked with his neighbours to make sure everyone in the building had enough supplies to last through the turbulent period.

"Shops were very crowded at the time, so we took it in turns to buy food and water for everyone in the building – we also made sure that those with babies had what was required to take care of them, such as diapers," he recalled.

Philippines only recently, so she had brought plenty of foodstuff from home, and that really saw us through the worst of the cyclone," he added. "Not in a million years did we expect something like Gonu to come to Muscat, which is the very embodiment of tranquility."

Khalid Al Jahwari, a weather expert, said, "Cyclone Gonu was the strongest to hit Oman. The intensity of a cyclone is measured on the Saffir-Simpson Scale, which rates cyclones from category one to five. At one point, Cyclone Gonu was given the highest category of level five on the scale."

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a one to five rating based only on a hurricane's maximum sustained wind speed. This scale does not take into account other potentially deadly hazards such as storm surge, rainfall flooding, and tornadoes.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale estimates potential property damage. While all hurricanes produce life-threatening winds, hurricanes rated Category 3 and higher are known as major

hurricanes. Major hurricanes can cause devastating to catastrophic wind damage and significant loss of life simply due to the strength of their winds. Hurricanes of all categories can produce deadly storm surge, rain-induced floods, and tornadoes. These hazards require people to take protective action, including evacuating from areas vulnerable to storm surge.

Category 1 cyclones produce winds from 119 to 153 kph, and generate very dangerous winds that could cause some damage, while Category 2 cyclones involve extremely dangerous winds leading to extensive damage.

Cyclones of categories 3 (178 to 208 kph), 4 (209 to 251 kph) and 5 (252 kph or higher) are considered major cyclones, and bring with them devastating or catastrophic damage.

Category five cyclones will lead to a high percentage of framed homes being destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months, according to the NOAA.

AVIATION



New Muscat-Kochi service gives more choice to travellers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Travellers between India and Oman have now more flights to choose from with the addition of a new service from Muscat to Kochi, a city in the south Indian state of Kerala.

In line with its vision to strengthen international connectivity between India and the Middle East, Go First (formerly known as Go Air) announced the commencement of direct flights from Kochi to Muscat.

The service started on 2nd June 2022. The inaugural flight departing from Cochin International Airport at 21:00hours (local time) and arriving at Muscat International Airport at 23:05hours (local time).

According to Go First press statement, Flight G8 65 will leave Kochi at 21:00 hours and reach Muscat at 23:05 every Monday and Thursday.

Flight G8 65 will leave Muscat at 23:50 hours and reach Kochi at 05:00 every Monday and Thursday. The new flights to Muscat from Kochi will offer connectivity and convenient travel options to blue collar workers/migrant working class flying abroad for employment.

Furthermore, wedged between the mountains and the sea, the capital city of Oman is a glorious wonder of white elegance. Muscat, the chosen capital for trade and commerce across the Indian

Ocean, is a meticulously clean and organised city. For booking, passengers can log in to www.FlyGoFirst.com or can use the mobile app.

Speaking on the development, Kaushik Khona, Chief Executive Officer, Go First, said: "As we eventually come out of the pandemic, we are pleased to strengthen our international presence and commence operations between Kochi to Kuwait and Kochi to Muscat. We believe that the situation is improving, and we are hopeful that this will further ease travel between India and Middle East."

On this special occasion Shyamaprasad Kallat, General Manager, Mezzoon Travel LLC added: "India is a very important partner country for Oman. We feel that the relationship between India and Oman is so strong that the air connectivity has to expand more. "With demand for travel returning and countries lifting restrictions we are pleased to announce the start of flights from Muscat to Kochi. We are excited to further grow and give passengers more options to travel

"This direct route will enable tourism between the two cities and strengthen direct airlinks between Oman and Kerala. We are grateful for the support we have received from the authorities in Oman and India and the airline will remain committed to serving the market."

Trending
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

48,068 REACH

Photographers of the Sultanate of Oman won a number of individual awards.

Story on Omani photographers winning two world cups

A story on Omani photographers winning two world cups reached 48,068 people and had 1,253 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

698 VIEWS

Midday Update video

The Midday Update video had 698 views and reached 3,100 people on Facebook.

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

2,200 VIEWS

Morning Minute video on Royal Decree restores citizenship of over 100 people

The Morning Minute video on Royal Decree restores citizenship had 2,200 views and 122 likes on Instagram.


 شركة تأجير المركبات ش.م.م
 Vehicle Leasing Company (LLC)



SUVs starting
 From **8** per day
 OMR

EXPLORE OMAN
ON ROAD & OFF ROAD
WITH VLC

Price starting
 From **18** per day
 OMR



TAHOE

Price starting
 From **16** per day
 OMR



TRAVERSE

Price starting
 From **9** per day
 OMR



CAPTIVA

Price starting
 From **8** per day
 OMR



GROOVE

* Terms & Conditions apply . Price excludes VAT


 OTE GROUP
 30 YEARS OF TRUST

Branches:
 Ghala : 95500295, Sohar : 95345334
 Duqm: 95332895, Salalah: 97124671, Wattayah : 95421249

For more details, contact:
94394301 / 95692420



OMAN



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Lulu joins hands with Khimji Ramdas and P&G UAE to create a new Guinness Record



MUSCAT: LuLu Hypermarket in a joint association with Khimji Ramdas and P&G UAE made a successful bid to break into the Guinness World Record for the Largest Packaged Product Sentence created. The feat read 'UP TO 100% STAIN REMOVAL, 0% POWDER RESIDUE AVAILABLE NOW IN LULU' all in capital letters with the help of a mammoth 12,430 Ariel & Tide Nano Pod packets. The record breaking achievement was adjudicated by the Guinness World Records Team and was an engagement activity to mark the new benchmark in laundry innovation and technology. The results of the attempt were announced at LuLu Hypermarket, Avenues Mall on 6 June 2022 in the presence of officials from Khimji Ramdas, LuLu, the Guinness team as well as officials of Procter & Gamble UAE.

Speaking about the achievement, Mr. Sridhar Moosapeta, CEO Consumer Products Clus-



ter, Khimji Ramdas, stated, "The Guinness World Record is a wonderful recognition of our hard work and partnership with LuLu. We hope that the product exceeds the expectations of our customers. At Khimji Ramdas, we are com-

mitted to introducing new and innovative products that make life easier for our customers." Mr. Ananth A.V, Director - Oman, Sri Lanka and India of Lulu Group, remarked "We are extremely happy to be part of Khimji



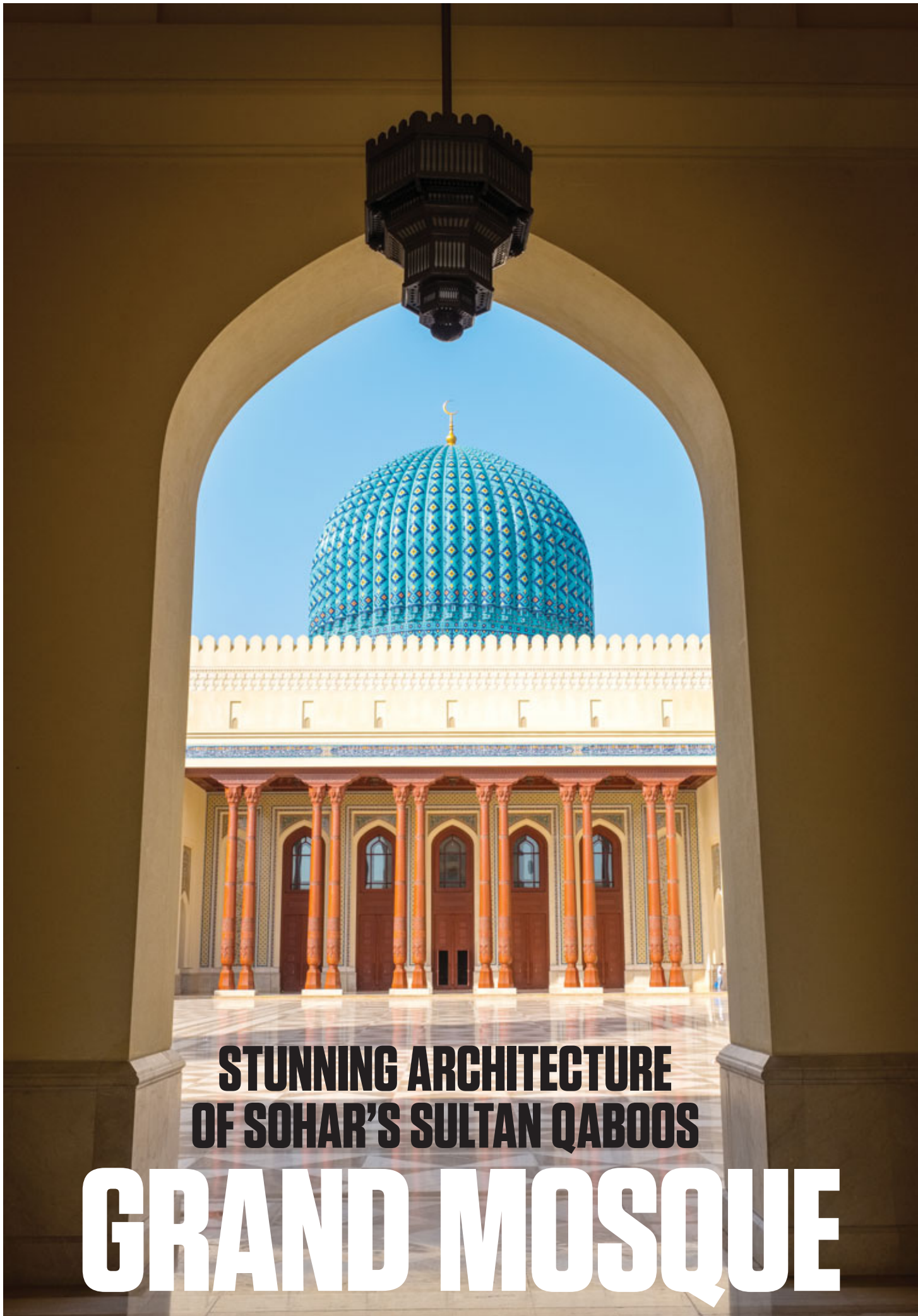
Ramdas & P&G's celebrations, and we congratulate the team for this remarkable achievement. This accomplishment is even more special considering how the entire team has worked harmoniously towards this commendable

record. I congratulate the determination demonstrated by one and all towards successfully attaining this goal." The world's most recognisable laundry brands, Ariel & Tide, recently launched the first-of-its-

kind NANO Pods to meet consumers' needs in the Gulf. The revolutionary Ariel & Tide NANO pods delivers unprecedented levels of cleaning power and is the newest form of detergent in the world designed to solve the region's number one laundry challenge of getting up to 100% stain removal with 0% powder residues on clothes.

It is also the first ever laundry innovation exclusively designed for the people of the GCC and is available in all supermarkets across the GCC.

The single unit-dose sachet is built from the finest powder detergent and super soluble film that instantly dissolves upon contact with water, perfectly dosed for ease and convenience. Upon dissolving in water, the sachet releases fine, highly concentrated detergent particles that penetrate deep into the fibres of fabrics to give the ultimate stain removal without powder residues.



STUNNING ARCHITECTURE OF SOHAR'S SULTAN QABOOS GRAND MOSQUE



WE LOVE OMAN

THE STUNNING architecture of Sohar's Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque will not miss your attention as you drive from Muscat to Sohar. Inaugurated in October 2016, the mosque's blue dome and off-white marble structure make it a sight that is truly lovely to behold.

The mosque covers a total area of 181,000 square metres and features a built up area of 28,778 square metres, with the area allo-

cated to the mosque also accommodating the landscaping, car parks and other facilities.

The main prayer hall of the mosque accommodates 4,600 worshippers. It also has a prayer area for 740 women. The mosque is located opposite Bait Bahjat Al Andhar in the wilayat of Sohar, and represents a new landmark added to the deep-rooted historic landmarks in the Governorate of Al Batinah.



YOU ORDER WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

NEW

HELLO OMAN!

Presented By:

TANUF

salsabeel

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR



GO FRESH
GO TASTY

GO JUICY

only 100 baiza



IEEE POWER TALKS OMAN

Summit focuses on electricity issues, relationship to renewables

MUSCAT: IEEE Power Talks Oman kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on Monday.

The several-day event, organised by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) addresses the outlook of energy sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

The opening ceremony of the conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology.

As many as 50 speakers from energy and electricity experts from different countries of the world



SEVERAL-DAY EVENT: The event, organised by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) addresses the outlook of energy sector in the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA

take part in the event.

Hydrogen

Eng. Abdulaziz Al Shidhani, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals said that the conference focuses on electricity issues and their relationship to renewable energy and hydrogen.

He explained that the ministry is working on several possible policies in this field centered around energy, green hydrogen policies, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Joint work is initiated with government institutions concerned with this sector to translate

the Royal directives related to hydrogen.

The conference focuses on the future of energy sector in the Sultanate of Oman, renewable energy technologies and storage solutions, digital transformation and its effects on electricity transmission networks, in addition to energy management and efficiency, asset management and improvement.

The conference includes three workshops addressing the economics of hydrogen, energy efficiency and the impacts of renewable energy projects on transportation networks. — ONA

FIRST QUARTER OF 2022

Oman’s Producer Price Index rises by 50%

MUSCAT: The Sultanate’s Producer Price Index (PPI) rose by 50.2 percent during the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period of last year.

This increase is led by the prices of oil products which registered an increase of 61.7 percent, while the non-oil products increased by 8.8 percent, according to the quarterly survey of the producer prices standard figures, issued the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The increase in prices of oil and gas products is ascribed to the increase in refined oil products by 39 percent and the increase in crude oil and natural gas prices by 66.3 percent.

The increase in non-oil products was due to the increase in manufacturing industries group by 11.5 percent, where the prices of mining, electricity and water group registered a decrease by 0.9 percent. Most prices of sub-groups of the manufacturing in-

dustries group have increased by varied percentages. The prices of mineral products, machinery and equipment rose by 20.7 percent, food, beverages and textiles products group increased by 13.3 percent and prices of products of other transportable goods increased by 6.0 percent.

In food and textiles products, the prices of fish products, fruits, vegetables, and oils increased by 28.9 percent while the prices of dairy products increased by 12.8



INDIAN SCHOOL SUR
P O Box. 158, SUR – 4115 Sultanate of Oman
Phone: 25541071, 25540939
Email: info@indianschoolsur.com; Website: indianschoolsur.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed companies for the below mentioned project.

Painting of the school building

Interested parties shall remit a tender fee RO 25/ (RO Twenty five Only) at the school Main Office and collect the tender document between 9.00 AM and 1.00 PM on all working days before 10th June 2022.

Indian School Sur reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Last date of submission: 12/06/2022 before 1.00 pm

MEETING

Oman, Qatar explore cooperation and protection of human rights

MUSCAT: A meeting was held on Monday between Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development and Maryam Al Attiyah, Chairperson of Qatar’s National Human Rights Committee (NHRC).

The meeting explored a spectrum of social topics, particularly the protection of human rights, as well as serving the Omani society.

It also touched on the mechanisms implemented for the protection of women, children, people with disabilities and the aged, among other segments of the society. — ONA



COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

<FROM A1> Economic diversification

In context to Oman and other Arab countries pursuing economic diversification programmes, a senior official at the World Bank had previously welcomed their efforts, particularly in light of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There are lots of aspects of economic diversification,” said Issam Abousleiman, country director of the GCC countries, Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank. “One aspect is diversification of the economy: expanding existing sectors and developing new ones. Here Oman could focus on areas of comparative advantage.

“Oman should be focused on export markets for goods and services,” he added. “The first step for any oil rich country is to diversify into oil-related industries, usually the downstream petrochemical industries, beginning with the basics such as fertilisers, but then moving up the value chain through advanced plastics.

“In addition, Oman can look at its natural endowments and build on that. Oman has already diversified into the tourism sector,” explained the director. “With a stunning coastline of over 3,000 km plus attractive natural land-



scapes, historical monuments and a welcoming culture, it is well poised to capitalise on the tourism sector and its niche areas of eco-tourism and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions).

“Other areas in which Oman might have a comparative advantage include logistics, given its geographic location, and food and agriculture,” he said. “In addition, given the energy transition, Oman can move in taking advantage of the wind and the sun to expand renewable energy production that could reduce the cost of its own energy, reduce emission by helping meet its international commitment, and export excess energy as the GCC links its grid to other parts of the Middle East and North Africa and beyond.

“In choosing which areas to develop, the government looks

at which areas will create opportunities for the country in global export markets and which will create high-paying jobs for Omani citizens,” he added.

The United Arab Emirates is Oman’s biggest export partner for non-oil goods, having imported OMR986.5 million worth of goods in 2021. The United States (OMR631.7 million), Saudi Arabia (OMR566.3 million), India (OMR478.5 million), and China (OMR377 million) are the other major countries to which Oman exports non-oil products.

The UAE is also Oman’s biggest source of imports, accounting for OMR4.2 billion in trade last year. While the country does import from India (OMR782.3 million), China (OMR832.3 million), Qatar (OMR756.1mn), and Brazil (OMR579.1mn), the value of trade with the UAE is much higher.



**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
PALETTE
FURNITURE
SOLUTIONS**

**Call us on
99614066**





**HAVE A
DESIGN
IN MIND?
WE CAN
MAKE IT
FOR YOU!**

**Contact us on 99614066 to make
customized pallet furniture**

Boris Johnson faces vote of no-confidence over ‘partygate’ issue

Johnson has been fending off accusations of multiple breaches of ethics in the past months

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to face a vote of no-confidence in his leadership on Monday evening, according to a senior official within his Conservative Party. Johnson has been fending off accusations of multiple breaches of ethics in the past months, most notably over the repeated breaking of his own government's COVID-19 lockdown rules at parties in government buildings.

What has triggered the vote?

Tory party official Graham Brady, who is chairman of the party's 1922 Committee, says he has received the necessary 54 letters demanding a vote on Johnson's leadership to trigger one.

"The threshold of 15% of the parliamentary party seeking a vote of confidence in the leader of the Conservative Party has been exceeded," Brady told Conservative lawmakers in a note.

The vote is expected to take place between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Monday.

"The votes will be counted immediately afterward. An announcement will be made at a time to be advised," Brady added.



NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE: Tory party official Graham Brady, who is chairman of the party's 1922 Committee, says he has received the necessary 54 letters demanding a vote on Johnson's leadership.

The 1922 Committee is the backbench committee of Conservative lawmakers that oversees party leadership challenges.

Why is Johnson under pressure to quit?

An internal report last month criticized the "senior leadership team" at Johnson's Number 10 Downing St. offices for parties that occurred there while the UK was under lockdown restrictions.

While the prime minister has apologized, he has repeatedly insisted he did not knowingly breach pandemic lockdown rules.

London's Metropolitan Police issued more than 100 fines to people who attended the gatherings, including Johnson and his wife, Carrie, at the prime minister's Downing Street offices and

residence. The parties took place at a time when such events were banned under coronavirus lockdown rules. Johnson is also under pressure over questions about a costly refurbishment of his Downing Street apartment, eventually revealed to have been financed by a wealthy Conservative Party donor.

He is additionally accused of corruption after seeking to use his parliamentary majority to halt a lawmaker's suspension for corruption.

What happens after the vote?

Should Johnson lose the vote among the 359 Conservative lawmakers, he will be replaced as both prime minister and Conservative Party leader. A win would make him safe from any fresh internal challenge to his leadership for the

next 12 months.

Johnson wrote to his party colleagues on Monday ahead of the vote, saying: "Tonight we have the chance to end weeks of media speculation and take this country forward, immediately, as one united party."

The prime minister argued that an internal leadership contest could send the wrong message to voters if "we appear once again to be focusing on Westminster politics." He said he did not believe voters "will lightly forgive us" in such a situation, saying "I am afraid the only beneficiaries will be our opponents."

Johnson, a leading campaigner in favor of the UK's decision to leave the European Union, came to power after a leadership vote that ousted his predecessor Theresa May.



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

PLATINUM JUBILEE

Queen Elizabeth II vows to keep serving after 70-year reign



LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving monarch of the United Kingdom (UK), on Sunday vowed to keep serving the people after celebrations for her 70 years of reign.

"When it comes to how to mark 70 years as your queen, there is no guidebook to follow... But I have been humbled and deeply touched that so many people have taken to the streets to celebrate my Platinum Jubilee," the 96-year-old monarch said in a statement, capping the four-day national celebrations. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of London for celebrations that include military parades, concerts and cultural shows.

The Queen briefly appeared Sunday afternoon on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, her royal residence in central London, at the end of day-long pageant featuring street arts, music and carnival in central London. She missed a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday and a star-studded concert and light show outside Buckingham Palace on Saturday due to her mobility issue after appearing on the Palace's balcony for Trooping the Color on Thursday. "While I may not have attended every event in person, my heart has been with you all; and I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family," the Queen said.

REMNANTS OF HURRICANE AGATHA

Tropical Storm Alex heads towards Bermuda

HAMILTON: Tropical Storm Alex has formed off the east coast of the United States, heading toward Bermuda on Monday.

It is first named storm of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season.

Emerging partially from the remnants of Hurricane Agatha, which made landfall on Mexico's southern Pacific Coast last week and killed at least nine people, Alex strengthened over the Atlantic after becoming a tropical storm early Sunday.

The US National Hurricane Center said the tropical storm had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) late Sunday as it headed east toward Bermuda. It was centered nearly 245 miles (395 kilometers) west of Bermuda and moving in the east-northeast direction at 28 mph (44 kph).

Alex was expected to make landfall in Bermuda late on Sunday or early on Monday, according to the National Hurricane Center.



Cuba, Florida hit by storm

The storm system killed three people in Cuba, after damaging dozens of homes in the capital city of Havana, authorities reported on Saturday.

Alex also knocked out electricity in some areas. Parts of South Florida saw heavy rain and flooding on Saturday.

"We moved the water off pretty quickly, but in some areas, obviously, it was really challenging,"

Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber said, adding that the storm tested the city's recently-installed system of drainage pumps.

The infrastructural changes came as climate change makes flooding an issue in the low-lying area.

As Bermuda braces for the impact of the tropical storm, Minister of National Security Michael Weeks said emergency services were monitoring Alex.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Countries to meet in Bonn to review climate targets

BONN: New targets for reducing emissions, cutting back on fossil fuels and ending deforestation were agreed by world leaders at the COP26 summit.

Nations are meeting again in Bonn to discuss progress since the Glasgow Climate Pact was signed at COP26.

In Glasgow, countries agreed to submit more ambitious climate plans, including cuts to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2).

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas which causes climate change. Reducing emissions is needed to help keep temperature rises within 1.5C. Above this could cause "climate catastrophe", according to UN scientists.

Countries were given a deadline of September 2022 to submit new plans - but currently only 11 countries out of 196 have done so.

However, recent analysis suggests that China has seen a continuous reduction in emissions



since summer 2021. This could have a significant impact as it is responsible for 27 per cent of the world's emissions.

Every year the world's governments meet at a climate summit called Conference of the Parties (COP). The 26th of these - COP26 - was in Glasgow in 2021; COP27 is in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, later this year.

The Bonn Climate Change Conference is halfway between

the two COPs - to review progress.

COP26 included a plan to reduce use of coal which is responsible for 40% of annual CO2 emissions.

World leaders also agreed to phase-out inefficient oil and gas subsidies. These are government payments that artificially lower the price of fossil fuels.

The UN climate science body, the IPCC, says fossil fuels are responsible for 64% of the world's CO2 emissions.

Why A'Saffa Chicken should be a part of your healthy meal

- Low in Calories
- Rich in Protein
- Rich in Iron
- Rich in Vitamin A
- Rich in Zinc

No. 1 CHOICE OF OMAN

الصفاء A'SAFFA

A name you can trust | اسم يمكنك الوثوق به | asaffa.com



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER
Download the app

WORLD

US, South Korea test-fire 8 missiles in response to North Korea’s launches

Seoul officials have warned that Pyongyang’s military provocations will be met with “corresponding” reactions

SEOUL: In response to North Korea’s latest missile launches, South Korea and the United States test-fired eight missiles on Sunday, according to Yonhap news agency.

Yonhap said citing the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) on Monday morning that the missiles were test-fired “at various targets.” “The South Korea-US combined firing of the ground-to-ground missiles demonstrated the capability and posture to launch immediate precision strikes on the origins of provocations and their command and support forces,” the news agency cited JCS statement.

“Our military strongly condemns the North’s series of ballistic missile provocations and



seriously urges it to immediately stop acts that raise military tensions on the peninsula and add to security concerns,” it added.

Seoul officials have warned that Pyongyang’s military provocations will be met with “corresponding” reactions.

Shortly after the North’s launch of three ballistic missiles, including an apparent intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), on May 25, the South and the US conducted combined missile launches in their first such joint move since 2017, the media report stated.

Pyongyang test-fired a total of eight short-range ballistic missiles.

Earlier, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said that his country will continue to boost its nuclear potential.

Over 10 years in power, the North Korean leader has conducted more than 100 missile launches, including intercontinental launches, and four nuclear tests.

During his 10-year tenure, his father Kim Jong Il carried out 16 missile launches and two nuclear tests, Sputnik News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, leaders during the QUAD summit in Tokyo last month, had condemned North Korea’s “destabilizing” ballistic missile launches and called on the

international community to abide by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

“We condemn North Korea’s destabilizing ballistic missile development and launches, including multiple intercontinental ballistic missile tests, in violation of UNSCRs, and call on the international community to fully implement these resolutions. We urge North Korea to abide by all of its obligations under the UNSCRs, refrain from provocations, and engage in substantive dialogue,” said the joint statement by QUAD Leader following the summit that was hosted by Japan in Tokyo. **ANI**

MAJOR FIRE



Bodies of 22 people killed in Bangladesh depot fire identified

DHAKA: Bodies of 22 people who died in the Chittagong container depot fire were identified and handed over to their families till Monday morning.

Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) authorities handed over the bodies from Sunday night to 10 am this morning, confirmed the CMCH Police Outpost Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Alauddin Talukdar, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Chittagong Deputy Commissioner, Mohammed Mominur Rahman said, “Among the 49 victims of the fire, 41 bodies were at CMCH. The remaining eight bodies are at different hospitals in the city.”

He said that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Monday morning started collecting DNA samples from relatives of the victims who died in the fire.

“If samples are matched, the remaining bodies will be handed,” the Dhaka Tribune quoted him as saying. A forensic team led by Chittagong Crime Investigation Department (CID) Ad-

ditional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Jahangir Alam set up a booth in front of the CMCH on Monday to cross-match DNA samples of unidentified victims of the Sitakunda fire, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

ASP Jahangir Alam said samples were being collected from parents, siblings, or any two of the children of the unidentified victims.

At least 49 people have been killed so far and over 450 injured in the fire caused by an explosion at a private Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Sitakunda Upazila.

The fire broke out at BM Container Depot in the Kadamrasul area of the Upazila on Saturday night, reported Dhaka Tribune.

As per the sources, the explosion shook the neighborhood and shattered glasses of windows of nearby houses. Earlier, Chittagong Fire Service and Civil Defence Assistant Director Md Faruk Hossain Sikdar had said, “Around 19 fire-fighting units are working to douse the blaze and six ambulances are also available on the spot.” **ANI**

ATTACK ON CHURCH

Dozens dead after gunmen attack worshippers in Nigeria

ABUJA: Gunmen have killed dozens of worshippers in a Catholic church in southwestern Nigeria, the state governor said on Sunday.

Anakunrin Akeredolu, the governor of the Ondo state, condemned the “vile and satanic” attack on the St. Francis Church, vowing to capture the assailants and achieve justice.

“I urge our people to remain calm and vigilant. Do not take laws into your hands. I have spoken to the heads of the security agencies. I have equally been assured that security operatives would be deployed to monitor and restore normalcy to Owo kingdom,” Akeredolu tweeted.

Adelegbe Timileyin, representative of Ondo’s Owo area in the



country’s lower legislative chamber, said the church’s presiding priest was abducted during the attack. The lawmaker also put the

death toll at over 50 people.

President Muhammadu Buhari condemned the attack, calling it “heinous.”

The Vatican issued a statement saying Pope Francis was praying for the victims who were “painfully stricken in a moment of celebration.”

What happened during the attack?

The assailants stormed the church in the midst of the Sunday service, opening fire at the worshippers, local media reported.

Some explosives were also used, but initial reports suggest the majority of injuries were due to gunshots.

The victims reportedly included members of the congregation, as well as children.

The identities of the perpetrators, who fled the scene shortly

after the attack, have yet to be confirmed. Local reports have pointed the finger at Fulani Herdsmen, suggesting members of the nomadic group carried out the attack to send a message to the governor.

Akeredolu’s recent policies have been seen as restrictive to the herdsmen’s activities in the state of Ondo.

Why the attack is significant

DW’s correspondent in Lagos Amaka Okoye said the attack signaled that violence was spreading to previously safe areas in Nigeria.

Although Nigeria has witnessed acts of violence in recent years, such incidents have mostly centred in the northwest of Af-

rica’s most populous country. The southwest — and Ondo state in particular — is regarded as a place of relative peace and calm.

This was touched upon by governor Akeredolu, whose tweet described the people of Owo as “peace-loving,” stressing that they have “enjoyed relative peace over the years.”

DW’s Okoye said the attack was an indication of how unsafe the entire country has become.

“It clearly points to the fact that no part of the country is safe. It’s quite worrying,” she said.

Okoye added that attacks occurring in broad daylight were a cause for extra concern, in the run-up to the country’s general elections, due in February next year. **DW**

REFERENDUM

More than 77% of voters in Kazakhstan support constitutional amendments

NURSULTAN: More than 77 per cent of Kazakh voters who participated in the Sunday referendum expressed support for the constitutional amendments, Chairman of the Central Election Commission Nurlan Abdirov said.

The turnout at the Sunday referendum was 68.44 per cent, according to Kazakhstan’s Central Election Commission.

“The number of citizens who voted for a positive decision on the issue, submitted to the republican referendum, amounted to 77.18 per cent, which is 6,163,863 people, of those who took part in the voting in all regions of the country. This amounted to an absolute majority in each of the 17 regions,” Sputnik quoted Abdirov as saying.

Earlier, results from an exit poll conducted by Astana’s Institute for Integrated Social Research showed that constitutional amendments were supported by 76.7 per cent of the voters, while 23.3 per cent opposed the changes.

In early May, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a decree that scheduled the referendum on constitutional amendments for June 5. The amendments based on citizens’ requests aim to create a legal framework for Kazakhstan’s transition from a super-presidential model to a



presidential republic, strengthening the role of the country’s parliament.

In late May, former Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced his intention to support the proposal to exclude provisions on his special status from the country’s constitution during the upcoming referendum.

Earlier, Tokayev had approved the National Action Plan to implement the reforms promised in his March 16 state of the nation address “New Kazakhstan: The Path of Renewal and Modernization.”

Proposing Constitutional reforms to limit the powers of his office, Tokayev last month had said the Central Asian Country needs to switch from “super presidential” rule to political modernization with a focus on the role of citizens in governing the state, including through electoral processes. **ANI**

TRAVELLING THIS SUMMER?
GET INSURED WITH US FOR A COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US
CALL US TODAY ON 24477300

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com

FIRST TIME

Oman Sail to host RS Venture Connect World Championships

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail will host the 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championships in November 2022, the first time an exclusively parasailing championship to be held in Oman. Taking place from Sunday 20 November until Sunday 27 November at the Barceló Mussanah Resort, up to 36 teams from an estimated 15 nations will compete in the RS Venture boat, designed specifically for people with disabilities, including members of Oman Sail's SailFree team.

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, Oman Sail CEO, said, "We are honoured to be chosen as hosts of the RS Venture Connect World Championships and have the opportunity to welcome para sailors from around the world to Oman in November. This is a huge step forward for the discipline in this region and the PDP will provide valuable training for coaches, race officials and Classifiers which will help to grow the sport in Oman.

The championships and PDP will be integral in supporting the athletes as we build towards our



long-term goal of developing a national para sailing team and continue to support World Sailing's campaign to reinstate sailing at the Paralympics in Los Angeles 2028."

Khamis Al Anbouri, Oman Sail Commercial Director, said, "The RS Venture Connect World Championships will allow the sailors from SailFree, the first para sail-

ing program in the region, to gain valuable experience and compete against sailors from around the world on home waters as we continue to make progress in the sport. We are also looking forward to hosting such a prestigious championship and furthering Oman's reputation as a world class sailing venue, creating new pathways

for staff and coaches to be part of this and future events, and share Oman's famous warm hospitality with our visitors."

Dan Jaspers, Head of International Sales and Business Development for RS Sailing and the Manufacturer's Representative for the RS Venture Connect Class stated, "I am very excited that the World Championship will be headed to Oman this year and I am happy that we have been able to partner with our friends at Oman Sail and their sponsors to make this event a reality, especially with the many challenges which sporting events are facing currently. Having been to Oman on a number of occasions, I can say for certain that it will not only be the on-water competition that will be enjoyed by those taking part, but also the hospitality of the hosts and the culture of this amazing country."

He added, "I strongly urge all those RS Venture Connect sailors as well as Disabled Sailing programs that are currently using the RS Venture Connect as part of their day-to-day activities but that have not yet had sailors attend an

international event, to do so. The experience of a Worlds in Oman is one that should not be missed. I look forward to seeing you all in Mussanah."

As with the previous RS Venture Connect Class World Championship, the 2022 World Championship will once again feature a 'Para' as well as an 'Open' category for teams entered, increasing the opportunities for participation by sailors do not meet the World Sailing Minimal Disability Classification criteria required to participate in the Para category.

The inclusion of the 'Open' category means that the event will present awards for both 'Para' and 'Open' Venture Connect Class Champions.

The event will also feature a three-day Paralympic Development Program (PDP) Clinic organized by World Sailing, the global governing body for the sport, to provide training for coaches and race officials, building on the success of the first PDP held in Oman in April.

Massimo Dighe, Para Sailing Manager at World Sailing

said of the news regarding the Oman-based RS Venture Connect Worlds: "The opportunity to hold a PDP in Oman, linked to the 2022 RS Venture Connect Class World Championship is a really exciting one. The first ever PDP in Oman was held in March this year, so we'll be able to return in November to continue supporting the growth of Para Sailing in the region. Our World Sailing PDPs include workshops on boat handling and racing skills, rules and regatta management, as well as the opportunity for coaches to gain experience and develop high-performance expertise. In Oman, we also prioritized classifier training earlier this year, and in November, we will host a full International Classification Seminar, that will enable the four candidates we worked with previously to become International Classifiers after a final assessment. This will be a huge achievement and a major step forward for Para Sailing in the Middle East and globally to gain four new young classifiers as a result of the first ever PDP to be held in Oman."

Cristiano Ronaldo brace steers Portugal to 4-0 win over Switzerland

Ronaldo proved instrumental as the hosts swept their opponents aside with an impressive first-half display

LISBON: Portugal cruised to their first victory in UEFA Nations League Group A2 as Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice in a 4-0 home defeat of Switzerland on Sunday.

Ronaldo proved instrumental as the hosts swept their opponents aside with an impressive first-half display in Lisbon. The Portugal captain - who struck a hat-trick when these sides last met three years ago on June 5 - had not registered in five outings for his country coming into this match, his longest drought for the Selecao for ten years. It was a free-kick from the former Sporting CP man that led to Portugal's opener, with his low effort parried by goalkeeper Gregor Kobel into the path of William Carvalho, who tapped home.

Ronaldo then took his international tally to 117 goals with two strikes in the space of five minutes with half-time approaching,



sweeping his team's second into the far corner after unselfishly being picked out by Diogo Jota.

Shortly after, that pair combined again, with Kobel unable to hold the Liverpool striker's shot and Ronaldo nabbing the rebound. The 37-year-old could have claimed another match ball in the 43rd minute but prodded Joao Cancelo's intelligent cross narrowly wide.

In the end, it was the Manchester City full-back who rounded off the scoring, tapping the ball past the onrushing Kobel and slotting into the empty net after good work from club-mate Bernardo Silva.

Fernando Santos, Portugal's coach was a happy man after the match as he said: "I am a coach who is satisfied when I win and when the team plays as we re-

hearsed. We could have scored one or two more in the first half. In the second half, the pace dropped; the players are not machines. Switzerland created some problems, but we always found the right solutions."

Portugal have lost only two of their last 11 international matches against Switzerland (W6 D3 L2).

Excluding their 3-0 awarded victory vs Ukraine, Switzerland's last win in the Nations League dates back to November 2018 against Belgium.

Gareth Bale ends Ukrainian dreams

Wales: Wales are through to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 after Andriy Yarmolenko's own goal from a Gareth Bale free-kick end-

ed Ukraine's hopes.

Wales have reached the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1958 after Ukraine's Yarmolenko headed into his own net in the play-off final. Olexandr Petrakov's visitors had overpowered Scotland to win their semi-final on Wednesday, and their attacking vibrancy quietened an expectant home crowd during the early stages, with Wales goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey producing a string of alert saves in slippery conditions.

The best of the opportunities Ukraine fashioned came when Roman Yaremchuk broke free inside the penalty area in the 12th minute, arrowing in a low shot that Hennessey recovered just in time to stop Andriy Yarmolenko capitalizing on the rebound. **ANI**

CHESS



Viswanathan Anand defeats Magnus Carlsen, leads standings

OSLO: Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand returned to winning ways as he defeated World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in the fifth round of the Classical section on Monday in the Norway Chess tournament to climb to the top spot.

After prevailing against the Norwegian star in the Blitz event that preceded the Classical section, Anand registered a thrilling victory in Armageddon (sudden death game) after the regular match concluded in a 40-move draw. In Armageddon, 52-year-old Anand recreated his magic when he beat Carlsen to post a win in 50 moves.

With 10 points in his count, the Indian Grandmaster leads the field with four more games to go in the

prestigious tournament which features some of the finest players in the sport.

Anand had begun the Classical section with three consecutive victories, defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), and Hao Wang (China) before American Wesley So ended his winning streak in the fourth round.

As a result, the former world champion was sharing the lead with Magnus Carlsen on 8.5 points each. Carlsen lies in the second spot with 9.5 points despite the defeat to his long-time rival.

After Sunday's result, Anand is leading the charts with 10 points, while Carlsen is a half a point behind. Wesley So and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov share third place. **ANI**

FRENCH OPEN

I will keep fighting: Rafael Nadal refuses retirement rumours

PARIS: After the historic 14th French Open title victory, Rafael Nadal hinted that he is in no mood to retire and thanked the support of the Philippe Chatrier crowd.

World Number five Nadal put up a dominant show against Casper Ruud of Norway to win the men's singles final match 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 here at the Court Philippe-Chatrier on Sunday to clinch his record 14th French Open crown and his 22nd grand slam title racing ahead of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. Apart from clinching a record-extending French Open crown, the 36-year-old Spaniard also indicated that he is not going to retire anytime soon, rubbing the rumours and speculations about his chronic foot injury problem during the campaign in Paris.

"I don't know what can happen in the future. I will keep fighting to try to keep going. For me it is incredible to play here with amazing support from you to me," Nadal



said during an on-court interview after winning his 14th French Open crown.

Nadal thanked the Philippe Chatrier crowd for pushing him on throughout the course of the Roland Garros tournament.

"For me personally it is very difficult to describe the feelings that I have. It's something that I for sure never believed, to be here at 36, being competitive again, playing in the most important court of my ca-

reer one more final," he said.

"Especially in the very tough moments we went through in terms of injuries if you don't have great support from the team nothing of this would happen because I would have retired much before," Nadal added.

Nadal admitted that he needed pain-killing injections in his left foot before every match in Paris and will undergo treatment again in Spain. **ANI**

T20I SERIES

Australia will take on Sri Lanka in three-match T20I series

COLOMBO: Aaron Finch led Australia will take on hosts Sri Lanka in three-match T20I series starting from Tuesday here at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, Colombo.

So far both teams had played 22 T20I matches together out of which Australia had won 12 matches and SL had won 9, one match was tied. But Sri Lanka had been quite impressive when it comes to playing on their own soil as out of four matches they had won two and lost two.

The last time Australia and Sri Lanka faced each other in T20I format was in February 2022 in a home series in Australia which was a five-match series. Kangaroos won the series by a 4-1 margin.

Australia won the first match by the DLS method in which batting first Aus made 149 runs with the loss of nine wickets, and Sri Lanka made 122 runs and lost eight wickets. The rain stopped the play.



Second T20I, Australia won the match in super over, batting first Aus scored 164 for 6. Sri Lanka tied the innings by making 164 with the loss of eight wickets and the match went to super over where SL scored five runs and Aus comfortably won the match.

Third T20I, Australia won the match with six wickets remaining as Sri Lanka batted first and scored 121 runs and lost six wick-

ets. Aus chased the target in the 17th over and register their third win in the series.

Fourth T20I, Australia won the match with six wickets remaining as Sri Lanka came in to bat first and scored 139 runs at the loss of eight wickets. The man in yellow chased the target comfortably in the 19th over and won the match.

Fifth T20I, Sri Lanka won the match with five wickets, Australia came in to bat and scored 154 for 6. Guests chased the target and register their first and only win in the series.

This time the World T20 champions will play Lankans in Sri Lanka where both sides have equal chances to win the series.

The series will kick off with a match at R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium. The second T20I will start on June 8 at the same venue and the third T20I will start on June 11 at Pallekelle International Cricket Stadium. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2022 reaching \$115.60, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$3.50 from the price of Friday, which was \$112.10. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,135 points, up by 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.25 per cent at 464.88 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.86 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Batinah Power, down 2.04 per cent, was the top loser.

MULTI-CITY ROADSHOW

Roadshow to connect suppliers to oil & gas procurement opportunities



Times News Service

MUSCAT: In keeping with its robust commitment to In-Country Value (ICV) creation, Business Gateways International (BGI) has launched a multi-city roadshow called 'Meet-JSRS' spanning Oman and the United Arab Emirates as part of a vigorous drive to engage directly with suppliers eager for procurement opportunities linked to the Omani oil & gas industry by obtaining the JSRS Certification. On May 31, Ibri played host to the inaugural stop of the 13-city

roadshow, which will potentially cover hundreds of Omani SMEs, large and international suppliers throughout the summer season.

The next leg of the roadshow will take place on June 9 in Muscat at the Centara Muscat Hotel. Invitations have gone out to registered members of the JSRS network encouraging them to be part of an event that will have a game-changing impact on their businesses. The initiative 'Meet-JSRS' exemplifies the ongoing efforts of BGI to help the vast and diverse suppliers unlock procurement opportuni-

ties offered by oil & gas operators and leading oilfield contractors. Certification under the Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS) is a compliance prerequisite for national and international contractors or vendors to qualify to bid for oilfield tenders or procurement requests. It's a process designed to ensure a transparent, equitable and credible procurement system governing all oilfield contracts.

The national roadshow has been organised with the support of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman Chamber of Commerce and

Industry and the SMEs Development Authority (Riyada).

Comprehensive in its geographical scope and substantive in its intended impact, the 'Meet-JSRS' Roadshow will traverse the length and breadth of the Sultanate of Oman, with an event scheduled in Dubai as well.

At its heart is BGI's goal to connect the JSRS-Certified supplier's community, as well as prospective suppliers, with oil & gas operators and leading oilfield contractors. Seminars and interactive engagements are scheduled at every stop.

Total earnings of MSX-listed companies rise by 12.3%

The Omani banking sector reported profit growth of 20.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2022 reaching \$243.7 million compared to \$201.6mn in Q1-2021



cent in Q1-2022 reaching \$243.7 million compared to \$201.6 million in Q1-2021.

The telecom sector posted the second-largest Q1-2022 net profits in the MSX exchange reaching \$59.6 million as compared to \$56.5 million in Q1-2021, the Kamco Invest Report said.

The banking and telecom sectors represented over 76.9 per cent of the total Q1-2022 net profits of listed companies on the exchange.

In the diversified financials sector, total Q1-2022 earnings reached \$49.8 million as compared to \$41 million during a similar period of the past year.

Total net profits for the energy sector increased 43.9 per cent year-on-year to reach \$17.8 million during Q1-2022.

GCC corporate earnings

Earnings reported by GCC-listed companies reached a new record level during Q1-2022 backed by broad-based quarter-on-quarter growth in profits across all sectors

barring the consumer durables and apparel sector. The higher profitability reflected a continued and sustained recovery in economic activity across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) during the quarter.

The PMI figures for Saudi Arabia, UAE, Dubai and Qatar consistently remained above the growth mark of 50 during the first three months of the year backed by government efforts as well as robust private sector activity.

In addition, banking credit to the private sector also showed sustained growth in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar based on available data from the respective central banks.

Aggregate net profit for GCC-listed companies reached \$65.4 billion during the quarter as compared to \$51.5 billion during Q4-2021 resulting in a quarter-on-quarter growth of 27.0 per cent. The year-on-year growth was even stronger at 67.0 per cent when compared to Q1-2021 profits of \$39.2 billion.

Times News Service

STOCK MARKETS

Asian stocks rise

BEIJING: Major Asian stock markets advanced on Monday after Wall Street declined and a survey showed the downturn in Chinese service activity eased in May as anti-virus controls on Shanghai and other major cities were lifted, the Associated Press reported.

Benchmarks in Shanghai, Tokyo and Hong Kong rose.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.6 per cent to 3,215.45.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 1.1 per cent to 21,312.36 and the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo added 0.3 per cent to 27,844.26. Korean markets were closed for a holiday.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 shed 0.4 per cent to 7,210.90 while New Zealand markets were closed for a holiday. Singapore and Jakarta declined.

Benchmark US crude rose 86 cents to \$119.73 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained \$2 on Friday to \$118.87. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, advanced 86 cents to \$120.58 per barrel in London. -SPA

Tender Notice

Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), announces following E-Tender for 2022:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Deadline for Specifications Request	Deadline for tender bids	Tender Price
18/2022	Evaluate and Update Business Continuity Management (BCM) Manuals and Procedures.	16 JUN 2022	30 JUN 2022	25 OMR

Interested companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender document from the E-Tendering website: <http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. The Vendors must provide **Electronic Bank Guarantee** issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2%) of the Tender value valid for (120) days on website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> and addressed to Public Authority for Social Insurance.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender inquiry : All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at E-Tendering system (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
2. E-Tendering system inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel : **+968 24402200** , E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

PASI is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other tender that may be received

PASI
With you .. For You

www.pasi.gov.om | [T](#) [W](#) [F](#) [I](#) [C](#) [S](#) | TaminatOman | Contact us 800 77 600



MOTOR OIL TRUSTED FOR OVER 100 YEARS

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE

www.veedol.ae

ELITE
20W-50

For Cleaner & Cooler Engines

Premium High Performance Multigrade Petrol Engine Oil

Recommended for modern generation cars having turbocharged/naturally aspirated fuel injection petrol engines.
Meets & Exceeds the requirements of:
API: SL
Provides outstanding protection to engine components against wear & corrosion.

Available in Grades of 10W30, 10W40 & 20W50



Available in 1L / 4L / 208L

CR No. 1002104

Official distributors for Oman



MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC

GHUBRA | WADI KABIR | MABELLA | SALALAH | SOHAR
NIZWA | IBRI | SUR | IBRA
+968 9931 6792

parts_sales@moosagroup.com
www.moosagroup.com

MARKET



MSX index ends higher

Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.86 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Batinah Power, down 2.04 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,135 points, up by 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.25 per cent at 464.88 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.86 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Batinah Power, down 2.04 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 342 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.24 million, with more than 8.71 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 14 advanced, 14 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR164,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR148,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR16,000

worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,583.66 points, up 0.22 per cent. Prices of Ominvest, National Life & General Insurance, Oman United Insurance, Sohar International Bank and HSBC Bank Oman were up by 1.3 per cent, 1.24 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 0.93 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa, Al Sharqia Investment and National Bank Oman were down by 1.15 per cent, 1.04 per cent, 1.04 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,972.34 points, down 0.16 per cent. Jazeera Steel Products was the only gainer up by 1.68 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries, Raysut Cement and Oman Cement were down by 1.36 per cent, 0.94 per cent, 0.84 per cent, 0.61 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,135.00	4,120.94	4,135.00	4,123.25	11.75	0.28
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,583.65	6,559.45	6,583.65	6,569.52	14.14	0.22
Industry Index	5,988.69	5,971.08	5,972.33	5,981.86	-9.53	-0.16
Services Index	1,608.40	1,592.20	1,607.70	1,591.78	15.92	1.00
MSX Shariah Index	465.65	464.51	464.88	466.06	-1.18	-0.25
MSX TR INDEX	5,210.89	5,193.18	5,210.89	5,196.09	14.80	0.28
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,883.23	6,857.93	6,883.23	6,868.46	14.78	0.22
SERVICES TR IDX	1,663.05	1,646.30	1,662.32	1,645.87	16.46	1.00
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,215.26	6,196.98	6,198.28	6,208.17	-9.89	-0.16

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,715,994	1,235,237	342	22,446,125,064	14	14	16	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 6

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	P&L VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000276	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	2,500	910	3	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.358	0.006	1.676	0.364	0.356	0.380	0.100	45,462,857
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	7,980	2,490	1	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.308	0.004	1.299	0.312	0.280	0.322	0.100	208,530,013
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	1,500	510	2	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.336	0.004	1.190	0.340	0.332	0.340	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000003386	SOHAR INT. BANK	4,025,000	430,725	2	0.107	0.109	0.107	0.109	0.108	0.001	0.926	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	325,916,790
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	293,988	41,796	24	0.142	0.143	0.142	0.143	0.142	0.001	0.704	0.143	0.142	0.143	0.100	33,891,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	12,000	3,864	2	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.320	0.002	0.625	0.322	0.320	0.326	0.100	209,604,042
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	12,000	10,368	2	0.864	0.864	0.864	0.864	0.860	0.004	0.465	0.864	0.864	0.876	0.100	648,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	80,660	42,988	16	0.530	0.534	0.530	0.534	0.532	0.002	0.376	0.534	0.534	0.544	0.100	10,002,004,208,016
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	20,000	2,360	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	44,500	3,204	3	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	14,400,000
OM0000003281	TAAQEEH FINANCE	10,000	920	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	23,796,888
OM0000006005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	134,599	68,913	8	0.512	0.512	0.510	0.512	0.512	0.000	0.000	0.512	0.510	0.512	0.100	28,180,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	101,000	25,352	8	0.252	0.252	0.250	0.250	0.251	-0.001	-0.398	0.250	0.250	0.252	0.100	82,718,178
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	12,181	2,436	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.201	-0.001	-0.498	0.200	0.200	0.202	0.100	325,189,271
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	107,998	11,238	8	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.102	0.105	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	1,092,357	104,596	44	0.096	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	8,550,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	390,390	169,732	2	0.436	0.436	0.434	0.434	0.440	-0.006	-1.364	0.434	0.400	0.434	0.100	95,480,000
Total	17	6,348,653	922,402	128												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	560	44	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.071	0.007	9.859	0.078	0.071	0.072	0.100	74,456,612
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	57,000	7,982	11	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.138	0.003	2.174	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.100	10,648,602
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	51,078	2,547	5	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.001	0.950	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	50,000	16,300	1	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.322	0.004	1.242	0.326	0.000	0.326	0.100	86,380,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	2,000	224	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.001	0.901	0.112	0.111	0.114	0.100	224,035,032
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,212	668	2	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.300	0.002	0.667	0.302	0.290	0.314	0.100	21,257,780
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	4,600	570	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	3,189,288
OM0000001385	CONSTRUCTION M.	20,000	1,900	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.088	0.092	0.100	5,625,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	220,824	21,004	18	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	11,578,125
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P.	21,654	6,094	8	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.282	0.282	0.000	0.000	0.282	0.282	0.290	0.100	11,732,686
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	9,967	8,093	6	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.000	0.000	0.812	0.808	0.812	0.100	77,140,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	116,919	19,857	11	0.172	0.172	0.170	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.167	0.171	0.100	20,530,000
OM0000003861	VOLTAMP ENERGY	516	55	3	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.105	0.108	0.100	8,710,094
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	20,000	1,860	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	16,275,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	110,255	5,402	7	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000000148	RAYSUT CEMENT	22,422	3,853	10	0.163	0.164	0.162	0.163	0.164	-0.001	-0.619	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.100	30,600,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	598,700	104,029	55	0.159	0.160	0.155	0.157	0.158	-0.001	-0.633	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.100	13,545,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	245,717	28,748	19	0.117	0.118	0.116	0.118	0.119	-0.001	-0.840	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.100	21,485,251
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	166,924	17,710	9	0.106	0.107	0.105	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	21,516,563
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	318,783	30,284	17	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,000	180	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	116,000	9,988	9	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	17,200,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	80,000	3,864	6	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.048	0.052	0.100	32,394,597
Total		2,299,531	291,060	205												

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO welcomes Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for leadership session

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing to foster partnerships with the public sector, National Bank of Oman (NBO) welcomed 60 members from Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for a special learning and development session.

The event is part of the ministry's leadership development programme, and aims to initiate a network for sharing best practices to enhance the delivery of services and empower professionals, contributing directly to the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Mustahil Al Mamari, Head of CEO Office, spoke about the bank's Tamkeen programme that acts as a catalyst to drive NBO's strategy forward by focusing on simplifying the internal customer workplace towards better services for external customers and to achieve the set target.

Said Al Marhoobi, Head of Customer



Experience, shared the bank's approach to the customer experience journey and Dr Ali Al Sheikaili, Head of Digital Channels gave a brief about the various digital banking services and features. The ministry members also visited the bank's Ibtikar Lab, which taps into the talent of its staff to come up with innovative ideas and solutions, and finally were introduced to NBO's portfolio of products and

services.

Hassan Shaban said, "As the country's national bank, we enjoy a solid and long-term relationship with the government sector and we continue to support them, whether it's through knowledge-sharing or by providing our innovative financial solutions. It was our pleasure to welcome the esteemed members from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. By sharing

our experience and best practices, we are strengthening our national capabilities, and more broadly, Oman's standing as an empowered and knowledge-based society."

NBO has long been an active participant in supporting government projects that add value to the development and diversification of the economy. The bank also partnered lately with the Ministry of Labour to provide supplementary courses to graduates of the national leadership development programme, Etimad, the bank also contributes by nominating leading figures and businessmen as speakers in the programme and other leadership forums.

Moreover, NBO provides integrated banking services with an innovative approach to a growing number of public sector entities, helping to support Oman's economic development, while cementing its position as a preferred financial institution.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

India's LIC shares slump to record low of Rs782.45

MUMBAI: Share price of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) slumped to a record low of Rs 782.45 on Monday, which is 17.55 per cent down from its IPO issue price of Rs 949.

At 1.27 pm on the BSE, Life Insurance Corporation of India's share was trading 2.01 per cent down at Rs 784.15.

Earlier, the scrip opened flat at Rs 800.25 but witnessed selling pressure later in the day. It slipped to a low of Rs 782.45 in the intra-day. This is the lowest level since its listing on the stock exchanges last month.

LIC share is trading in the red for the fifth straight session. The scrip has slumped by around 6 per cent in the last five sessions. The decline in LIC share is far sharper than the general decline in the market. During this period

the benchmark Sensex of the BSE has lost less than 1 per cent.

The recent slump has dragged Life Insurance Corporation of India's market capitalisation below Rs 5 lakh crore for the first time. The market capitalisation of LIC fell to Rs 4.98 lakh crore on Monday.

At the issue price of Rs 949 the market capitalisation of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India stood at Rs 6,00,242 crore.

The initial public offering of LIC, which was open for subscription from May 4 to May 9, was subscribed 2.95 times.

Life Insurance Corporation of India shares got listed on the stock exchanges on May 17. Since its listing, the scrip has closed in the positive four sessions. For the rest of the days, it witnessed selling pressure. — **ANI**

MASTERCARD WHITE PAPER

Study advocates financial inclusion as a driver for better access to health and education

DUBAI: Financial inclusion is driving better access to health and education across the Middle East and Africa, according to a new white paper from Mastercard.

The study, Financial Inclusion+ - Connecting People to Finance, Health, and Education, explores how health, education, digital, and financial inclusion are all intertwined to unlock greater prosperity and wellbeing for communities across the region.



BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH TIPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Older adults experiencing a behavioral health issue such as anxiety or depression may be embarrassed and think they simply need to “pull themselves up by their bootstraps,” but helping them seek help can empower them to live their best lives, according to experts.

“Everyone is different, but there are tools for better health, including therapy, medication and self-care,” said Dr. Lindsay Evans-Mitchell, medical director for behavioural health for Cigna Medicare Advantage.

Behavioural health disorders affect one in five adults over 55.

The most common behavioural health disorder in older adults is dementia, and its incidence is growing as the Baby Boomer generation ages. Experts project that more than 9 million Americans 65 years or older will have dementia by 2030. Anxiety disorders and mood disorders are also common among older people.

“Behavioral health issues can be complex and confusing to navigate, but taking positive actions can be empowering, “It’s never too late to make a new start.”

— Dr. Evans-Mitchell

DEALING WITH A BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH ISSUE? THESE SELF-CARE TIPS CAN HELP

1 FIND A PROVIDER

“Cognitive disorders, such as dementia and mood disorders, often look the same,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said. “Only a trained professional can make an accurate diagnosis.” For help finding a provider, reach out to your primary care physician or health plan. Also consider virtual therapy. It’s easy to schedule and offers the convenience of seeing a therapist without leaving home.

2 NURTURE YOURSELF

Good nutrition feeds the body and mind. If you have questions about nutrition for older adults, consult your physician or a registered dietitian. Additionally, drink water throughout the day. “Dehydration can worsen cognitive issues,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said.

3 SLEEP WELL

Like all adults, older people need seven to nine hours of sleep nightly. Dr. Evans-Mitchell noted that older people’s tendency to go to bed early, wake up early, and nap throughout the day can disrupt healthy sleep cycles and limit rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, potentially contributing to behavioural health issues.

4 EXERCISE

Even moderate exercise can improve mental and physical health. The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans describes benefits such as improvements in brain health, better cognitive function, and reduced risk of anxiety and mood disorders. People who exercise also tend.

5 PARENT A PET

Caring for pets generates positive emotions and can reduce anxiety. Just petting a dog has been shown to lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and pets provide a bond that can elevate two feel-good brain chemicals: oxytocin and dopamine. Dogs also encourage people to exercise outdoors.





ROUND-UP



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



Alizz Bank’s new mobile banking app receives overwhelming response

The app is available on the Apple App Store, Google Play Store and Huawei Gallery Store and has been downloaded by users who have also rated the app based on its seamless user experience

MUSCAT: The new and improved Alizz Islamic Bank mobile banking application has been received with overwhelming success for its banking features and services offered to the users.

It is rated as the very best digital banking application among other mobile banking applications. The

app is available on the Apple App Store, Google Play Store and Huawei Gallery Store and has been downloaded by users that have also rated the app based on its seamless user experience.

Speaking about the update, Sayyida Nadira Al Said, Senior Manager of Digital Banking at Al-

izz Islamic Bank highlighted that the latest version of the mobile banking app features cutting edge mobile banking technologies including a new user interface and user experience which is visually attractive and convenient with an enhanced customer experience. The colours and the interface were selected based on the best international standards demonstrating the bank's leadership in innovative digital banking services.

Aal Said further added that among the important features added to the application are the useful shortcuts on the dashboard that enables users to monitor and execute recurring banking transactions without the need to go into many steps or clicks. These shortcuts enable users to save time while enjoying a host of smart solutions in the bilingual application.

Another valued added feature is the ability to easily and conveniently share the transfer slips with recipients following cash transfer operations by tapping the transfer icon. The application contains another exciting tool that enables user to search for and locate Alizz Islamic Bank branches and ATMs by tapping the 'Find Us' icon. Moreover, throughout the app, customers are offered the convenience of requesting for cheque books, credit cards and debit cards, with a seamless push notification feature to keep the customer in the loop about their requests.

Further, the bank has sustained its investment on the current digital platforms with strong focus and presence in fintech solutions. The bank's infrastructure has been developed to provide high quality customer service while fostering

the culture of innovation and excellence. Through this approach, the number of the users of the mobile and internet banking services has doubled with an increase of 26% compared to last year.

From time to time, the bank conducts customer satisfaction surveys to rate the customers' satisfaction of the services and products delivered by the bank, as well as the features and facilities the customers aspire to have from their bank, whether in terms of digital banking services or the finance facilities.

It is worth noting that the Alizz Islamic Bank mobile banking application has won the prestigious 'Best Rated Mobile Banking App in Oman' at the recently concluded Oman Banking and Finance Awards, one of the most celebrated awards in the Sultanate of Oman.



CONGRATULATORY FUNCTION

Ominvest congratulates Injaz students for winning global award

MUSCAT: As part of its corporate citizenship initiative to encourage entrepreneurship and support the growth of SMEs in the Sultanate of Oman, Ominvest held a congratulatory function at its headquarters for the founders of Bioplastics - an Injaz School-Student Company.

Ominvest and Injaz Oman applauded Neeam Al Harrasi and Do'aa Al Hashmi, the founders of Bioplastics, whose project secured fourth place out of 1800 other students from around the world at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2022.

For the past four years, Ominvest's partnership with Injaz Oman's Student Company Programme has not only empowered the youth of Oman to become future entrepreneurs but has also helped develop startups and entrepreneurship projects through the establishment of outstanding training experiences that combine theoretical learning with real life application.

As an eco-friendly company, Bioplastics aligns with Ominvest's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) efforts. The business manufactures bioplastics that are made using natural materials, which makes it a great alternative to industrial plastics. This newly developed material will not only make the mass production of bioplastics affordable but will also contribute to the wider goal of pro-



tecting the planet by putting a curb on plastic pollution.

Commending the founders of Bioplastics at the congratulatory function, Khalid Muhammad Al Zubair, Chairman of Injaz Oman said, "Neeam and Do'aa's pioneering achievement at ISEF has made us at Injaz Oman very proud. Injaz Oman's dedication and commitment to fostering entrepreneurial talents and the growth of SMEs in Oman has been exemplary. Our programmes have managed to support around 155,760 students so far, and we have received the "Best Student Company" award at the regional level for three years in a row now. In our effort to develop the skills and abilities of Oman's youth and motivate them to achieve their dreams, Injaz Oman has been working very closely with schools, universities and training centres all of which have been a funda-

mental part of the formula of Injaz Oman's success across the years."

Highlighting Ominvest's support of entrepreneurial pursuits in Oman, AbdulAziz Al Balushi, CEO of Ominvest said, "At Ominvest, we are committed to fostering the growth of SMEs and entrepreneurship in the country. We encourage entrepreneurial projects by students, especially those that make a positive contribution to the environment or society. Projects like Bioplastic have a significant potential to create such a desired scalable and sustainable impact. We are delighted to support projects that are aimed at preserving the environment using innovative methods such as Neeam and Do'aa's project and we wish them all the success."

Commenting on Neeam and Do'aa's ground-breaking project, Khaula Al Harthy, CEO of

Injaz Oman said, "We are proud of our students and their incredible achievement. To feature in the top four innovations in the field of science and technology at a forum that attracts more than a thousand students from around the world is an amazing feat. This achievement goes to show the capability of our students and proves that perseverance and hard work are essential for success. We are keen on contributing to the development and enhancement of the skills and abilities of Oman's youth in the field of research and innovation. Empowering and enabling the next generation will lead to the development of a knowledge-based economy with innovation at the heart of it. We hope that this achievement will be the first of many, and an incentive to reach new heights at both the regional and international level."

AL RAZI PHARMACY JOINS HANDS WITH ROYAL HOSPITAL

Al Razi Pharmacy joined hands with Royal Hospital in celebrating the World Day For Safety & Healthcare to build and promote a positive and safe health culture in the hospitals of the Sultanate of Oman which was attended by a large gathering of doctors, pharmacists & nursing staff. Al Razi Pharmacy, under the leadership of its Managing Director Fatma Yousuf Alawi, aims to set new standards in healthcare and always looks for an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the society in Oman.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

KR Eshraqa felicitated by Ministry of Social Development

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) recently honoured Khimji Ramdas (KR) Eshraqa's contribution to social development activities and initiatives in the Sultanate. The event was held at the Avani Muscat Hotel in the presence of Laila Ahmed Awad Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

On receiving the MOSD's appreciation, Nailesh Khimji, Director of the Khimji Ramdas Group mentioned: "We are grateful to be part of the nation's socio-economic progress and deeply appreciate this prestigious accolade. I wholeheartedly thank the MOSD for bestowing this honour on us. We are committed towards inclusive growth to work towards the goal of ensuring the success and well-being of Omani communities in particular, and the society at large," he said.

Established in 2016, as the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of the Khimji Ramdas Group, Eshraqa's vision is aligned with the national agenda and goals outlined in Oman's Vision 2040. Eshraqa's initiatives focus on Education, Health, Community Wellbeing, and Training; with unique partnerships being made with various governmental institutions and associations on a not-for-profit basis to enrich the lives of the people of Oman.

On the role of corporates participating in Social Responsibility - Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al



Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development said: "We are reassured by the fact that the collaboration between the public and private sectors will strengthen and grow in the years to come. We need to adopt the best practices of social responsibility to reinforce our resolve to contribute effectively to the socio-economic growth of the Sultanate."

Eshraqa's strategy of going to 'one wilayat at a time' has created avenues for better health, education, community well-being and entrepreneurship

Mahmood Khalifa Ali Alsaqri, Head of Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas' Social Development Arm mentioned: "We are thankful to receive such an important recognition from the MOSD. KR Eshraqa will continue to implement projects that contribute to social causes by

developing solutions that enhance the community's wellbeing, and at the same time empower people with tools and skills to become self-reliant and lead their best lives."

Eshraqa's primary beneficiaries are Omani youth, women and persons with disabilities. Under its developmental scheme, communities in the wilayats of Samail, Izki, Bidbid, Ibra and Bidiyah have benefited. The project's focus is currently on the Wilayat Dima Wattayeen.

The key initiatives of Eshraqa include: 'Qudurat', 'Stemazone', and 'Tasees'. While Qudurat is an umbrella initiative for projects that foster women empowerment and employability, 'Tasees' (Entrepreneurship Academy) is engaged in creating an entrepreneurial mindset in the youth and developing knowledge and skills among professionals through a mentorship programme.

SMARTWATCH

Huawei Watch Fit 2: Ideal companion to have with you

MUSCAT: Picking the right smartwatch can somewhat feel daunting with so many options out there. It mostly depends on your available budget and preferences. When looking to choose your next smartwatch you need to look at its design, battery life, health and fitness tracking, compatibility, and features that will let you enjoy wearing it on a daily basis.

Look no more! The new Huawei Watch Fit 2 may be exactly what you need. With a sleek and fashionable design, Bluetooth calling support, instant message reply, durable battery life, comprehensive health management and fitness tracking in addition to a myriad of convenient life assistant features it is the ideal companion to have with you. That's why we think it is the best smartwatch you can get today for under OMR59.9 in Oman.

The best bit is you do not have to worry about the Huawei Watch Fit 2 compatibility. The smartwatch is compatible with Huawei devices as well as other Android and iOS devices, which is an advantage if you are using devices from other brands.

The Huawei Watch Fit 2 is simply gorgeous and so stylish! It comes equipped with a large 1.74-inch AMOLED HD Huawei Full-View display, the display area is 18.6% larger than that of the previous generation, and the screen-to-body ratio is as high as 72.2%. The



display comes with 336 PPI and 336 x 480 resolution to deliver an extreme visual experience where content is more vivid than ever.

The Huawei Watch Fit 2 now comes with a speaker. Whether it is doing chores at home, walking, running, cycling, or hiking, phone call information can be pushed to the watch instantly. You can answer and hangup calls through the smartwatch by tapping the button without taking out their smartphone, providing an effective and convenient experience. If you are not available to answer the phone, you can quickly reply in the form of a short message with one tap. The reply can be customised in the Huawei Health App, allowing you to always stay online and not miss anything important. You can also reply quickly to messages via instant messaging apps from the watch itself.

The Huawei Watch Fit 2 features a large battery in its compact design. To ensure a com-

fortable and uninterrupted experience, this smartwatch supports fast charging technology. With a 5-minute charge, the Huawei Watch Fit 2 can be used for 24 hours. Under typical usage scenario, the smartwatch can be used for 10 days, and 7 days in heavy usage scenarios.

The Huawei Watch Fit 2 provides all-rounded health management such as SpO2 monitoring, heart rate, sleep, stress, and breathing monitoring to help you keep track of your physical changes at all times. At the same time, with the Huawei Health App on the smartphone, it can synchronise health-monitoring data in real time, allowing you to keep an eye on your physical and mental health at all times.

Working out, mental health, and sleep are at the core of a healthy lifestyle, so the Huawei Health App is fully upgraded with the Healthy Living Management, which helps to develop self-disciplined workout routine and active health management. Through personalised settings, you can receive regular reminders such as health challenges, daily water intake, medication reminders, daily mindfulness, early sleep reminders, exercise volume, and staying positive. The Huawei Watch Fit 2 will also send out reminders to ensure you practice good and healthy living habits even during busy times.



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

ROUND-UP



GAC Motor’s rewarding campaign ending soon

In Oman, the GAC Motor range includes high-quality sedans and SUVs like the GA4, and GA8; SUVs include the GS3, GS4 and GS8 and the MPV includes the GN8

MUSCAT: Own a brand new GAC Motor vehicle and get a chance to win a raffle – one GA4 GB 1.3 T. Also get a manufacturer’s warranty – 5 years/150,000 Kms, Comprehensive Insurance 1 year



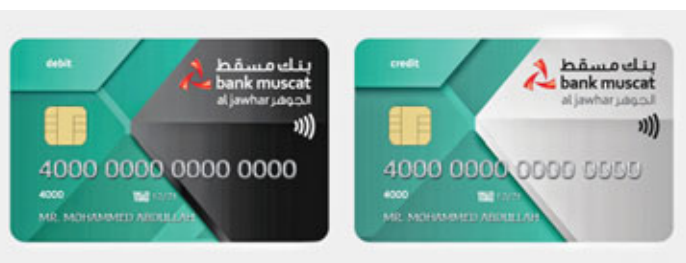
(Oman & UAE). The campaign is valid until June 9. (Conditions apply. For more details, please visit any GAC Motor showroom). In Oman, the GAC Motor range includes high-quality sedans and SUVs like the GA4, and GA8; SUVs include the GS3, GS4 and GS8 and the MPV includes the GN8. GAC Motor vehicles are painstakingly designed and engineered to offer customers some of the finest experiences in the automotive world. GAC Motor International is devoted to the production and sales of world-class vehicles, en-

gines, auto parts and car accessories as well as R&D of automobile engineering technology. Since its establishment, GAC Motor International has adopted a global vision and adhered to international standards, forming a world-class car manufacturing system with GAC Motor International’s global R&D network, world-class production model, global supply chain system and GAC Motor International marketing approach as its core. GAC R&D Centre has established a rigorous and well-organized automobile development management system with the vehicle design and development control program as its core components, a major system standardization development process as an extension, and supported by standardization of management process in each stage of vehicle development. In Oman, GAC Motor vehicles are distributed by New World Autos and backed by Saud Bahwan Group.

REFERRAL SCHEME

Al Jawhar scheme for Privilege Banking customers receive excellent response

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, continues to receive excellent feedback for its efforts to provide customers with attractive offers and benefits in line with its customer-centric vision. The bank’s currently ongoing Al Jawhar referral scheme, which is open to Privilege Banking customers has been receiving an excellent response over the last many weeks. The scheme, which will be open till 31 December 2022, gives all existing Al Jawhar customers a chance to earn up to OMR 5,000 by referring their friends and family members to join Privilege Banking. Customers can now earn an incentive of OMR 50 for every successful referral, up to a maximum of 100 referrals. All new referrals who successfully open and maintain their Al Jawhar account will also receive OMR 50 each making the scheme a win-win proposition for both existing customers as well as their family and friends. To participate in the exciting promotion, Al Jawhar customers have to download and fill the form given in the link below with both the customer’s and referee’s details and then email it to Al-JawharCampaign@bankmuscat.



com. The scheme is open to all existing Privilege Banking customers who successfully refer their friends and family to open new Al Jawhar salary accounts. The incentives will be credited on a quarterly basis into the accounts of both referrer and the referee on successful completion of a three-month eligibility period. Al Jawhar is designed to provide Privilege Banking customers with an exceptional banking experience and opens a world of opportunities for its exclusive clientele. Customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food; entertainment and shopping that are available through the ‘xperience with the ENTERTAINER’ app on their smartphones. They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of OMR 800. Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders offers access to 25 premium

lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat airport. Cardholders are eligible for a complimentary Dragon Pass and a ‘Meet and Greet’ service with 15% discount at over 450 global destinations. Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders can enjoy the “best in class” complimentary travel insurance, which includes travel accident insurance as well as insurance for lost baggage and money, cancellation, travel delay, delayed baggage, personal liability, legal expenses and loss of passport and access to free medical and legal referral services worldwide. The cardholders also enjoy 1% cash back on all local and international spends. Designed around unique lifestyle and banking requirements, Al Jawhar is a unique privilege banking service that offers its customers unmatched features and benefits.

WORLD MALAYALEE FEDERATION



WMF Oman celebrates World Environment Day

MUSCAT: World Malayalee Federation (WMF) Global President Dr. J. Retnakumar, Indian School Wadi Kabeer Principal D.N. Rao, WMF Middle East Vice President Rajan V Kokkuri, WMF National Coordinator Ullas Cheriyan, WMF Oman President Sunil Kumar, WMF Oman Vice-President Babu Thomas, WMF Oman Muscat Unit President Ansar AJ, various leaders and members of WMF, senior staffs of Indian School Wadi Kabir took active part in planting trees on account of World Environment Day on the premises of Indian School, Wadi Kabir, Primary Section. Dr. J. Retnakumar, Global President of WMF has proposed collaboration with Indian School Wadi Kabir for tree planting projects in and around Muscat. D.N. Rao, Principal, Indian School, Wadi Kabeer, agreed to the plan with great enthusiasm.

33RD COHORT OF GRADUATES



ABA Oman International School celebrates graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: ABA Oman International School celebrated the Class of 2022 graduation ceremony on campus, after two years of virtual and drive-through events during the pandemic. The 33rd cohort of graduates included 60 students representing 25 nationalities - a true testament to ABA’s international diversity. As the graduation guest speaker, Her Highness Sayyida Tania bint Shabib Al Said, founder of the Environment Society of Oman (ESO), imparted inspiring words of wisdom, “By standing up for what you believe in, you become the catalyst for change. Learn to adapt, grab opportunities as they come, pay attention to the details, and that will make all the difference.”

Lamya Al Kiyumi, outgoing ABA Board Chair complimented the graduates on completing the rigorous IB programme, “The IB education you have received has prepared you to be global citizens of the real world. As you move onto the next chapter of your life, we invite you to grow with us as our proud alumni, since ABA is your ‘school for life’.” The Class of 2022 has been the embodiment of ABA’s mission and vision, exemplifying attributes of the IB learner profile. “As future leaders, find the courage and conviction to embrace what makes you different and impact ethical change, so everyone in the world can experience true freedom. Wherever you go, continue to inspire, empower and explore,” encouraged Craig Williamson, ABA Head of School.

Through the coordinated efforts of Guy Essex, IB Diploma Coordinator and Denise Barker, University Counsellor, ABA graduates have been accepted into leading universities around the world, with most students having received offers in more than one country, illustrating the value globally of the gold standard IB qualification. Addressing the cohort, Simon Walker, High School Principal, remarked, “you are well-prepared for the future; it is what you do with what you have learnt that makes all the difference. We are very proud of the perseverance and resilience of our graduates and the strong commitment of the faculty to our students’ success.” Valedictorians Aditya Bhardwaj and Zaina Dabbous were recognized for delivering outstanding performances all year round. The International Understanding Award 2022 was presented to Zaina Dabbous in recognition of her contribution to the development and advancement of internationalism, while Cindy Freestone received the High School Philippa Leggate Award for Citizenship 2022 for her contribution to the ABA community. This year’s graduation ceremony marked the last celebration at the ABA Al Khuwair campus, since its inception in 1987. ABA Oman International School has now fully moved to its spectacular new state-of-the-art campus at Madinat Al Irfan, Airport Heights.

BIOBAG CONTEST

Nesto picks contest winners

MUSCAT: The winners of the first round of the Nesto Biobag Contest have been announced. The Biobag is a competition launched by Nesto on the occasion of World Earth Day to reduce the increasing consumption of plastics. Those who bought OMR5 or more from Nesto hypermarkets and carried it in their

carry bag had the opportunity to participate in the competition. The winners of the first phase of the project were announced by Younus Al Hashmi (Head of Inspection - Ministry of Commerce) at the ceremony held at Nesto Mabelah Branch. Nesto also hosted some special events to mark World Environment Day.

STRATEGIC SPONSOR

Nama Group sponsors Oman Electricity and Energy conference



MUSCAT: As Oman’s power and energy sectors are undergoing a major shift towards the use of renewable energy sources while adopting innovations and technological advancements to ensure overall efficiency to meet rising power demand, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Power Talks and Energy Conference under the sponsorship of Nama Group will look into the several emerging challenges that the sectors are facing. During the event, which will be held from June 6 to 8 at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, the challenges, plans, strategies, solutions and outlook will be discussed and presented by top regional power and energy industry experts and policymakers. The event’s technical committee, represented by prominent officials from Nama Group, Ministry



of Energy and Minerals, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), OQ, Majan Electricity Company, Tanweer, Muscat Electricity Distribution Company and Al Shuwamikh Oil Services, will provide direction that will offer a meaning-

ful platform and an opportunity to discourse, share ideas, and build collaboration amid a swiftly evolving energy landscape. IEEE Power Talks, which will be inaugurated by Dr Ali bin Amer al Shidhani, Under-Secretary of



Communications and IT, at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology features a two-day conference with main topics such as Oman Energy Market Outlook, Renewables and Energy Storage Solutions,

The Future of Power Grids, Energy Management and Efficiency, Asset Management and Optimization alongside case studies and panel discussions. It will feature renowned power and energy experts including

Dr Amer al Hinai, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Scientific Research, SQU; Eng Abdulaziz S al Shidhani, Director General for Renewable Energy and Hydrogen – Ministry of Energy and Minerals; Yaqoob bin Saif al Kiyumi, CEO of Oman Power & Water Procurement Company; Dr Ralf Blumenthal, SVP and Head of Grid Software Middle East – Siemens and Dr Fahd Hashiesh, Global Director, Renewable Energy Centre of Excellence – Air Products. The event is organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and supported by the Oman Society of Engineers. Nama Group is the event’s strategic partner and Schneider Electric the Sustainability Partner, while the sponsor lineup includes Siemens, Solar Wadi, Safe Line and Fortescue Future Industries.

ROUND-UP



Enjoy exclusive Nissan Privilege Programme

This offer for loyal customers will be applicable for vehicles bought for private use with yellow plate registrations and will not be applicable for rent a car, taxi, corporate, commercial registrations, SME or driving schools

MUSCAT: Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) is offering a loyalty programme that gives a host of benefits to its customers.

As per the loyalty programme, all Nissan existing owners and their immediate family members (father, mother, son(s) and unmarried daughter(s)) will be eligible for additional benefits on the purchase of another Nissan vehicle. This offer for loyal customers will be applicable for vehicles bought for private use with yellow plate

registrations and will not be applicable for rent a car, taxi, corporate, commercial registrations, SME or driving schools.

A senior official of SBA said, "We are committed to rewarding loyal Nissan owners and the loyalty programme is our way of saying we care about our returning customers."

"When a current owner or an immediate family member purchases a new Nissan, the owner or the family member will be reward-



ed with loyalty benefits available at that time. Over the years, Nissan has managed to make a loyal customer base and are happy to roll this program that benefits loyal Nissan customers."

Nissan loyalty programme has been grouped into three categories - Gold Members (2-3 vehicles in the family), Diamond Members

(4-5 vehicles in the family) & Platinum Members (6 and above vehicles in the family).

The Nissan Loyalty programme Members get special benefits like special in-house interest rates on the purchase of a new vehicle, additional PMS services, trade-in additional benefits and many more. Terms & conditions apply.

Civil engineering project at University of Buraimi ranks 3rd out of 320 competing scientific projects

MUSCAT: In a new achievement for students of the University of Buraimi at the regional level, a student research team from the civil engineering programme consisting of four female students, Manar Al Farsi, Shouq Al Wahibi, Aisha Al Masoudi and Shouq Al Jabri won third place in the 9th Abu Dhabi University Bachelor's Research Competition in the UAE out of 320 projects submitted by 55 universities.

The UoB team's project was entitled 'Salt Concrete from Palm Ash', and was supervised by Dr Ahmed Salaheddine Nasif, Associate Professor at the College of Engineering.

In this project, the team partially replaced cement with palm ash in concrete production, with seawater as a complete replacement of fresh water in the mixing process. The team concluded that 5% of cement replacement with palm fronds in conjunction with the complete replacement of pure water with seawater achieves an increase of more than 84%



in final compressive strength of concrete after 28 days more than that acquired by ordinary concrete mixed with seawater. Thus, this helps to use seawater to mix concrete without affecting its final compressive strength. This project has provided a promising environmental solution to get rid of palm waste and reduce the cement used, reducing pollution from the cement industry, as well as saving fresh water used in the concrete mixture.

EXPANSION

Malabar Gold inaugurates new showrooms in India



MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 285 outlets across 10 countries, inaugurated its new showrooms in Mukkam, Calicut, Kerala and Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The Mukkam showroom was inaugurated by Panakkad Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal, Kerala state president of the Indian Union Muslim League. M P Ahamed (Malabar Group Chairman), Abdul Salam KP (Vice Chairman - Malabar Group), Sham Lal Ahamed (Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds), O Asher (Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds), senior management officials and well-wishers were also present at the event.

The new showroom at Chandrasekharapur was inaugurated by Indian Film actor Sabyasachi Mishra, Sulochana Das (Mayor of Bhubaneswar), Susant Rout, MLA (North Bhubaneswar), Anant Narayan Jena, MLA (Central Bhubaneswar) and Mrs. Preetinanda Routray, Corporator, BMC in the presence of senior management officials and other dignitaries.

The store spanning 6500 sq. ft, located near Chandrasekharapur Police Station, Bhubaneswar, provides the largest design variety as well as fair prices for jewellery

with reasonable making charges.

Malabar Group chairman MP Ahamed said, "We are delighted to launch our newest stores, one being in my hometown Calicut and the other in Odisha at Chandrasekharapur. With every new store launch, we aim to be more accessible to our customers and cater to their every need. Our stores will provide customers with a world-class shopping experience, superior craftsmanship and a wide variety of designs suitable for every occasion. Our goal is to become the leading jewellery retail brand in the world in terms of both showroom count and sales."

The most distinguishing aspect of the new stores is the availability of the widest range of jewellery designs across bridal, party wear, and daily wear collections, with a particular focus on craftsmanship.

An impressive array of lightweight designs as well as an extensive range of studded and precious jewellery are also on display at this showroom. With a strong retail network of 285+ stores across 10 countries, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been rapidly expanding across markets.

As part of the group's CSR initiative, Malabar Gold & Diamonds allocates 5% of the profit earned by these showrooms for various charitable and philanthropic activities in the respective regions.

PRESTIGIOUS

National Finance recognised by Ministry of Social Development for its community initiatives

MUSCAT: As a company that is built on strong pillars of ethicality, transparency, and philanthropy, National Finance has remained committed to fulfilling not only its responsibilities toward its customers, employees, and shareholders but also to the communities in which it operates.

Under its Imtidad programme, which is an independent wing established for sustainable community initiatives, the company has joined hands with leading charitable organisations and demonstrated its keenness to enhance community welfare and meet environmental goals. Acknowledging the same, the Ministry of Social Development has honoured National Finance with a CSR award for its ongoing efforts that have had a significant positive impact on the community.

The prestigious award ceremony was conducted on June 5, at the Avani Muscat Hotel in Al-Seeb. The event witnessed the presence of His Highness Sayyid Kamil Al Said as the chief guest alongside Dr Laila Ahmed Al Najjar. An important industry event that recognised the contributions of key



players in the market.

Commenting on the award, Tariq Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer at National Finance said, "We are indeed delighted to have received such a prestigious award from the Ministry of Social Development. At National Finance, the spirit of community welfare runs through each member of our team. This award comes as a testament to the dedication of our team to help enhance the lives of people, protect the environment,

and raise a more socially conscious society."

He further added saying, "Given the ever-changing market scenario and the complexities that it brings with it, it is critical that we look at social issues through a strategic lens so we can conceptualise programmes that address the needs of our communities. Our CSR initiatives contribute to building individual capabilities, generating sustainable employment opportunities, and nurtur-

ing an empowered community."

National Finance's Imtidad programme has undertaken a number of initiatives that are centred on education, community, health, and the environment. Following a holistic approach to CSR, National Finance will continue to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country while leading programmes that are thoughtful, strategic, and encompass the broad vision of the country.

Committed to playing a vital role in spearheading transformational change in the sector, fueling growth, and advocating innovative practices, programmes, and projects in the market.

National Finance seeks to provide safe, efficient, and transparent financial solutions for corporates, SMEs and individuals alike. At the same time, it also seeks to enable individuals to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities, therefore, encouraging entrepreneurship in the country. Through its dedicated efforts, National Finance has been consistently contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the country.

11TH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

University of Buraimi's civil engineering students win Best Research Paper Award for final year projects

MUSCAT: A student team from the Civil Engineering Program at the University of Buraimi, consisting of four female students, namely, Aseela Al Naqabi, Lamia Al Miqbali, Balqees Al Shaibani and Buthaina Al Badi, received the best research paper award at the 11th National Symposium on Engineering Final Year Projects at Nizwa University held in May.

The winning research paper provided an environmental solution for the disposal of medical waste. Medical waste is considered hazardous, toxic and even deadly, because of its high potential to transmit diseases. Incineration is the main treatment of medical waste; however, the disposal of incineration products contin-



ues to pollute the environment. bottom ash and fly ash are the main outputs for the treatment of medical waste by incineration.

On another note, despite the

importance of cement, its production process causes a lot of harmful gas emissions. The world's cement production contributes about 5% of CO2 emissions,

which has negative effects on the Earth's environment.

The winning research studied the effects of partial replacement of ordinary Portland cement in concrete with treated medical waste. It found that replacing 7.5% of cement with fly ash from medical waste earns concrete more than 87% of the compressive strength after 7 days of treatment in fresh water, and after 28 days, concrete reached more than 110% of its compressive strength.

This research is part of a series of outstanding research done by civil engineering students at the University of Buraimi under the supervision of Dr Ahmed Salaheddine Nasif, Associate Professor at the College of Engineering.



Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing



Toll-free **800 71 222** or
9275 5522



THE
BEACHFRONT
JEBEL SIFAH

OWN YOUR DREAM HOME ON THE BEACH

Starting from **OMR 53,000**



Sea view homes at **The Beachfront** Jebel Sifah. Premium villas, townhouses & simplexes. Prices starting at **OMR 53,000**. This unique neighborhood includes a secluded beach promenade and an infinity pool for the ultimate beachfront lifestyle.

Phase 1 – Sold out and ready to welcome homeowners

Avail of the limited-time special offer
Register your interest for Phase 2 today!

\$ 10% Down Payment
& Extended Payment Plan

 **Signature Villas**
with Infinity Pools

 **Located Directly**
on the Beach

 **Only 45-minute Drive**
from Muscat

 **Private Pools**
& Garden

 **Family Residency**
for All Nationalities


JEBEL SIFAH
MUSCAT

Book Your Unit Now
+968 2464 5555

MASTER DEVELOPER
MURIYA
موريا

JEEP. ROAD TO JUVENTUS

Win an unforgettable VIP experience with Juventus in Italy



A Jeep® SUV allows you to go anywhere and do anything. But have you ever imagined it could take you to Italy to live an unforgettable VIP experience with the Juventus team?

When you purchase a Jeep® SUV before 30 June 2022, you are automatically entered into the draw. You could win a once-in-a-lifetime adventure where you'll rub shoulders with the iconic football club.

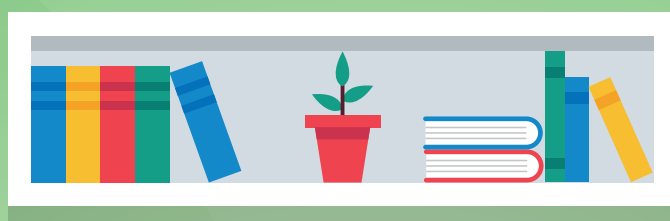
So, what are you waiting for? Tap below to explore our range of Jeep® SUVs and begin your amazing journey.



START YOUR JOURNEY



Business Owner?



Would you like to provide safe & simple e-payment solution for your customers?



www.thawani.om

Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to Download





**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
PALETTE
FURNITURE
SOLUTIONS**

Call us on

99614066



**HAVE A
DESIGN
IN MIND?
WE CAN
MAKE IT
FOR YOU!**

**Contact us on 99614066 to make
customized pallet furniture**