

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:11 pm
Asr	3:38 pm
Maghrib	6:35 pm
Isha	7:48 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:22 am
IFTAR	6:35 pm



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BOOK ON RENEWABLE RENAISSANCE PUBLISHED

The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) has issued the English version of the book titled "The System of Government Transition: Modern and Renewable Renaissance of Oman (An Analytical Study)". **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 39 | 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

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INITIATIVE

Steps taken to expedite labour dispute settlements

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Council of Administrative Affairs for Judiciary is closely working with the Ministry of Labour and the Unit of Implementation of Oman Vision 2040 to devise a number of initiatives to develop and streamline the administration of justice relating to labour in the Sultanate of Oman.

These initiatives are expected to contribute to the improvement of business environment in the Sultanate.

So far, the Council of Administrative Affairs for Judiciary has launched two initiatives: First, assigning a number of judges with the labour disputes settlement committees in the Labour department and second, the establishment of evening labour departments in Muscat Governorate.

These initiatives are aimed at implementing the legal provisions as also to ease the litigation procedures relating to disputes listed in the Royal Decree No. 125/2020 and to support the policies on improvement of business environment in the country. **>A2**

MEETING

ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY

Details on >A5



**OVER OMR500,000
RAISED FROM DONATIONS
THIS RAMADAN**

More than 21,000 donors used the official website to contribute for 72 charities across the Sultanate of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Donations amounting to more than OMR500,000 have been raised during Ramadan 2022, through donate.om. Donors can use the website to make contributions to registered

charities in Oman.

More than 21,000 donors contributed through the site to 72 charities across Oman. They include national organisations such as Al Rahma Association for Motherhood and Childhood, the Oman Charitable Organisation and the Omani

Bahjah Orphan Society.

Local organisations, including charity teams in Nizwa, Ibri, Mudhaibi, Mussanah, Saham, Suwaiq and many others have also received donations through donate.om.

Other volunteer groups such as the Environment Society of Oman, the Oman Cancer Association and the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs also benefited from donate.om.

Dar Al Atta'a received the maximum money through donate.om: Some 3,500 people made donations amounting to a total of more than OMR 35,000, while Al Rahma Association

also received similar amounts: More than OMR34,000 came in from 3,714 donors. The Oman Charitable Organisation also received more than OMR 34,000 with 2,019 people pledging funds to the charity through donate.om.

The Oman Charitable Organisation announced last week the opening of volunteer registrations to help with collecting donations for iftar during Ramadan. Volunteers for the purpose are also present across several locations in Muscat, including Muscat Grand Mall, Nesto Al Maabala, Mall of Oman and the Mall of Muscat. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Aerial spraying for Dobas palm bug

1 The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources organised on Tuesday a campaign for aerial spraying of the Dobas palm bug (spring generation) 2022 in South Al Batinah Governorate. Aerial spraying has covered the villages of the Wilayat of Al Awabi, the villages of Wadi Bani Kharous, Al Sabikha Village and Falaj Bani Khazir Village. **>A5**

WORLD

Battle for Donbas begins: Zelenskyy

2 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia has started its eastern Ukraine offensive. "We can now confirm that Russian troops have begun the battle for the Donbas, which they have been preparing for a long time," Zelenskyy said. A "significant portion of the Russian army is now concentrated on this offensive", he added. **>A7**

MARKET

Treasury bills worth OMR77.5mn issued



3 The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR77.5 million by way of treasury bills on Tuesday. The bills are for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached 99.946 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.940 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.70225 per cent and 0.70263 per cent, respectively. **>B1**

VIRTUAL MEETING

Omanis invited to invest in and experience Xinjiang

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani nationals have been invited to experience the natural wonders of China's Xinjiang region and invest in its fast-growing economy.

During a virtual meeting titled, 'Xinjiang is A Wonderful Land', organised by the Embassy of China in Muscat and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Chinese government provided an in-depth glimpse into the developments in the region and things it offers to people from overseas.

Gateway

"Xinjiang is the gateway from China to the West and it is also a key part of the country's Belt and Road initiative," said Li Lingbing, ambassador of China to Oman. "I invite Omanis to visit Xinjiang and invest in businesses there."

A key segment of economic in-



Li Lingbing, ambassador of China to Oman

vestment in Xinjiang includes the tourism sector in the region.

Xinjiang has plenty to offer in terms of tourism; it is a land with magnificent landscapes and sceneries. While it is dotted with cultural and historical sites that have become landmarks, Xinjiang is



also known as the land of melons and fruits and is visited by both Chinese and foreign tourists.

Economically speaking, Xinjiang is a key node on the Eurasian Continental Bridge that connects China to the rest of Asia and Europe. The city's presence will

speed up development of core areas in the Silk Road Economic Belt. More than 170 countries have trade ties with the region.

Economic growth indicators

Figures shared by Chinese officials show that in 2021, Xinji-

ang's regional GDP was 1.6 trillion Renminbi (OMR96 billion), an increase of seven percent over the previous year.

The average annual disposable per-capita income of urban and rural residents increased by over eight percent and 10.8 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, continuous improvements in the social security system and free medical checkups for the entire population have had a great impact in improving the quality of life of the local population.

A nine-year compulsory education system has also been rolled out across the region. Comprehensive efforts have been taken to integrate rural and urban education systems.

Efforts made by the government have also resolved the problem of extreme poverty. By the end of 2020, 3.06 million had been lifted out of poverty, while 3,666 villages

and 35 counties were also brought out of poverty.

Religious freedom

In line with Xinjiang's multi-faith roots, people's freedom of religion and religious beliefs are respected and protected in the region.

The principle of freedom of religious beliefs, enshrined in the national constitution, has been implemented in its entirety. Furthermore, people in the region are guaranteed by law the right to use and develop their ethnic languages and script.

The meeting was also attended by Nasser Al Busaidi, the ambassador of Oman to China, who saw first-hand the developments in the region during his visit to Xinjiang, where he was able to have person-to-person contact with the people. He invited all Omanis to go and experience Xinjiang just like he had.



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27,932 REACH

Those subject to the provisions of VAT urged to submit tax returns for the first three months of 2022.



Story on tax return submission in Oman

A story on tax return submission in Oman reached 27,932 people and had 1,235 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

3,000 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute news wrap-up

The Maghrib Minute news wrap-up had 3,000 views and reached 16,900 people on Facebook.

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

945 VIEWS



The Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on Qarraqasho celebrated by children had 945 views and 49 likes on Instagram.

OMAN WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES COMPANY

New technology to monitor water networks, detect leaks

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Member of Nama Group) recently launched state-of-the-art technologies for monitoring water networks and to detect potential invisible leaks.

The new technology is expected to scan the transmission lines by using thermal and multi-spectral cameras.

Using this technology, the company will receive an accurate results within a short period through the data available at the OWWSC database which is managed by SCADA Control and Monitoring System.



NRAA

Book on renewable renaissance published

MUSCAT: The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) has published the English version of the book "The System of Government Transition: Modern and Renewable Renaissance of Oman (An Analytical Study)". The issue comes as part of the 26th volume of the Research and Survey in National and International Archives series.

The book has 614 pages and includes 16 chapters divided into two main themes. The first theme is on the organisation of mechanisms for the transfer of power throughout history. The second theme highlights the organisation of the state's administration and its structure, the establishment of a methodology of operation, as well as documents that support research from the NRAA archives. -ONA

INITIATIVES

< FROM A1 Three evening labour department courts

The initiatives are also aimed at improving the methods of deliberation in labour disputes so as to cut time and ease procedures.

The Council of Administrative Affairs for Judiciary has also assigned a number of judges to be part of the committees on labour

disputes settlement in the labour departments in various governorates of the Sultanate.

On the other hand, and as part of its endeavour to accelerate the pace of settlement of labour cases, the Council of Administrative Affairs for Judiciary has taken a decision on formation of three evening labour departments in the courts of Muscat, Seeb and Al Amerat.

This step comes in the wake of increase in the number of labour cases, which stood at 3,024 before the Muscat Primary Court in 2021.





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PEST CONTROL

Muscat Municipality advisory on ways to get rid of rodents

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Plugging all holes in the home, laying traps to catch rats and mice, keeping the trash bin closed, disposing of all leftover food and ensuring that birdfeeders on the property are far from the house are some of the ways in which people can get rid of rodent infestations.

Issued by Muscat Municipality, the guidelines were published in view of public safety and raising the awareness of the people.

“The pest control division of Muscat Municipality plays a major role in reducing the numbers of pests and rodents in Muscat Governorate,” said the municipality in a statement. This is done “through periodic control programmes that target breeding grounds of pests and rodents.

“The division carries out constant surveys to identify the types and characteristics of pests and rodents, learning about their breeding places and behaviour and eventually implements awareness campaigns to educate people,” added the organisation. “The municipality hence issues these guidelines to help citizens and residents to get rid of attractions that host pests and rodents.”

Other practices people can follow include ensuring all doors and windows are properly closed and installing a mesh to prevent entry of rodents. The municipality also urged the people to test their traps frequently, store grains in airtight containers and to cut the grass in their gardens on a regular basis.



ANNUAL RANKING

Sultanate ranked fourth on Global Food Security Index

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is fourth in the Arab world in the Global Food Security Index for the year 2021, affiliate of the Economist Impact.

According to the latest data on the Global Food Security Index for the year 2021, affiliated with the Economist Impact, the Sultanate of Oman ranked fourth on the Arab food security index and 40 globally.

The 2021 GFSI is the 10th edition published by The Economist Impact that updates the model annually to capture annual changes in structural factors affecting food security. Where Qatar topped with the highest score on the Arab food security index with a score of 73.6 and Ireland was in the first place in the world with a score of 84.0. The index measures the basic issues of food security across 113 countries.

The state of Kuwait ranked second in the Arab world, followed by the United Arab Emirates, while Bahrain ranked fifth, followed by Saudi Arabia.

The 2021 GFSI is the 10th edition published by The Economist Impact that updates the model annually to capture annual changes in structural factors affecting food security.

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) takes into account affordability issues across several metrics, namely food cost, availability, quality and safety, natural resources and resilience in 113 countries based on 58 unique indicators that measure drivers of food security in both developing and developed countries.

Peak

After making rapid gains in the first few years of its inception, GFSI scores peaked across all countries in 2019, before declining over the past two years amid the coronavirus pandemic, conflict and climate variability.



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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:35 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:11 pm
Asr	3:38 pm
Maghrib	6:35 pm
Isha	7:48 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:22 am



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» IFTAR RECIPE



CHICKEN SAMOSA

By Mouli Datta

INGREDIENTS FOR DOUGH

- 1 & 1/2 cups, all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp, ajwain (carom seeds)
- 3 tsp, ghee
- Salt to taste
- Water
- Ingredients for chicken filling
- 2 tbsp, oil
- 2 small onion (chopped)
- 2-3 chopped, green chilli
- 1/2 tsp, ginger-garlic paste
- Minced chicken
- 1/4 tsp, turmeric powder
- 1 tsp, chilli powder
- 1 tsp, coriander powder
- 1/2 tsp, cumin powder
- 1/2 tsp, garam masala powder
- Salt to taste
- Oil for deep frying

PREPARATION

- In a bowl, add maida, salt, ajwain seeds, ghee and mix well.
- Gradually add water and knead the dough. Let the dough sit for 10 minutes.
- Heat a pan with some oil.
- Add onions, green chillies and sauté them.
- Add ginger garlic paste and sauté along.
- Add chicken mince, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, coriander powder, garam masala, salt, cumin powder. Sauté everything well.
- Turn off the stove and cool the chicken filling completely.
- Take a small portion of the dough and roll it out in an oval shape.
- Cut it into halves.
- Take one part of the dough and fold it in a cone shape.
- Place the filling into the cone shape.
- Apply some water on the edges of the dough and seal it.
- Shape the samosa such that it sits on its base.
- Heat oil for deep frying.
- Once the oil is medium hot (note that the oil should not be too hot), drop the samosas into the oil and fry them.
- Once the samosas turn golden brown in colour, take them out and lay them in a plate lined with tissue paper.
- Serve them hot with mint chutney or ketchup.

» FASTING HEALTH TIP

MONITOR YOUR BLOOD SUGAR

Diabetics should ensure that they monitor blood sugar during fasting, and arrange their meals such that they avoid low blood sugar levels.



» GOOD DEEDS

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WORLDLY
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The Holy Month is the right time to stay away from those distractions that hinders your spiritual growth. While they are essential in life, getting overly addicted to them or dependent on them isn’t good. Avoid spending too much time shopping, on your mobile phones, laptops and more.

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IN SOUTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE

Ministry organises campaign for aerial spraying of Dobas palm bug

AL AWABI: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources organised on Tuesday a campaign for aerial spraying of the Dobas palm bug (spring generation) 2022 in South Al Batinah Governorate.

Aerial spraying has covered the villages of the Wilayat of Al Awabi, the villages of Wadi Bani Kharous, Al Sabikha Village and Falaj Bani Khazir Village.

The campaign aimed to gradually get rid of the Dobas palm bug and to mitigate the impacts of the pest on the date palm trees in the villages of the Wilayat. — **ONA**



REVIEW MEETING

Royal Office Minister receives envoy of Hungary

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Tuesday Tibor Szatmari, Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides reviewed areas of cooperation and means of enhancing them to serve the joint interests.

They also discussed several matters of common interest. — **ONA**

DONATION CAMPAIGN

FROM A1 A number of charitable initiatives launched

"Despite the removal of many precautionary measures and the improvement of economic conditions, the number of needy families, those laid off from their jobs and those in debt is also increasing, so, we are still spending a lot of money to help poor families and other aid programmes," said Dr Shamsa Al Harthi from Dar Al Atta'a. "Last year, the total value of the donations we received was more than OMR3 million and we expect to get more this year so that we can help more needy people and implement many aid programmes for various groups of society," she added.

To build the Al Rahma Charitable Centre, the 'Your Rial – One Million' campaign was launched

to collect a million Rials in donations, but the donation of a single Rial is also welcome. The project was one of the plans of late Rahma Al Musafaer, who passed away last February and was known as the 'Lady of Giving'. The project will contribute towards financing various programmes to provide assistance to about 1,700 families.

"We witnessed great participation under the campaign," said Warda Al Badi from Al Rahma Association. "We will continue to spread awareness about this campaign among private sector institutions so that they can support us through their social responsibility initiatives, in addition to donations received by community individuals."

Among local charities, the Zakat Committee of Seeb received more than OMR60,000 in donations. Other zakat committees such as the ones in Amerat, Suwaiq and Nizwa received more than OMR20,000 each.

Mahmoud Al Jamudi, head of the media committee in the Nizwa Charitable Team, said: "The team launched a number of charitable initiatives during the month of Ramadan, including the Iftar initiative for students, which aims to provide breakfast and dinner for college students coming from outside the state. Meals are provided with contributions from society and companies in Nizwa.

"We have a number of other initiatives, including the 'Atta'

programme to raise OMR one million to cover the costs of the association's charitable works. The association also completed the distribution of food baskets to 1,400 orphans and needy families, and also launched the annual Maskani initiative, which aims to build three houses for needy families during the year, each home valued at OMR30,000."

Furthermore, the well-known Fak Kurba initiative continues for the ninth season. The initiative aims to collect financial donations for release of prisoners who are insolvent and involved in civil cases, including labour and legal disputes. This year, Fak Kurba initiative seeks to get released 910 prisoners.

VACANCIES

A well-established Global GAP/HACCP certified corporate farming company seeks to recruit the following personnel to augment its growth plans:

PROJECT MANAGER:

- A degree in B.Sc./M.Sc. (Agriculture).
- A min of 15 years of hands-on experience in managing a large-scale vegetable farm with a verifiable track record.
- Knowledge of plant protection, plant nutrition, irrigation is a pre-requisite.
- Candidate should be between 38 to 45 years of age.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MANAGER:

- A degree in B.Sc. (Agriculture).
- A min of 10-15 years' experience in growing of vegetable crops with excellent knowledge of plant protection, plant nutrition & irrigation.
- Candidate should be between 30 to 40 years of age.
- Candidates with less experience can be considered for Junior positions

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE MANAGER:

- Should possess a Mechanical Engineering degree
- A min of 10 years in equipment maintenance in a large-scale farm or related industry
- Age between 30 to 38 years.

Salary and benefits will not be a constraint for the right candidate.

Interested may apply in confidence at omanvacancy.apply@gmail.com on or before 30th April 2022.

Ramadan Iftar Program



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

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

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WORLD

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BLASTS

Several explosions target educational facilities in Afghan capital of Kabul

KABUL: Several blasts targeted educational facilities in Afghan capital, Kabul, on Tuesday, with an explosion at a boys' high school killing at least 6 people, officials said.

The explosions targeted the Mumtaz Education Center and the Abdul Rahim Shahid high school in the western Dasht-e-Barchi area of Kabul. The children were leaving school at the time of the first blast. A second explosion hit shortly after the first. Witnesses told the Associated Press that a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the school complex that can house up to 1,000 students.

Local media reported that at least 20 people had been killed, but that number has not been independently verified. Khalid Zadran, police spokesperson for the Taliban in Kabul, said that the attack "killed six people and wounded 11 others."



Officials have said the number of injured could go up.

There were no reports of casualties so far at the Mumtaz center.

Afghan news channel Tolo news said that the Ministry of

Interior had confirmed the blasts at the school and had launched an investigation.

Victims of the attack were taken to hospital, but the Taliban cordoned off the area and banned

journalists from taking photos.

Italian NGO Emergency — which runs a medical facility in the city — wrote on Twitter that seven children had been taken to their hospital. **aw**

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



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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SUMMIT

US announces 2nd global COVID-19 summit on May 12

WASHINGTON: The White House has announced that the United States will co-host the second global COVID-19 summit virtually on May 12 to continue the international effort in the fight against pandemic and to advance global preparedness. "The summit will redouble our collective efforts to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and

prepare for future health threats," said the White House on Monday. The US will host the summit with Belize, chair of the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, Germany, the current president of the Group of G-7; Indonesia, which currently holds the presidency of the Group of 20 largest economies, or G-20; and Senegal as African Union chair. **ANI**

LOWEST RECORDED LEVEL

Area covered by Antarctic sea ice falls to lowest level



GUANGZHOU: The area covered by sea ice in Antarctica fell to its lowest level in 2022, according to records that began in the late 1970s.

The record set this year is the second sharp drop in ice coverage in just five years, Chinese researchers from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou and the Laboratory of Southern Marine Science in Zhuhai report in the journal Advances in Atmospheric Sciences.

They have been investigating ocean currents and weather phenomena behind the melting, but are still faced with mysteries.

While ice in the Arctic is rapidly decreasing due to global warming, the ice surface in the Antarctic, on the other hand, has tended to increase slightly, by about 1% every decade since the 1970s.

After an unusual decline recorded in 2017, it happened again this year at the end of the summer in the southern hemisphere at the

end of February 2022. For the first time, the extent of Antarctic ice actually fell to less than 2 million square km.

The extent was about 30% less than the average for the years 1981 to 2010.

The climate change service of the EU Copernicus programme had also already reported that the daily measured extent of Antarctic sea ice this February had reached its lowest level since records began in 1979. **ANI**

INDIA VISIT

European Commission chief to visit India from April 24 to 25

NEW DELHI: European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen will pay an official visit to India on April 24-25, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

The MEA said in a statement that this will be her first visit to India as the President of the European Commission. During her visit, the President of the European Commission will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She will also meet President

Ram Nath Kovind and other dignitaries.

The President of the European Commission has been invited as the Chief Guest for this year's edition of Raisina Dialogue and will address the inaugural session on April 25.

"India and the European Union share a vibrant Strategic Partnership which has been witnessing strong growth with wider and deeper cooperation in Political and Strategic, Trade and Commerce, Climate and Sustainability,

Digital and Technology aspects as well as people-to-people ties," the MEA statement read.

The India-EU Leaders' Meeting in May 2021 set new milestones with the decision to resume trade talks and the launch of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership.

The forthcoming visit of the President of the European Commission will be an opportunity to review progress and further intensify the multifaceted partnership with the EU. **ANI**



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Cristiano Ronaldo's newborn baby boy dies

The Portuguese star also revealed the birth of a baby girl with partner Georgina Rodriguez

MANCHESTER: Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo on Monday announced that his newborn son has passed away. The Portuguese star also revealed the birth of a baby girl with partner Georgina Rodriguez, with the pair previously stating that they had been expecting twins. He



further asked for privacy at this very difficult time. "It is with our deepest sadness we have to announce that our baby boy has passed away. It is the greatest pain that any parents

can feel. Only the birth of our baby girl gives us the strength to live this moment with some hope and happiness. We would like to thank the doctors and nurses for all their expert care and support. We are all devastated at this loss and we kindly ask for privacy at this very difficult time. Our baby boy, you are our angel. We will always love you," Cristiano Ronaldo posted on his Instagram. Ronaldo is a father to four other children, sons Cristiano Jr and Mateo, and daughters Eva and Alana. In 2017, Georgina Rodriguez who is Ronaldo's current partner gave birth to a baby girl - her first with Ronaldo and the Portugal star's fourth child. In 2021, the couple then announced that they were expecting twins. **ANI**



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AYAN CLUB AND RAVI XI SCORE VICTORIES

MUSCAT: Two matches were played in the Ramadan cricket at PSM on Monday night. In the first match played between Muscat Club and Ayan XI, Muscat won the toss and elected to bat. But they could score only 44 runs due to fine bowling from Ayan and Waqas who bowled just 2 overs and got 2 wickets for only 5 runs. The modest total was chased by Ayan Club in just 4.1 overs with Abubaker scoring 17 runs in 6 balls while Ijaz scored 13 runs. Shoaib from Muscat Club got 3 wickets in an over but failed to guide his team to victory. Waqas was declared man of the match. In the second match played between Ravi XI and Total XI, the former scored 148 for 3 wickets. Fayyaz and Navid hammered the Total bowlers all over the ground. Fayyaz scored 54 (6x6 , 4x3) and Navid 27 runs in just 12 balls. Pick of the bowler from Total XI was Abdallah who got 3 wickets for 31 runs. In reply, the Total team could score only 73 runs in 8 overs. Ruseel scored 27 runs , Mudasir 32 runs. Bilal got 2 wickets for just 8 runs. Fayyaz was declared man of the match.

OMAN CONCLUDES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL UAE TOUR

Times News Service

DUBAI: Oman, Scotland and Papua New Guinea contested the tri-series held at the United Arab Emirates between April 9 and April 16, 2022. Oman won 2 games in the tournament and both of them were convincing victories over PNG. In the first encounter, Oman restricted them to 224/9 and chased the target down with 7 wickets and 35 balls to spare. In the other, Oman erected a massive score of 277/8 and bowled PNG out for 192 in 44.3 overs. Further, the games that slipped away were matters of fine margins. In their first game of the series, Oman cleaned Scotland out for 215. However, an untimely run-out coupled with an inspired effort on the field from their opponents meant that they fell 4 runs



short at the end of a thrilling run chase. In the other match, Oman fought hard until the very end to defend a first-innings total of 225, but a brilliant 37-run knock from Mark Watt sealed the game in his side's favor with just 1 ball to go. Jatinder Singh had a fantastic tour with the bat for Oman. He scored 259 runs over the 4-game stretch, including 2 half-centuries and 1 magnificent century.

Jatinder's 118-run knock against PNG on April 12, 2022 is the highest ever individual tally for Oman in ODIs. He showcased his expansive repertoire of strokes throughout the campaign, forcing the bowlers to constantly tinker with their line and length and also ran hard between the wickets to accumulate runs with relatively risk-free shots. With the ball, Bilal Khan continued his hot streak

and picked up 13 wickets in the tour - the highest individual tally of the tri-series. He claimed his 3rd five-wicket haul in the space of 9 games in the final match of the tournament. The last time he went wicketless in an ODI for Oman was on September 28, 2021. Kaleemullah complemented Bilal superbly in all the games and went on to pick up 7 wickets himself. Both of them were equally effective with the new ball and the old, be it at the start of the innings, in the middle or at the death. There were other positives too. Khawar Ali and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood played the supporting act in Oman's games against PNG expertly, allowing Jatinder to truly dominate the bowling attack. Ayaan Khan collected a total of 155 runs, with his 68 in the first match very nearly proving enough to take Oman over the finish line.

QURUM STARS WIN DANUBE RAMADAN CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Qurum Stars defeated Kala Cosco by 3 runs and won the Danube Ramadan Cricket Tournament organised by Al Hail Cricket Team.





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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2022 reaching \$108.57, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 49 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$108.08. - **ONA**

MARKET

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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,261.99 points, up by 0.2 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 482.76 points. Sohar Power, up 9.76 per cent, was the top gainer while, DIDIC, down 9.7 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR77.5mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from April 20 until May 18

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR77.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from April 20 until May 18.

The average accepted price reached 99.946 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.940 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.70225 per cent and 0.70263 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides



the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.75 per cent while the

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

Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield

curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -**ONA**

OIL PRICE



Oil rises as Libya outage adds to supply woes, Shanghai prepares to reopen

LONDON: Oil prices rose on Tuesday as investors fretted over tight global supply after Libya was forced to halt some exports and as factories in Shanghai prepared to reopen post a COVID-19 shutdown, easing some demand worries.

Brent crude futures rose 61 cents, or 0.5 per cent, to \$113.77 a barrel at 0349 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 33 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to \$108.54 a barrel, according to Reuters.

Gains were limited with the dollar trading at a fresh two-year high. A stronger dollar hurts oil buyers holding other currencies.

Both benchmark contracts gained more than 1 per cent in the previous session after hitting their highest since March 28 on a political crisis in Libya. The country said it could not deliver oil from its biggest oil field and shut another field due to political protests.

"Outages in Libya deepened

concern over tight global supply and the Ukraine crisis dragged on, offsetting concern over slowing Chinese demand," said Ajay Kedia, director at energy consultancy Kedia Commodities.

The latest supply hit came just as fuel demand in China, the world's largest oil importer, was expected to pick up as manufacturing plants prepared to reopen in Shanghai. Although oil prices are still vulnerable to demand shocks as China continues to impose tough curbs to contain COVID outbreaks.

"For oil prices to take off on a sustainable trajectory, reopening mainland cities is necessary for translating into a sustainable economic rebound that supports oil demand," SPI Asset Management's managing director, Stephen Innes, said in a note.

The Libya outage highlights just how bullishly reactive oil markets have become to supply shocks, Innes added. -**BNA**

ECONOMIC DATA

Overseas experts, business leaders see strong resilience in China's economy

BEIJING: Newly-released economic data for the first quarter of this year show that China's economy remains stable despite downward pressure.

Overseas experts and business leaders say the Chinese economy has shown strong resilience despite the pressure and global challenges and continues to have massive future growth potential.

Multiple risks threaten to weaken the world's economic recovery. These risks include military conflict, the pandemic, inflation and supply disturbance, said Liang Guoyong, a senior economist with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. "However, China's economy is still relatively resilient and able to cope with challenges," Liang said.

According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday, China's gross domestic product grew 4.8 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter, exceeding market expectations.

China's consumer price index remains very low when major developed countries are facing the most severe inflation in four

decades, Liang said.

It was no easy feat for China to record such a growth rate under the current and complex international and domestic situation, Liang said.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical challenges, China's economy will keep its strong resilience and growth momentum, possessing the determination to overcome turbulence, said Francis Chua, chairman emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Effective macroeconomic policies in response to global challenges have contributed to China's steady economic growth.

The Chinese economy prioritises long-term structural growth over the short-term, Khairy Tourk, professor of economics with the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, told Xinhua.

While the United States has flooded its market with cash, spurring inflation which now haunts its economy, he said China has kept interest rates constant to avoid hurting medium- and small-sized companies. -**Xinhua**

BANK MUSCAT

Souq Al Wathbah to showcase SMEs' attractive products and services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The SMEs Development Authority and Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, have joined hands to organise the annual Ramadan Souq Al Wathbah at Muscat Street at the bank's head office from April 21 to 23 (Thursday to Saturday).

Souq Al Wathbah, which comes as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Bank Muscat, aims to promote small enterprises and will feature attractive products and services from more than 120 entrepreneurs and SMEs. The 3-day exhibition, which is being held as part of the bank's commitment to delivering long-term benefits to the nation, will showcase a number of Omani products encompassing fashion, beauty, health and food as well as services at competitive prices.

The souq will be open from 8pm to 12 midnight and offer a unique shopping experience to visitors and promote Omani small enterprises. In particular, the Ramadan Souq creates an avenue to successfully market these small



businesses' products in a market that is characterised by intense competition. Hence, identifying and seizing opportunities are all the more important for Omani SMEs to survive and grow to the next stage in their evolution. Bank Muscat has been organising the Ramadan Souq in association with the SMEs Development Authority since 2017 to strengthen the SME sector in Oman. The Al Wathbah Souq has become an important platform that educates the community about the importance of MSMEs being the backbone of the country's economy and also gives Omani MSMEs an opportunity to

network with successful entrepreneurs and exchange experiences.

On this occasion, the organising committee would like to extend its appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for their cooperation in making this annual event a success. The souq is expected to witness excellent participation from the public and the media, especially as it is one of the well-known souqs held during the month of Ramadan. The event is part of the strategies of both the SMEs Development Authority and Bank Muscat to support Omani entrepreneurs and SMEs.

Bank Muscat has also launched various other initiatives to benefit entrepreneurs including the Al Wathbah Academy, Al Wathbah Businesswomen's Forum etc. Al Wathbah Academy was launched by the bank in 2013 as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to equip Omani youth with self-employment skills. It reflects the bank's commitment to sustainable development and strengthening the role of SMEs in the economic development of Oman. The programme is conducted in 8 modules spread over 4 to 8 months and leads to the internationally recognised certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Notably, the bank's Al Wathbah SME department offers a comprehensive suite of tailor-made finance solutions and non-financial services targeted at small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Credit facilities, both funded and non-funded, are available to all sectors. Further support is extended through non-financial services in areas of education, coaching, networking opportunities and workshops.

DATA

India's sugar exports rise by 65% to \$4.6 billion

NEW DELHI: India's sugar exports surged by 64.9 per cent to \$4.6 billion in the financial year 2021-22 from \$2.79 billion recorded in the previous year, the government data showed.

As per data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), India exported sugar to 121 countries across the world during the financial year ended March 2022.

In 2013-14, sugar exports stood at \$1.17 billion. This rose to \$4.6 billion in 2021-22, which is 291 per cent higher when compared with the exports during 2013-14.

During 2021-22, sugar exports surged by 64.90 per cent year-on-year despite logistical challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic in the form of high freight rates and container shortages, among others. -**ANI**

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STUDY DETAILS BENEFITS OF TURMERIC COMPOUND

According to a new study by the University of California, a compound found in turmeric called Curcumin helps grow engineered blood vessels and tissues.

The findings of the study were published in the journal, 'ACS Applied Materials; Interfaces'.

The study indicated that a finding by UC Riverside bioengineers could hasten the development of lab-grown blood vessels and other tissues to replace and regenerate damaged tissues in human patients.

Curcumin has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties and is known to suppress angiogenesis in malignant tumours.

The magnetic hydrogels embedded with curcumin-coated nanoparticles promote the secretion of vascular endothelial growth factors.

Curcumin's possible use for vascular regeneration has been suspected for some time but has not been well studied. Huinan Liu, a bioengineering professor in UCR's Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering, led a project to investigate curcumin's regenerative properties by coating magnetic iron oxide nanoparticles with the compound and mixing them into a biocompatible hydrogel.

Bioengineers at UC Riverside have now discovered that when delivered through magnetic hydrogels into stem cell cultures this versatile com-

pound paradoxically also promotes the secretion of vascular endothelial growth factor, or VEGF, that helps vascular tissues grow.

When cultured with stem cells derived from bone marrow, the magnetic hydrogel gradually released the curcumin without injuring the cells.

Compared to hydrogels embedded with bare nanoparticles, the group of hydrogels loaded with curcumin-coated nanoparticles showed a higher amount of VEGF secretion.

"Our study shows that curcumin released from magnetic hydrogels promotes the cells to secrete VEGF, which is one of the most critical growth factors to enhance the formation of new blood vessels," said co-author

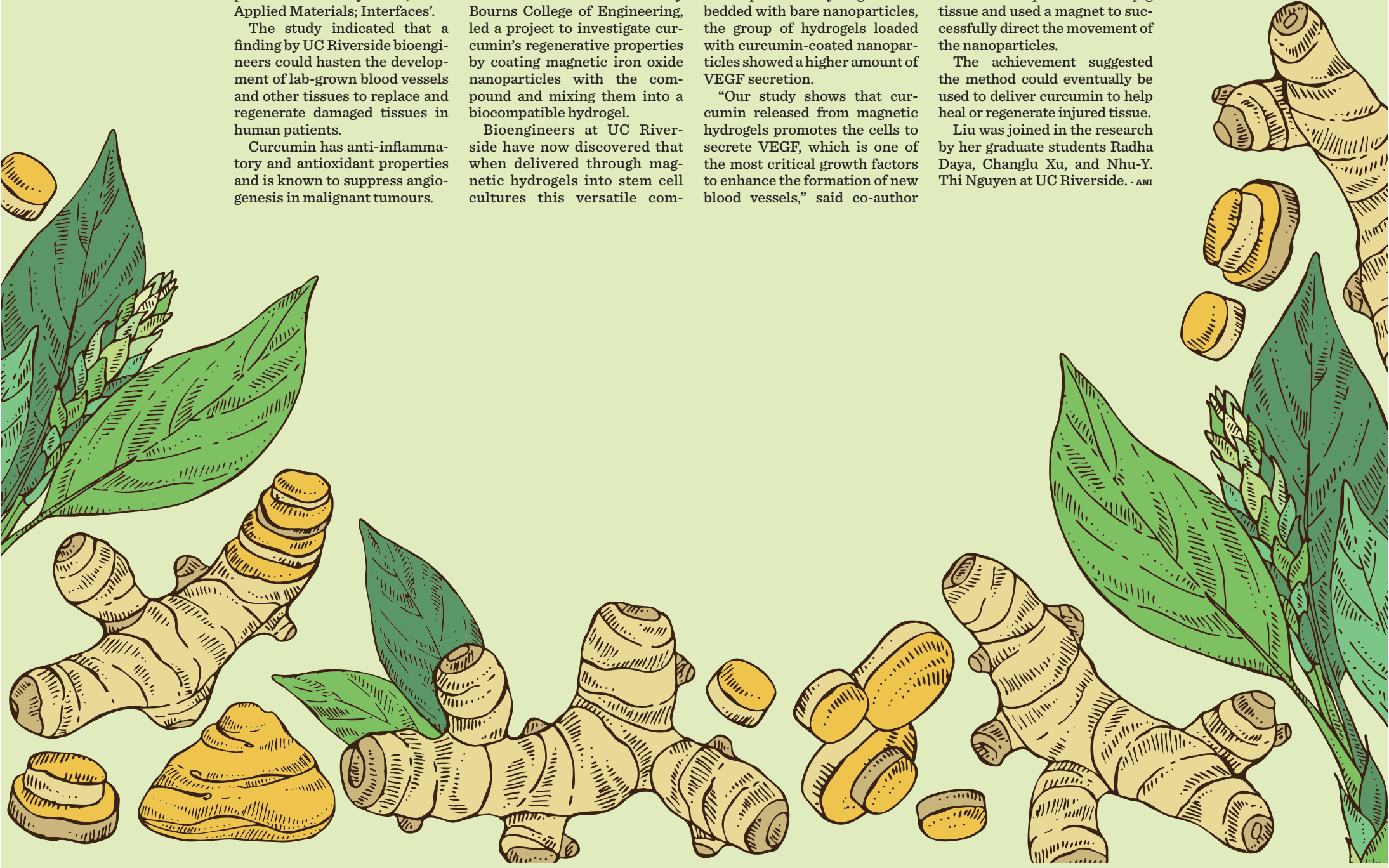
Changlu Xu, a doctoral candidate in Liu's group who focused on hydrogel research.

The researchers also took advantage of the nanoparticles' magnetism to see if they could direct the nanoparticles to desired locations in the body.

They placed some of the curcumin-coated nanoparticles in a tube behind pieces of fresh pig tissue and used a magnet to successfully direct the movement of the nanoparticles.

The achievement suggested the method could eventually be used to deliver curcumin to help heal or regenerate injured tissue.

Liu was joined in the research by her graduate students Radha Daya, Changlu Xu, and Nhu-Y. Thi Nguyen at UC Riverside. -ANI



IN PICTURES



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People enjoy Easter holiday in Beirut
A man with two children rides a tricycle on a coastal road in Beirut, Lebanon. *Xinhua*



Ranveer Singh at the promotion of his upcoming movie Jayeshbhai Jordaar
Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh at the promotion of his upcoming movie Jayeshbhai Jordaar, at Yash Raj Films Studio, in Mumbai on Tuesday. *ANI Photo*



Vasconcelos Library in Mexico City
Picture shows an interior view of the Vasconcelos Library in Mexico City, Mexico. The Vasconcelos Library, which opened in 2006, is one of the largest of its kind in Mexico and is named after the Mexican politician Jose Vasconcelos. *Xinhua*



Hometown of crested ibis
Aerial picture shows Longting township in Yangxian County of Hanzhong, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. Yangxian County, dubbed the 'hometown of the crested ibis', has boosted its green economy to create a good habitat for crested ibis while developing the economy. *Xinhua*



Blue-tailed bee eaters seen in Haikou
Blue-tailed bee eaters are seen in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province. Local authorities of Haikou have made full preparations for bee eaters to build a better habitat during their breeding season. *Xinhua*



Toronto Beaches Lions Easter Parade returns after 3-year hiatus due to COVID-19
A dressed-up Easter Bunny waves to people during the 2022 Toronto Beaches Lions Easter Parade in Toronto, Canada. The parade returned on Sunday after a three-year hiatus.

Salix planting underway at eco-tourism area in Inner Mongolia
Workers plant salix at an eco-tourism area in Dalad Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. *Xinhua*





What does the furniture of the Elysee Palace have to do with the French election? It represents France — and follows the style of the governing president.

As French President Emmanuel Macron faces off against far-right challenger Marine Le Pen in the second round of the country's presidential election, the state-funded furnishing institution, Mobilier National, is also in high gear.

The election period is one of the busiest times for the institution, whose 365 employees supply around 100,000 pieces of furniture and carpets to France's public institutions, including the presidential Elysee Palace.

"Even if the French vote for the current president, Emmanuel Macron, as the surveys say, we are preparing for the storm of requests that will come," says Muriel Barbier, chief of the monitoring department of Mobilier National. "For one, Macron may want to change more pieces of furniture in the Elysee Palace, and also, with the formation of the government, new ministers may want to redecorate their rooms," she added.

The Mobilier National is an institution of the Elysee Palace and also reflects — at least in certain cases — the style of the governing president.

"When he first came to power in 2017, Macron got the Salle des Fetes in the Elysee Palace renovated," Barbier recalls. The carpet and the curtains of the hall, in which the president is traditionally sworn in, were in dark red and gold colors, making the room appear very dark. "The French designer Isabelle Stanislas had won the call for tenders at the time, proposing a light grey carpet with subdued, golden feathers and smooth curtains. We also lowered the chandeliers, which made the room appear brighter," she said.

A 'radiant touch' at the entrance Macron implemented many reforms in France after he was first elected, bringing fresh wind to the palace built in 1722.

The president, who was 39 years old at the time, got a new carpet made for the so-called Murat stairs. The staircase, built in a classic empire style, had until then been decorated in dark red with floral patterns. "The contemporary artist Nathalie Junod Ponsard designed a carpet that goes from a dark blue to a dark red — only white is



missing for the national colors," Barbier explains. "That gives the whole thing a radiant touch and it goes very well with the white marble and the golden palm leaves at the landing of the stairs at the palace entrance."

Macron's desk has possibly attracted the most attention. The "K" model by French designer Thierry Lemaire was discovered by Macron's wife, Brigitte, and customised for Macron's office, the Salon Dore (Golden Salon). It is made of dark wenge wood and has a desk mat made of leather and a drawer made of polished copper.

Its modern design stands in stark contrast to the desk by 18th-century furniture-maker Charles Cressent in the Louis XV or Rococo style, made of purpleheart wood and decorative bronze strips, on which almost all of France's presidents have read and signed their documents.

"I was very proud when the Macrons chose my furniture — that is a real privilege," Thierry Lemaire told DW. "Madame Macron liked the fact that the desk was not only aesthetically pleasing but also practical with many drawers."

Preserving France's 'savoir faire' The designer delivered a dozen pieces of his furniture to the Elysee — at a special price, as he says. "When you have this honor you must reduce the price some-

times — ultimately it is for the state." Other pieces by Lemaire include the small, round "Helmet" tables made of 40 kilos (88 pounds) of bronze and the deep blue "Garment" sofa, with bronze trimmings on the sides. "I conceived that for the American market seven or eight years ago — it really has modern shapes," Lemaire says, adding, "I think it is important that such contemporary pieces have a place in the Elysee, to represent the France of today."

The institution for this kind of representation has existed since 1604, and it took on the name Mobilier National in 1870: "King Henry IV wanted to compete against carpet imports from the Netherlands and Flanders. That is why he founded the tapestry company, Manufacture des Gobelins," Barbier explains. "That was a form of protectionism."

Louis XIV, known as the Sun King because of his egocentric nature, also wanted to show through his furniture that he was more powerful and stronger than other kings of the 17th and 18th centuries.

The motto of Mobilier National is now to preserve the French "savoir-faire" — the idea of French sophistication. "Through our activities, we promote modern design and are constantly in touch with contemporary artists. Our institution has ateliers for steel constructions, carpentry and



woodwork. It is important that France ensures these artistic skills are not lost," Barbier says.

Classical styles preferred

Only a few presidents have brought modern design into the palace since 1958, when France's Fifth Republic — this refers to the country's current system of government — was formed. Most preferred a classical style. Even recent presidents like socialist Francois Hollande and conservative Nicolas Sarkozy did not really renovate anything in the Elysee.

One exception was Georges Pompidou, who was president from 1969 to 1974, towards the end of the three decades of rapid economic growth known as the "Les Trente Glorieuses."

"Pompidou and his wife Claude were great lovers of contemporary art — they were in touch with modern designers from Paris, but also other countries," Barbier says. "That can definitely be accounted to the fact that it was the post '68 period, the flower power movement."

Thus, a tulip-shaped armchair made of aluminum and covered in leather found a place at the Elysee. The piece was designed by Pierre Paulin, who was inspired by Scandinavian and Japanese concepts.

The socialist President Francois Mitterrand, in power from 1981 to 1995, pur-

sued the modernization of the seat of the French government's furnishings. He also added furniture designed by Paulin, as well as a futuristic aluminum armchair covered with pale yellow leather by the Parisian industrial designer Philippe Starck. "It was the 1980s in all its glory at the time — the Elysee Palace looked like something out of a sci-fi movie," Barbier says.

This style also fitted Mitterrand's progressive social policies. For example, he abolished the death penalty and gave additional rights to immigrants who had entered the country illegally.

The Elysee Palace still houses many more classically styled furnishings, but the current president and Mobilier National are open to new trends.

The latter organisation, which used to be protectionist, is now much more cosmopolitan, Barbier explains: "After all, we are part of Europe and are constantly in contact with international artists or similar institutions such as the Royal Collection in Great Britain, which furnishes the royal family's Buckingham Palace, among other things." Designer Lemaire is also hoping for international contacts. "So far we haven't had any inquiries from governments in other countries, but that would be attractive — and our furniture in the Elysee Palace is certainly good advertising," he says. -dw



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Own pre-owned vehicle from Best Cars & get chance to win gold coins

As part of the ‘Winning Drive’ campaign customers owning their favourite pre-owned car models from Best Cars, get a chance to win one 22-karat gold coin out of a total of five raffle gifts

MUSCAT: Best Cars, Oman’s popular pre-owned cars brand is offering buyers some of the most rewarding experiences with the latest ‘Winning Drive’ campaign. As part of the campaign customers owning their favourite pre-owned car models from Best Cars, get a chance to win one 22-karat gold coin out of a total of five raffle gifts. The campaign is valid until 1st June 2022. (Conditions apply. Please visit the best card showroom at Wattayah and Seeb Al Mawelah for details). According to a spokesperson from Saud Bahwan Automotive, “Customers looking to own their favourite pre-owned car model, have a good chance to begin a winning drive with Best Cars. At Best Cars, we do our best in offer-



ing customers some of the finest ownership experiences by encouraging customers to own some of the finest models their money can buy. Moreover, at Best Cars, customers can find an impressive range of multi-brand automobiles, at prices they will be happy to pay. If you have been waiting for the right time to own a vehicle, the time is now. Visit Best Cars

showroom in Wattayah, today.” Best Cars (main showroom) is located at the most convenient place in the heart of the automobile market in Wattayah, Muscat and also at Seeb Al Mawelah. Best Cars is the ideal choice in Oman since it is a professional set-up with a proven system for evaluating, buying & selling vehicles. Customers obtain a satisfactory price for their

trade-in vehicles. Many customers have expressed their delight with not just finding their dream car, but also with the hassle-free documentation, personalised care and overall professionalism of the staff. No surprise then that many customers heartily recommend Best Cars to their friends and family calling it the ‘Best Bet’ to procure a vehicle of their choosing.

Best Cars also offer the customer the advantage of convenience at their fingertips, through its user-friendly website ‘www.bestcars.om’. Customers can log in and view complete details, along with the vehicle’s photograph. They can also register their requirement and be informed as soon as their desired vehicle is available. Best Cars also provides

financing facilities for customers who want to purchase pre-owned vehicles in instalments. Best Cars has set new standards in buying & selling quality pre-owned vehicles. Value-conscious customers appreciate this auto hypermarket as a trusted source of quality pre-owned vehicles from the renowned Saud Bahwan Group.

MAZOOON ELECTRICITY

Workshop on Oman Electrical Standards held

MUSCAT: Mazoon Electricity (member of the Nama group) organised its first workshop for its staff, licensed electricians and construction consultants as part of a series of workshops it has launched on the implementation of Oman Electrical Standards (OES) relating to electrical connections to buildings. The workshop was organised for the benefit of Mazoon Electricity employees in Al Batinah South Governorate and Al Suwaiq Wilayat to apprise them of the latest update of standard 4 of OES and methods of its implementation, along with discussing existing challenges. Standard OES-4 is a binding specification for electrical installations in buildings, whether residential, agricultural or industrial, and other fixed and temporary low-



voltage connections. It sets out the technical and safety requirements to be observed by distribution companies, engineering offices and contracting companies when designing, implementing and inspecting electrical installations in buildings. The first workshop was attended

by customer service staff who are divided into three groups for three weeks, while other participants including licensed electricians and construction consultants will attend the upcoming workshops. The move aims to keep pace with the continuous updates of

OES, enhance communication channels with stakeholders using the approved best practices, and identify existing challenges and approaches to addressing them. Eng. Khalil Ali Al Qarni, Head of Customer Services in South Al Batinah leads these workshops.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Khimji Ramdas organises annual blood donation drive

MUSCAT: As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, the Khimji Ramdas Group (KR) recently organised its annual Ramadan blood donation drive at the Indian Embassy in association with the Ministry of Health. The KR Group employees took part in the annual campaign held with necessary Covid precautions. Thanking all those who participated in the voluntary blood donation drive Anil Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group mentioned, “Giving blood is a noble and important practice, and we at Khimji Ramdas through our employees and their families have been supporting this cause for more than four decades, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. We appreciate the efforts of the team from the Blood Bank of Oman and the Ministry of Health, notably their work to ensure sufficient blood supplies

to save lives in the time of need.” Khimji Ramdas blood donation drive was conducted in strict accordance with the authorities’ Covid-19 safety requirements, which included maintaining social distance, wearing masks, and sanitising the facilities before and throughout the drive. All details related to vaccination, travel history, and medical screening were documented before the blood donation process. The number of people who volunteered to donate blood has grown steadily year on year, largely through the commitment of employees, their family members, and friends. It reflects the spirit of volunteerism displayed by all participants. The Khimji Ramdas Group has consistently contributed to community-based projects, and the blood donation drive is yet another way for the organisation to show support to causes that matter.

PARTNERSHIP

Qatar Airways and IndiGo reactivate cooperation

DOHA: Qatar Airways, the multiple award-winning airline and IndiGo, India’s airline, announce the reactivation of their strategic cooperation following the lifting of the suspension on international scheduled flights by the Indian government. Qatar Airways is currently operating 190 flights per week to and from 12 destinations in India, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, Kozhikode, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Goa, Kolkata, and Thiruvananthapuram. IndiGo is currently operating 154 flights per week between Doha and eight cities in India that including Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru,

Chennai, Kochi, Kozhikode and Kannur. As part of this expanded code-share agreement, Qatar Airways will be placing its marketing code on IndiGo operated flights between Doha and Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, starting from 25 April 2022, and Chennai, Bengaluru, Kochi and Kozhikode, starting from May 9. Both Qatar Airways and IndiGo flights are optimally connected to Qatar Airways’ hub, the award-winning Hamad International Airport in Doha. This allows passengers to benefit from seamless and convenient connections to the airline’s entire route network, including North America, Europe,

Africa, and Asia/Australia. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: “The reactivation of our strategic partnership with IndiGo is another milestone in the development of aviation between the State of Qatar and India. Together, both Qatar Airways and IndiGo will offer over 340 flights per week to 13 destinations in India. Never before has our partnership with IndiGo been stronger and the resumption of our strategic cooperation demonstrates the resilience, agility and commitment both partners have shown in overcoming the challenges of the pandemic.” Ronojoy Dutta, Wholtime Di-

rector and Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo added: “We are excited to reactivate our code-share agreement with Qatar Airways, one of the world’s fastest-growing airlines. We are confident this strong partnership will not only expand opportunities for the customers but also boost trade and tourism in both countries. With the easing of restrictions, we believe that this will create economic growth through IndiGo’s seamless nationwide connectivity. We look forward to serving customers on our lean, clean flying machine, as we extend to them our on-time, affordable, courteous and hassle-free travel experience.”





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