

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr 12:11 pm
Asr 3:38 pm
Maghrib 6:35 pm
Isha 7:49 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:21 am
IFTAR 6:35 pm



6 085010 120010

HM GREETES QUEEN ELIZABETH II

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth on the occasion of her birthday. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to Queen Elizabeth II. His Majesty also wished the British people further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



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59TH EDITION

Sayyid Theyazin to preside over Oman pavilion's opening in Biennale Arte 2022



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth will patronise over the opening ceremony of Oman's pavilion in the 59th edition of the Biennale Arte 2022 International Arts Exhibition, scheduled to be held today.

The five-day event, will be held in Venice, Italy from 23 to 27 April 2022. The Sultanate of Oman aims from participating in this art exhibition to highlight the Omani culture locally and

internationally and to bolster its cultural position. It also targets reflecting its approaches in achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040 in the cultural sphere, locally and internationally.

The number of visitors to the Biennale Arte averages 600,000 to 1 million from all over the world each year and the event's website views reach 10 million.

The event is covered by 8,100 international media entities, news agencies and international newspapers. - **ONA**

HM issues Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Wednesday issued a Royal Decree No. (17/2022) on the ratification of an agreement between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Republic of Chile on mutual waiver of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports, signed in Cairo on 22 March 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**



AGREEMENT RATIFICATION



SULTANATE'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AMONG HIGHEST IN MENA REGION

The International Monetary Fund, in its World Economic Outlook for April 2022, projected that Oman's GDP would grow by 5.6% in 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is expected to post a GDP growth of 5.6 percent in 2022, making it one of the fastest-growing economies

among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The International Monetary Fund, in its World Economic Outlook for April 2022, projected that Oman's GDP would grow by 5.6 percent in

2022, and a further 2.7 percent in 2023, and 2.5 percent in 2024. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Oman's GDP also grew two percent in 2021, after contracting 2.8 percent in 2020.

Among the six GCC countries, Kuwait is predicted to have the highest GDP growth in 2022, at 8.2 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia (7.6 percent). Oman at 5.6 percent is third, and is above the United Arab Emirates (4.2 percent), Qatar (3.4 percent) and Bahrain (3.3 percent).

In the rest of the Middle East and North African (MENA)

countries, Iraq is predicted to have the highest GDP growth (9.5 percent), along with Egypt (5.9 percent). Other countries such as Jordan (2.4 percent), Tunisia (2.2 percent), Libya (3.5 percent), Morocco (1.1 percent) and Algeria (2.4 percent), are also predicted to post growth, but at a lower rate.

Although Oman's GDP is likely to increase in 2022, in terms of a global outlook, the projections of the IMF are weaker than they were since their previous outlook in January. **>A4**

See also **>B2**

Percentage growth

Iraq	9.5
Kuwait	8.2
S. Arabia	7.6
Egypt	5.9
Oman	5.6
UAE	4.2
Libya	3.5
Qatar	3.4
Bahrain	3.3
Jordan	2.4
Algeria	2.4
Tunisia	2.2
Morocco	1.1

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Public grill zone to be ready soon

1 People looking to enjoy an open-air barbecue in Amerat will soon be able to do so. Work on the public barbecue spot in Al Amerat Heights 2 area is on and is expected to be opened in the third quarter of this year. **>A2**

WORLD Several feared dead in Poland mine blasts

2 Suspected methane blasts have killed at least four people and injured 20 others in a coal mine in southern Poland. Mining company JSW said 13 teams were involved in subsequent rescue work. **>A6**

MARKET Pact for fiber optic infrastructure

3 The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and Oman Broadband Company signed an agreement for setting up the inactive fiber optic infrastructure for the integrated neighbourhoods initiative 'Suroh'. **>B1**



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MUSCAT



BREAKING BARRIERS

Inspired by her father, Masirah woman becomes expert in automobile repair

Times News Service

MASIRAH: Motorists who are looking to get their vehicle checked can definitely call on Zainab for her services with the confidence that their vehicles are in good hands.

When Zainab bint Ali Al Yarabi tells you what she does for a living, you might be a little bit taken aback. It is, after all, not very often that you find women taking up jobs as automobile repair experts.

"My father is the real motivator for me to be who I am today," says one of Masirah Island's only female vehicle repair experts. "In 2006, my father asked me if I was ready to work with him instead of sitting at home looking for a job and I agreed to work with my father as a salesman in a new spare parts store."

In the 70s, Zainab's father set up what is considered to be the first



ON HER OWN TERMS: Zainab work has gained her plenty of fame and one day she wishes to open her own garage.

garage on the island. Zainab joined the shop floor helping customers pick up parts for their vehicles.

During her spare time or when there were no customers in the shop, she would go to her father's garage adjacent to the store where she would learn from workers what the best spares were for the vehicles. Her job did raise plenty of eyebrows, however. "I was a girl who worked in a spare parts store, so, that was surprising to society," she said.

"When my father did see me observing the workers in the garage, he'd ask me to go back to the store, but I would tell him there were no customers, so I had come here to gain knowledge and help the business rake in more profits.

After her father unfortunately passed away in 2020, Zainab became increasingly involved alongside her brother in overseeing the garage. Women cus-

tomers who came to the garage to get their vehicles serviced were naturally more comfortable speaking with her.

"When my female friends and some other women on Masirah tell me about problems with their vehicles, I sometimes go there myself to take their vehicles to the garage, as in our custom, it is not possible for women to come to industrial areas and workshops," she explained. "There is also often no female representative to help them in such areas. Some of them, however, still come to the garage, so, with my customers, the first thing I do is find out the location and cause of the fault in their ride.

"If it is a simple fault, then I repair it myself, but otherwise, I instruct our workers to repair it accordingly," added the 41-year-old, whose work has gained her plenty of fame and one day she wishes to open her own garage.



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VIDEO-CONFERENCING

Oman, Saudi Arabia discuss food exports

MUSCAT: Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources held here on Wednesday a meeting via video-conferencing with Dr. Hisham Saad Al Jadhey, CEO of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA).

The two sides discussed a spectrum of topics, particularly in the field of exporting agricultural and animal products from Oman to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).



Present at the meeting were representatives from the public and private sectors of the two countries. -ONA

OPEN-AIR BARBECUE

Public grill zone in Amerat by third quarter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in Oman looking to enjoy an open-air barbecue in Amerat will soon be able to do so when a public spot for grilling activities opens up in the third quarter of this year.

Work on the barbecue spot in the neighbourhood of Al Amerat Heights 2 began in February 2022 as part of efforts by Muscat Municipality to improve the quality of urban services and aesthetic appearance of the city.

"The project aims to establish an integrated service site where mobile food vendors can gather at a single place," said Muscat Municipality in a statement. "This will also significantly protect residential sites from harmful grilling fumes and facilitate health control and food inspections. The municipality will also seek to maintain proper order over mobile vending activities in the wilayat."

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RIAL 0.890
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500 gms
Assorted per pc



SAVE 33.600%
~~RIAL 3.750~~
RIAL 2.490
Kellogg's Corn Flakes
2 x 750 gms



SAVE 48.696%
~~RIAL 1.150~~
RIAL 0.590
Jabal Akhdar Drinking Water
24 x 500 ml



RIAL 4.250
Indomie Noodles
40 x 70 gms Assorted



SAVE 28.571%
~~RIAL 1.750~~
RIAL 1.250
Combo Meal Pack
(Mutton Kabuli 500 gms
+ Cucumber Labneh + Salad)



SAVE 29.048%
~~RIAL 2.100~~
RIAL 1.490
Fairy Plus
Dishwash Liquid
3 x 600 ml Assorted



SAVE 40.873%
~~RIAL 2.520~~
RIAL 1.490
Pert Shampoo
3 x 400 ml Assorted



SAVE 24.971%
~~RIAL 8.650~~
RIAL 6.490
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Diaper / Pants
Assorted per pc



SAVE 21.429%
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RIAL 1.650
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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	7:49 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:21 am

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FASTING HEALTH TIP

AVOID DEHYDRATION

Women fasting while pregnant and breast-feeding should commit to a balanced diet, and increase their intake of fluids to avoid dehydration. They should also attempt to reduce physical exertion during fasting hours.

IFTAR RECIPE

CHEESY POTATO BITES

By Ambreen Jahangir

- INGREDIENTS
- Potato, 2, big boiled
 - Pizza sauce: half cup
 - Mozzarella cheese: half cup
 - Mix capsicum: half cup
 - Mix herbs: as required
 - Olives: sliced as required

- PREPARATION
- Boil potatoes until done.
 - Once cool cut into half inch thick round slices.
 - Apply some pizza sauce.
 - Add mozzarella cheese.
 - Add some chopped veg and olive slices.
 - Sprinkle mixed herbs.
 - Bake for 10 minutes, until done.
 - Serve hot.



GOOD DEEDS

DELVE DEEPER INTO SPIRITUALITY BY READING MOTIVATIONAL BOOKS



RAMADAN is the month for reflection and self-improvement and this can be easily achieved by reading an inspirational book. While reading the Holy Quran is an absolute must, there are many books which will help you to delve deeper into spirituality. 'Revive your heart' by Nouman Ali Khan is one of the great books that call for spiritual renewal and puts a positive impact on lives. This book is simple and encourages us to change. 'Enjoy Your Life' by Muhammad 'Abd Rahman Al 'Arifi will help you balance worship and worldly life.

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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ECONOMY

FROM A1 Divergence in economic recovery of different countries



"At the time, we had projected the global recovery to strengthen from the second quarter of this year after a short-lived impact of the Omicron variant," said Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, economic counsellor and director of research at IMF. "Since then, the outlook has deteriorated, largely because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

COVID, Ukraine invasion
"This crisis unfolds while the global economy was on a mending path but had not yet fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a significant divergence between the economic recoveries of advanced economies and emerging markets and developing ones," he added in his report. "The economic effects of the war are spreading far and wide—like seismic waves that emanate from the epicenter of an earthquake—mainly through commodity markets, trade and financial linkages."

Other indicators for Oman are also on the upward side: Current account balance, which shrunk 3.7 percent in 2021, is expected to rebound 5.9 percent in 2022, and 5.6 percent in 2023. Furthermore, although consumer prices are

Oman's projected GDP is in large part due to efforts to expand and diversify the economy, as well as encourage more investors to set up businesses in the country

expected to grow 3.7 percent in 2022, further price growth will be lower, at 2.2 percent in 2023 and 1.9 percent in 2024.

Oman's efforts paid off
From a local perspective, Oman's projected GDP is in large part due to efforts to expand and diversify the economy, as well as encourage more investors to set up businesses in the country. At a recent press conference, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment

Promotion Qais Al Youssef said his ministry is taking measures to set up more local industries in the country.

"Our national products have a share in everything we seek to achieve, so let us not forget that supporting local production, focusing on national industries and opening new markets for them will be advantageous for the national economy and for our private sector in particular," he explained. "Integrated initiatives have been drawn up to consider strengthening the presence of our domestic products, both locally and overseas."

"Within this framework, to make sure there is interconnectivity between efforts and goals, the ministry has put in place initiatives to improve and develop specification standards and encourage the privatisation of related services," he added.

"The ministry also launched the Investor Residence Programme over the past year, and we are keen to develop this programme in the coming months, and learn from international experiences so as to attract quality investments that are localised in our country."



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WILAYAT OF IBRI



Undersecretary apprised about Omanisation, handling of COVID

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sheikh Nasser bin Showain Al Hosni, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour visited the Wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate recently.

Obstacles

The visit was part of the ministry's plan to various governorates in the Sultanate of Oman to remove the obstacles coming in the way of execution of plans.

Sheikh Al Hosni met with officials and employees at the Directorate General of Labour and was apprised about the problems faced in the day-to-day work.

He directed the officials to take necessary action to eliminate the obstacles.

Many issues discussed

He also discussed with the officials a number of issues to improve the quality of work.

He was briefed on the work done by the Ministry of Labour and the Directorate General of Labour jointly.

Sheikh Al Hosni met with businessmen also who communicated to him the difficulties and challenges they faced in taking decisions.

During his visit to some establishments, he was briefed on the

efforts at 'Omanisation' of professions, improvement in productivity and the ways of handling crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The officials at the establishments praised the way the undersecretary responded to the problems brought before him.

Nabhan Al Battashi, Chairman of the General Federation of Oman Workers spoke on the Social Dialogue Committee which was formed to initiate dialogue on various issues confronting the labour market.

The committee considers the workers' issues and work systems at the establishments before devising legislations.

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Tender 17/ 2022 Announcement
for

The Internal Tenders Committee at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion announces the following tender:

Tender No	Tender Title	Company rate	Tender document price in OMR (Non- refundable)	Tender Document collection Deadline	Offers Submission Deadline
17/2022	Onsite Network Engineer for Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion	Specialized	25/_ OMR	Thursday 28/4/2022	Thursday 15/5/2022 Before 10:00 am

Terms and conditions documents can be obtained through the ESNAD service via <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> in which they will be available until the date mentioned in the table above, provided that the document's price is paid through the website's payment gateway.

All companies shall submit their offers with a temporary insurance in the form of Bank Guarantee or Certified Cheque issued by a local bank in the Sultanate of Oman values not less than (1%) of the offer, Addressed to H.E Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and valid for (90) days from the date of offer submission. Any offer that does not meet the required temporary insurance shall not be considered. A copy of the Bank Guarantee or Certified Check must be attached with the offer submitted by the company on the website (ESNAD service) and the original Bank Guarantee or Certified Check must be kept until it is requested by MOCILP. Offers shall be submitted through the ESNAD service on the above-mentioned website before 10 o'clock on the morning of the day mentioned for offers submission. Offers submitted after this date will not be considered, regardless of the reasons of the delay.

The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other submitted offer.

Note: Priority shall be given to companies and institutions whose bid has the highest Omanisation Rate .

Correspondences:

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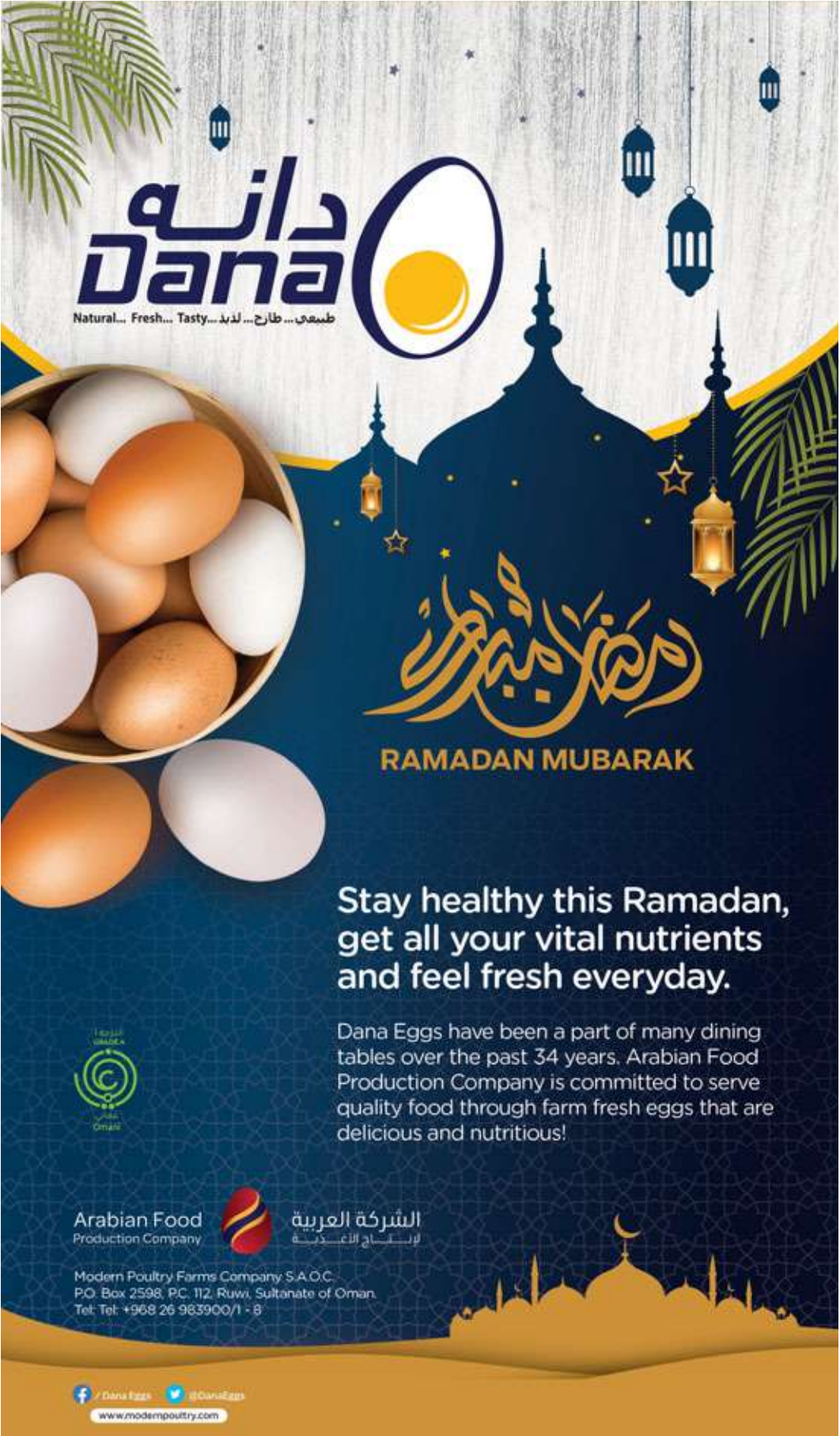
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Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

26,232 REACH

The latest such accident happened last Thursday, when three school children died in a road accident after a bus driver lost control.



Parents urge stronger measures to prevent school bus accidents in Oman



Story on parents urging stronger safety measures

A story on parents urging stronger safety measures in school buses reached 26,232 people and had 1,661 link clicks on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,500 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute

The Maghrib Minute news wrap-up in Hindi had 1,500 views and reached 11,500 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

291 VIEWS



Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on donations raised during Ramadan had 291 views and 24 likes on Instagram.

Several feared dead in coal mine blasts in Poland

WARSAW: Suspected methane blasts have killed at least five people and injured 20 others in a coal mine in southern Poland, authorities said Wednesday.

Mining company JSW said 13 teams were involved in a rescue operation to find several workers who are still missing. However, efforts had to be put on hold due to a second explosion and subsequent fire as well as difficult conditions underground.

JSW said the explosions occurred at its Pniowek mine in Pawlowice shortly after midnight at a depth of 1,000 metres (3,281 feet).

There were 42 miners in the area at the time.

Several of the initial rescuers were also trapped.

Experts were evaluating the possibility of restarting rescue operations. **DW**



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Massive outage reported as snowstorm hits US

NEW YORK: Hundreds of thousands power outages were reported on Tuesday as a snowstorm lashed multiple states in northeastern United States.

Power outages took place in New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont due to the heavy snow. In New York State, more than 195,000 people were reported without power on Tuesday, according to the local government. Upstate regions in New York recorded six to 11 inches (about 15-28 cm) of snowfall overnight, and the storm dumped wet and heavy snow that brought trees and power lines down, said a release by New York State government on Tuesday. **ANI**

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FOOTBALL

United legend Gary Neville slams club after 4-0 loss against Liverpool

LONDON: Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville slammed his side after they fell 4-0 to Liverpool at Anfield, terming them as the illustrious club's 'worst side in 42 years'.

Double strikes from Mohamed Salah and one goal each by Luis Diaz and Sadino Mane, helped Liverpool destroy Manchester United 4-0 on Tuesday. "There are some decent players out on that pitch and some talent. I cannot explain how it is gone from what would be slightly promising at the end of last season finishing second - I know they lost in the Europa League final which was a bad one - to the point where we are today which is an all-time low in my 42 years of watching United. I have never seen it as bad as that," Goal.com quoted Neville as saying.

Neville further added, "Manchester United were miles away from that Liverpool team in every department. On and off-pitch. It was a sobering evening. We expected it. Not one Manchester United fan came here with any hope whatsoever. That team has nothing."



The United legend praised Hannibal Mejbri for showing a fight against Liverpool and remarked that the squad is already done for the season as they are 'finished and broken'.

"I erred on the unprofessional side on commentary when I said I was proud of him because he was going around trying to kick people. But he demonstrated some-

thing, he showed us something: that he did not like the idea at Anfield of Liverpool passing around him. The idea of Liverpool taking the mickey out of him and his teammates. I am not saying that it was brilliant that he was kicking Liverpool players and could have hurt them, but as a Manchester United fan, they can respond to that at least. The rest of them...

there is some of them out there who are probably good lads, good professionals, got good careers, good talent, but they are broken. They are finished and they are done this season," he said.

Man United did not have the services of their star player Cristiano Ronaldo, as the Portuguese footballer missed the game due to the sudden demise of his newborn son.

Hosts Liverpool took an early lead in the fifth minute of the match when Luis Diaz scored for them. It was followed by Mohamed Salah giving his side a lead of 2-0 in the 22nd minute.

Resuming the game after the half-time, the hosts completely dominated the game as Sadio Mane scored a goal in the 68th minute. It was then that Salah put the final nail in the coffin and scored his second goal of the night in the 85th-minute taking Liverpool to victory 4-0.

Currently, Liverpool is at the top of the points table with a total of 76 points in 32 games, while Manchester United is at the sixth spot with 54 points. -ANI



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RAMADAN CRICKET

Thriller at PSM Ramadan cricket

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a match between Marala XI and Mian Mohammad Riaz & Partners, the former won the toss and elected to bat first. Marala XI scored 110 runs in 8 overs with the loss of 5 wickets. Fahad scored a brilliant 36 in just 15 balls and Naqas scored 18 runs in just 8 balls to take his team's total to 110.

M. Kashif took 3 wickets in 2 overs giving 29 runs. Waseem Ali took 2 wickets for 25 runs.

In reply, MRP opener M Majid played beautifully and scored 63 runs. After the departure of Majid, Marala wickets started tumbling at one end.

In the last ball of the penultimate over they needed 4 runs for victory. The batsmen ran for 3 runs

to make the match tie and then it went into Super over. It was the brilliance of Fahad who bowled the super over and gave only 3 runs. MRP overhauled the target with 2 balls to spare.

Fahad was adjudged the man of the match.

In the second match Ravi team won the toss and decided to bowl first. The decision proved costly as Asfandiyar XI batters Saqib and Umer smashed Ravi bowlers to all parts of the ground. Saqin scored 71 with 10 sixes and a boundary while his partner Umer scored 59 runs in 15 balls and posted 181 for the loss of one wicket.

In reply, Ravi Premium scored just 70 runs losing 5 wickets. Asim got 2 wickets for 3 runs. Later Saqib was declared man of the match for his 71 runs.

NEW MANAGER

Vaishali Jesrani announced manager of Team Spirit at FairBreak Invitational

Times News Service

DUBAI: Oman Cricket is delighted to share that Vaishali Jesrani, captain of the Oman Women's National Team has been announced manager of Team Spirit at the SDG FairBreak Invitational T20 Tournament scheduled to be held between May 1 and May 15, 2022 in Dubai.

The ICC sanctioned competition, held in conjunction with Cricket Hong Kong, is the world's



first privately funded tournament in women's cricket history with the leading healthcare group Gencor as lead sponsor. There will be a total of 19 games played between 6 teams, composed of players

from all around the world.

FairBreak Global said in a statement, "FairBreak Global is delighted to announce Vaishali Jesrani as the manager of Team Spirit at the SDG FairBreak Invitational T20 in Dubai. Vaishali is an inspirational leader of cricket development for girls Oman Cricket and is committed to accelerating the growth of women's cricket in her home nation and globally."

They added, "She has captained the Omani national team

at an international level and is a veteran #fairbreaker who played at Wormsley in the UK in 2018. Vaishali is a graduate of the ICC 100% Cricket Future Leaders Programme which is designed to support emerging female talent in cricket across administration, coaching, officiating, broadcasting, journalism and marketing, and was mentored through the program by Cricket Australia Executive GM for Fan Engagement, Anthony Everard."

AL HAIL CRICKET CLUB

Friendly Stars defeat Friends 11 in Tennex Ball Cricket

Times News Service



MUSCAT: The Pran Frooto Ramadan Tennex Ball Cricket Tournament 2022 was organised by the Al Hail Cricket Club started on Tuesday night.

In the opening match played between Friendly Stars and Friends 11, the Friendly Stars won the match by 6 wickets. Awais Munir from Friendly Stars top scored with 21 runs and other useful contributions came from Jagath with 11 runs and Tajamual with 8 runs. For Friends 11, Senthil took

three wickets giving away 2 runs, while Bilal of Friendly Stars was declared man of the match.

Khalid Al Balushi from Al Hail Cricket Team presided over as the chief guest of the ceremony.

The tournament is sponsored by Pran Frooto Drink and Baab Al Hail Trading Company.



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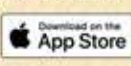
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BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,264.44 points, up by 0.06 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.3 per cent at 484.23 points. Oman Chlorine, up 19.84 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 7.92 per cent, was the top loser.

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Pact signed to establish fiber optic infrastructure for 'Surouh' initiative

The agreement comes within the framework of providing services for the integrated neighbourhoods initiative

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and Oman Broadband Company signed an agreement for setting up the inactive fiber optic infrastructure for the integrated neighbourhoods initiative 'Surouh'.

As per the agreement, Oman Broadband Company will establish, operate and lease the inactive fibre optic and communications infrastructures. The step aims to provide communications and fiber optic services in all facilities that require a connection to the internet.

The agreement was signed by Eng. Hamad Ali Al Nazwani, Undersecretary for Housing and Said

Abdullah Al Mandhari, Chairman of Oman Broadband Company.

Eng. Saud Al Hashimi, Director General of Real Estates Development in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said that the agreement comes within the framework of providing services for the 'Surouh' initiative.

Al Hashimi added that three new integrated neighbourhood projects will be established within the 'Surouh' initiative in Al Amerat, Bidbid and Halban.

Those initiatives will contribute to reducing the cost of housing units and making them accessible for all people. -ONA



PARTNERSHIP: The agreement was signed by Eng. Hamad Ali Al Nazwani, Undersecretary for Housing and Said Abdullah Al Mandhari, Chairman of Oman Broadband Company. - ONA

CRUDE OIL PRICES



Oil prices tumble 5% on global commodities sell-off after IMF cuts growth forecasts

NEW YORK: Crude oil prices fell 5 per cent Tuesday amid a sell off in global commodity markets after the International Monetary Fund slashed its world growth forecasts for 2022 and 2023, citing runaway fuel and food costs and other challenges from the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Brent, the London-traded global benchmark for crude, settled down \$5.91, or 5.2 per cent, at \$107.25 per barrel.

It plunged more than \$6 earlier, hitting a session low of \$106.81. New York-traded West Texas Intermediate, or WTI, the benchmark for US crude, settled down \$5.65, or 5.2 per cent, at \$102.56. The intraday low for WTI was \$101.55.

Both crude benchmarks had gained about 15% over four previous days of trading as oil markets rallied on expectations of a further supply squeeze from Western sanctions imposed on Russia.

"With so much volatility in intraday oil prices, and extreme reactions to headline risks ... I continue to expect that Brent will remain in a choppy \$100 to \$120 range, with WTI in a \$95 to \$115 range," Jeffrey Halley, head of research for Australia and Asia-Pacific at online trading platform OANDA, said.

The International Energy Agency has warned that roughly 3 million barrels daily of Russian oil could be shut in from May onward due to sanctions, or buyers voluntarily shunning Russian cargoes.

Russian oil output has contin-

ued to slide in April, declining by 7.5 per cent in the first half of the month from March, the Interfax news agency reported on Friday.

World gross domestic product, or GDP, will likely expand by only 3.6 per cent this year and next, the IMF said in an update of its World Economic Outlook published on Tuesday. That represented a downgrade of 0.8 percentage point and 0.2 percentage points, respectively, from the IMF's previous GDP outlook published in December.

World growth rebounded by around 6.1 per cent in 2021 after a 4.9 per cent slump in 2020 caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

While the IMF revised down its GDP outlook, it raised its inflation expectations to an average of 5.7 per cent this year across advanced economies, and 8.7 per cent for emerging economies, citing inflation and other challenges from the Russia-Ukraine crisis. That was 1.8 points and 2.8 points higher, respectively, from the IMF's previous inflation forecast.

"Economic damage from the conflict will contribute to a significant slowdown in global growth in 2022 and add to inflation," the IMF said. "Fuel and food prices have increased rapidly, hitting vulnerable populations in low-income countries hardest."

US bond markets sold off too on Tuesday amid fear of a recession in the United States as the Federal Reserve plans to fend off inflation with some of the most aggressive rate hikes in its history. -ANI

ISLAMIC BANKING SERVICES

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services continues to enrich its customer experience with a diverse bundle of saving and investment solutions that are tailored to meet the specific needs of retail banking customers across the Sultanate of Oman. One of its highlights is the Fixed Deposit account which is based on the Islamic concept of Mudarabah and comes with a selection of investment periods from one month to five years.

Mohammed Ahmed Al Maashani - Head of Distribution Network at Maisarah - reiterated BankDhofar's Sharia-compliant window's pledge to bring about customised solutions that meet customers' aspirations and exceed their expectations.

"Fixed deposits offer attractive expected profit rates per annum (subject to applicable weightages for each month) of up to 4 per cent. The minimum balance to open the account is OMR1,000. The fixed period of account operation has been set to meet our customers'

needs and facilitate better planning of personal finance. Withdrawals are not generally allowed before the set termination date; however, early termination of the contract is possible with adjusted profit rates," he noted.

In addition to the Fixed Deposit option, Maisarah's customers can avail of an extensive array of banking solutions that suit their requirements, including Ameen Term Deposit, Maisarah High Yield Saving Account, Mudarabah Saving Account, Current Account and Ameen Investment Account.



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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Oman Chlorine, up 19.84 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 7.92 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,264.44 points, up by 0.06 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.3 per cent at 484.23 points. Oman Chlorine, up 19.84 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 7.92 per cent, was the top loser.

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

A total number of 1041 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.86 million, with more than 27.55 million shares changing hands. Out of 49 traded securities, 19 advanced, 12 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers of OMR127,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR102,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,738.99 points, down 0.15 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial Investments, Al Shargia Investment and Al Madina Takaful were up by 2.86 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 1.32 per cent,

1.05 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Qatar Insurance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Dhofar and HSBC Bank Oman were down by 2.35 per cent, 2.3 per cent, 1.71 per cent and 0.89 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,153.58 points, up 0.45 per cent. Prices of Oman Chlorine, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics and Oman Fisheries were up by 19.84 per cent, 4.08 per cent, 2.51 per cent, 1.74 per cent and 0.84 per cent respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy, Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products and Oman Flour Mills were down by 7.92 per cent, 3.00 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 0.59 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.22 per cent before closing at 1,679.55 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Phoenix Power, Ooredoo, National Gas and Muscat Gases were up by 4.17 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.14 per cent, 0.69 per cent, and 0.67 per cent respectively. Prices of OIFC, SMN Power Holding and Oman National Engineering were down by 2.5 per cent, 2.27 per cent and 1.82 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,268.14	4,255.87	4,264.44	4,261.99	2.46	0.06
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,752.57	6,731.57	6,738.99	6,749.18	-10.19	-0.15
Industry Index	6,168.14	6,127.48	6,153.57	6,126.12	27.45	0.45
Services Index	1,684.20	1,677.43	1,679.55	1,675.93	3.62	0.22
MSX Shariah Index	484.23	482.76	484.23	482.76	1.47	0.30
MSX TR INDEX	5,376.50	5,361.05	5,371.85	5,368.75	3.10	0.06
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,059.84	7,037.89	7,045.64	7,056.30	-10.66	-0.15
SERVICES TR IDX	1,728.53	1,720.51	1,730.07	1,726.99	3.73	0.22
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,401.49	6,359.29	6,386.38	6,357.88	28.49	0.45

Trading Summary	Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
	27,553,646	4,860,436	1,041	22,370,555,522	19	12	18	49

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

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
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	194,189	47,671	27	0.244	0.248	0.244	0.245	0.239	0.006	2.510	0.246	0.246	0.247	0.100	81,063,814
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,473,850	132,406	83	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	462,000	216,187	21	0.464	0.470	0.464	0.468	0.460	0.008	1.739	0.468	0.446	0.468	0.100	102,900,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	804,901	284,998	19	0.354	0.356	0.350	0.354	0.350	0.004	1.143	0.356	0.350	0.358	0.100	230,434,257
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV	660,038	63,549	31	0.096	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.095	0.095	0.099	0.100	8,640,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	352,000	185,856	17	0.528	0.528	0.528	0.528	0.524	0.004	0.763	0.528	0.520	0.528	0.100	29,040,000
OM0000001190	NATIONAL GAS	142,500	20,869	21	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.890	0.146	0.140	0.146	0.100	12,410,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	813,000	372,130	32	0.460	0.460	0.456	0.458	0.456	0.002	0.439	0.458	0.450	0.460	0.100	108,275,780
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	16,000	5,056	5	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.100	211,203,475
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	681,500	49,529	20	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	231,998	27,264	11	0.117	0.120	0.117	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.120	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,523,000	827,981	38	0.544	0.546	0.538	0.544	0.544	0.000	0.000	0.544	0.544	0.544	0.100	2,041,740,001
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	175	120	1	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.692	0.692	0.000	0.000	0.684	0.684	0.000	0.100	47,748,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	390,394	349,793	28	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.000	0.000	0.896	0.898	0.896	0.100	672,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	3,374,400	376,978	48	0.110	0.113	0.110	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	334,888,976
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	190,000	87,880	2	0.676	0.676	0.676	0.680	0.680	-0.004	-0.588	0.676	0.676	0.676	0.100	106,470,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	142,664	53,953	28	0.384	0.384	0.378	0.378	0.382	-0.004	-1.047	0.378	0.376	0.382	0.100	47,211,429
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	183,980	30,956	17	0.171	0.171	0.168	0.168	0.171	-0.003	-1.754	0.168	0.169	0.168	0.100	33,600,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	81,000	12,835	3	0.156	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.160	-0.004	-2.500	0.155	0.155	0.156	0.100	36,972,000
Total		19	11,657,588	3,145,409	452											

Parallel Market

OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	5,001	1,450	2	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.242	0.048	19.835	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.100	19,750,061
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	6,000	300	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.048	0.002	4.167	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	7,978,168	813,258	243	0.100	0.105	0.100	0.102	0.098	0.004	0.082	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	20,704,617
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV	526,414	377,797	34	0.071	0.075	0.071	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.072	0.072	0.075	0.100	5,828,143
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	18,770	839	4	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.049	0.052	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	231,245	17,811	18	0.077	0.078	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.316	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	25,000	2,425	3	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.100	16,973,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,150,175	138,028	70	0.129	0.129	0.112	0.120	0.119	0.001	0.840	0.116	0.116	0.119	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	17,186	2,578	3	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.001	0.671	0.150	0.147	0.159	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000001509	DHOOFAR INT	36,507	5,476	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.001	0.671	0.150	0.150	0.163	0.100	61,386,947
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	468,300	100,415	16	0.213	0.215	0.213	0.214	0.213	0.001	0.469	0.215	0.210	0.215	0.100	347,952,530
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	55,000	4,730	5	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.100	2,887,145
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	43,000	6,192	4	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.100	12,960,000
OM0000002297	GULF MUSHROOM P	8,300	1,826	2	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	1,153,160
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKR	230	202	1	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.884	0.884	0.000	0.000	0.880	0.000	0.880	0.100	83,980,000
OM0000003281	TAAGER FINANCE	156,663	15,660	6	0.100	0.100	0.096	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.100	0.100	25,866,180
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,232,801	119,586	48	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.087	0.089	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004735	SEMPORP SALALAH	1,000	82	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.084	0.100	78,274,900	
OM0000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	24,671	7,451	1	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.296	0.000	0.100	30,200,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	946,982	105,766	34	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.113	-0.001	-0.885	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	224,035,032
OM0000002549	OMAN EMIRATES SHO	2,233,474	256,850	46	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.117	-0.002	-1.709	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	244,800,415
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	8,992	971	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.108	0.104	0.100	15,120,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	26,255	1,129	3	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.044	-0.001	-2.273	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	5,884,331
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES SHO	130,500	11,133	10	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.085	0.087	-0.002	-2.299	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	10,355,375
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	87,000	18,108	10	0.209	0.209	0.208	0.208	0.213	-0.005	-2.347	0.208	0.208	0.224	0.100	20,800,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	9,874	958	2	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	-0.003	-3.000	0.097	0.090	0.000	0.100	7,896,067
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	468,000	43,520	16	0.096	0.096	0.091	0.093	0.101	-0.008	-7.921	0.091	0.092	0.095	0.100	11,160,000
Total		27	15,892,598	1,714,538	585											

IN DUBAI FROM MAY 17 TO 19

Global Airport Leaders Forum 2022 to highlight resurging business landscape

DUBAI: The 9th edition of the Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF), scheduled to take place in Dubai from May 17 to 19 alongside The Airport Show will focus on the resurging business landscape with both international and domestic traffic volume recovering faster.

The Airports Council International (ACI), representing 1950 airports in 185 countries, says Dubai International Airport, the world's number one airport for international travellers, is due to receive 55.1 million passengers in 2022.

Along with Airport Security Middle East, ATC Forum and Women in Aviation Middle East Forum as co-located events of the 21st edition of Airport Show, the GALF-2022 will see renowned experts and officials talking about a variety of topics of crucial importance in four sessions at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) on Airport Innovation and Development, Air Traffic Management



(ATM), Airport Sustainability and Airport Security.

Under the Airport Innovation and Development, the panellists will speak about adopting data, AI, 5G and robotics for better passenger experience, advances in integrated, automated, electric mobility in the airport environment, innovations in design, ambience and operations as a key element in

the airport's development strategy, and the future urban air mobility.

Speakers at the session on Air Traffic Management (ATM) will address combining human and Artificial Intelligence for better airspace management, building a Digital Sky to meet future the ATM challenges, protecting the airspace from drone incursions and other vulnerabilities and Level4 Ad-

vanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System.

The Airport Sustainability session will discuss mega hubs' sustainability, innovations and technologies to help airports become more climate-friendly, sustainability contributing towards a better passenger experience and partnership in the wider ecosystem of city and transport authorities, airlines and communities to meet the environmental targets.

The Airport Security session will have experts speaking about developing intelligent, end-to-end control of the entire airport infrastructure to meet future security challenges, the role of advanced, disruptive technologies like AI, Machine Learning, VR, robotics and data in enhancing resilience, building stakeholders' collaboration to ensure passenger safety and satisfaction, and how 'Smart Travel' initiatives contribute to better security management. -WAM

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT

Arab economies expected to grow by 5% in 2022: Arab Monetary Fund

ABU DHABI: Arab economies are expected to grow by 5.0 per cent in 2022, supported by the increase in oil production and its prices in international markets and the continuation of stimulus packages to support economic recovery, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) Outlook.

In its 16th edition of the Arab Economic Outlook Report, including macroeconomic forecasts for Arab economies for 2022 and 2023, the AMF noted the growth of Arab countries is expected to decrease to 4.0 per cent in 2023 due to the decline in global demand, the gradual withdrawal of stimulus packages, and the anticipated fall in commodity prices.

The report indicated that while the world was striving at the beginning of 2022 to overcome the economic and social repercussions of the COVID-19 virus and its variants for the third year in a row, the global economy witnessed unfavourable global developments. These developments resulted in high prices of many agricultural, industrial, and energy products and pose significant challenges for supply chains



TWO OUT OF FIVE ADULTS WITH ADHD HAVE EXCELLENT MENTAL HEALTH

A new study has found that two in five adults (42 per cent) with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) were in excellent mental health. The findings were published in the International Journal of Applied Positive Psychology.

To be considered in excellent mental health, participants had to report: freedom from mental illness in the previous year (i.e., substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, suicidality); almost daily happiness or life satisfaction in the past month; and high levels of social and psychological well-being in the past month.

“This finding provides a very hopeful message for both individuals struggling with ADHD and their loved ones,” said lead author Esme Fuller-Thomson, professor at the University of Toronto’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and director of the Institute for Life Course and Aging.

“This research marks a paradigm shift. Most previous research, including my own, has focused on mental illness among those with ADHD so to focus on those who are thriving mentally is refreshing and very heartening,” added Esme Fuller-Thomson.

Investigators examined a nationally representative sample of 480 respondents with ADHD and 21,099 respondents without ADHD from Statistics Canada’s

Canadian Community Health Survey-Mental Health.

The study identified several factors that were associated with complete mental health among those with ADHD. Individuals who were free from chronic pain and had no lifetime history of depression or anxiety were more likely to be thriving.

“Our findings emphasize the importance of addressing comorbid mental health issues when providing care to individuals with ADHD,” said co-author Bradyn Ko, a recent graduate of the Master of Social Work (MSW) programme at the University of Toronto. “Those with ADHD who also struggle with depression and anxiety face substantial barriers to achieving complete mental

health and may benefit from targeted care. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is a very promising intervention that has been shown to be effective for those with ADHD.”

Other factors that were associated with complete mental health include being married, being physically active, and using spirituality to cope with daily challenges.

“These results highlight potentially modifiable risk factors to support the well-being of adults with ADHD,” said co-author Lauren Carrique, a recent MSW graduate from the University of Toronto. “When compared to being sedentary, engaging in optimal levels of physical activity approximately quadrupled the odds of complete mental health. This

underlines the potential value of physical activity in helping individuals with ADHD achieve excellent mental health.”

The study also identified specific subpopulations of adults with ADHD who may be less likely to be in complete mental health, such as women.

“The finding that female respondents were less likely to be in flourishing mental health highlights the specific vulnerabilities among women with ADHD,” said co-author Andie MacNeil, a recent Master of Social Work graduate from the University of Toronto. “This aligns with other research that has found higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality among women with ADHD, which may partially explain this gap in

mental well-being.”

The prevalence of complete mental health among those without ADHD was 73.8 per cent, which was significantly higher than the 42.0 per cent of individuals with ADHD who were in complete mental health.

“Although we were surprised and delighted to find that two in five adults with ADHD were in excellent mental health, they are still lagging far behind their peers without ADHD, for whom 74 per cent were thriving. There is still a long way to go in closing the mental health gap between those with and without ADHD,” said Fuller-Thomson. “This study calls attention to this gap, while also emphasizing potential mechanisms to reduce this discrepancy.” - ANI



IN PICTURES



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People prepare for Eid al-Fitr festival in Doha, Qatar
Vendors arrange traditional dresses at a shop in preparation for the Eid al-Fitr festival in Doha, Qatar. xinhua



Dairy products at factory in Bogura, Bangladesh
A worker poses for a picture with sweetmeats dipped in sugar syrup pots at a factory in Bogura, Bangladesh. xinhua



Dia Mirza at the launch of the National Geographics initiative
Bollywood actress and India's United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador Dia Mirza at the launch of the National Geographics initiative One for Change, in Mumbai. ANI Photo



2022 Asian Wrestling Championships kick off in Mongolia's capital
Sonoda Arata (left) of Japan competes against Khuderbulga Dorjkhand of Mongolia during the men's Greco-Roman 130kg quarterfinal at the 2022 Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Xinhua

Textile hall at National Museum of Egyptian Civilization opens in Cairo
People visit the newly-opened textile hall at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Cairo, Egypt. The new 1,000-square-metre hall houses around 650 pieces, most of which are fabrics and garments, from the Pharaonic, Roman, Coptic, and Islamic eras. Xinhua





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ROUND-UP

Hongqi launches Ramadan offer

The Ramadan offer applies when buying any of the four exquisite Hongqi sedans such as the H5 and H9, or SUVs like the HS5 and HS7

MUSCAT: After the successful inauguration of the brand in Oman, MHD ACERE's latest automotive brand addition, Hongqi, is now launching its first promotional offer. The offer entitled 'The joy of giving' is inspired by the spirit of the Holy Month that encourages generosity and doing good. Befitting benefits await customers who purchase one of the four luxury models offered by Hongqi in Oman. The offer includes a seven-year warranty for unlimited kilometres and seven years of roadside assistance. The service package is for 2 years / 65,000 kilometres. In addition, each customer will receive a free car registration for the first year, one year of free insurance coverage for Oman and UAE, and a brand new Apple iPhone 13. This offer is valid from April 10 to June 9. The Ramadan offer applies when buying any of the four exquisite Hongqi sedans such as the H5



and H9, or SUVs like the HS5 and HS7. The H5 is an extraordinary compact executive car, with exquisite and advanced appearance, perfect configuration and powerful performance. The exterior and interior in this car collaborate to provide the ultimate luxury experience, featuring a stylish silhouette adorned with 'Wing of Hongqi' greeting light, and the panoramic sunroof which offers inspiration from nature into your private space. This model offers thrilling performance with acceleration from 0 to 100 Km/h in 9.7 seconds only, enabled by the brilliant 196 HP and 320 Nm maximum torque

producing 1.8 L Turbo engine. Another stunning sedan model from Hongqi is the H9. This astonishing vehicle combines powerful driving force, powerful start, and perfect handling. The H9 model boasts a new design concept called "oriental artistic conception". It combines different design elements and details, creating an impressive traditional atmosphere. This beautifully contrasts with the high-tech features such as the full LCD (liquid crystal display) instrument clusters and large centre console screen lending a futuristic sense along with the 12-inch head-up display

(HUD) and video-streaming rear-view mirror, seats with heating and massage, wireless charging, and many more. In the SUV category, Hongqi HS5 tries to define a sense of luxury that corresponds with the aesthetic interests of consumers. This AWD runs on a 2.0 L turbocharged direct-injection gasoline engine, perfectly balanced power, fuel consumption and emissions and exerting a maximum of 340 Nm of torque. Along with its dynamic exterior, the Hongqi HS5 greets the driver with the unique Red Flag wings like an eagle spreading its wings. The anterior is extremely

comfortable with all means of luxury including premium leather and great dashboard details. The other SUV model, HS7 brings the exclusive off-road mode for the fun of conquest, constant breakthroughs with professional off-road performance powered by the TCS all-wheel power control technology exclusively customized by Bosch. It is equipped with the new generation of 8-speed AMT for a comfortable driving experience and excellent fuel economy. The anterior of the HS7 comes with a BOSE 5.1 surround audio system, and double 10.1-inch HD touch displays fitted on

seats covered with world-class Nappa leather, which harmonizes with the solid wood decoration, a flagship luxury space is presented to you. Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE – the exclusive distributor of Hongqi vehicles in Oman opines: "We are excited to witness the growing interest in Hongqi as a luxury brand in the region. Hongqi vehicles deliver optimum class and high performance at an incredibly reasonable price. At MHD ACERE, we make sure that our customers get the best experience and after-sale service, when they choose Hongqi."

BANK MUSCAT

Najahi enhances partnership with customers by organising meetings in South Al Batinah, Dhofar

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat continues to strengthen its partnership with Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) through a number of initiatives by Retail Enterprises (Najahi) as the bank progresses further on its customer-centric vision. Regular interactions, communications and customer meetings are an integral part of the bank's quest to serve its customers better, every day. As part of this strategy, Najahi recently hosted 2 iftars for its customers in the governorates of South Al Batinah and Dhofar. Both the events were attended by a large number of Najahi customers and senior officials from the bank. Earlier, the bank organised similar iftar events for its customers in Al Dakhiliyah and North Al Batinah on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan as well as to get feedback and suggestions from them regarding the bank's products and services for the sector. During these events, bank officials are also able to update customers about plans for the future as the bank seeks to further support the



MSME sector, especially micro and small enterprises in their path to becoming bigger players in the Sultanate's economy. Since its inception in 2014, Najahi has been well recognised for the banking services and financial facilities provided, as it has enabled customers to develop and expand their projects, which is in line with the development goals of the Sultanate which aims to contribute to economic diversification, support Omani youth and increase GDP. Over the years, Najahi has been growing from strength to strength in its role of supporting

the MSME sector. Today, the beneficiaries of Najahi's collateral-free financing include businesses operating in retail trading, services, manufacturing and processing, construction, hospitality, travel and tourism, mining and agricultural sectors. It must be noted that Bank Muscat has been continuously supporting the MSME sector through its different initiatives and programmes that view these businesses as a primary pillar of Oman's plans for economic diversification in alignment with the landmark Oman 2040 Vision.

SKILLS COMPETITION

OTE Group's service advisers prove their mettle in unique contest

MUSCAT: A first-of-its-kind skills competition, conducted by OTE Group for its sizable contingent of service advisers, provided a robust validation of the superior customer service standards espoused by the group's various automotive departments and its leasing arm VLC. The competition, implemented in three stages for four weeks, witnessed the participation of a total of 52 service advisers. Their role as 'Customer Service Champions' – liaising between customers and the technical teams – is pivotal to OTE's goal of sustaining and building enduring customer loyalty across its automotive brands. During the phased competition, the contestants showed off their tried-and-tested skills as service advisers. The strength of their customer-centric mindset and convictions was also evaluated by a panel of stalwarts from the industry. From 52 advisers who entered the contest in the preliminary round, only 17 progressed into the



second round. They were invited to attend a written test to assess their knowledge of the six-step customer care process – the essential toolkit of customer service champions. Also as part of this stage, the shortlisted candidates were asked to role-play their responsibilities when receiving customers with their vehicles, and at the time of delivery of the vehicles. The role-plays helped evaluate their interpersonal skills, politeness, and overall approach towards the customers. Only six of them made it into the third and final round where, through a series of brief role-plays, they were gauged for their aptitude, interpersonal

and communication skills, attention to detail, and ability to handle a customer's queries, concerns and even distress over unmet expectations. Emerging triumphant from the weeks-long competition was Bahiya Said Khalfan Al Wahabi, a young Omani woman, who outperformed her peers at every stage of the stringent evaluation process. She received a splendid trophy for her efforts, along with a gift voucher. First Runner-Up was Mohamed Abdelhady Abass Mohammed, who collected a trophy and gift voucher as well. All six finalists also received appreciation certificates for their commendable performance.

PROMOTION

Own Lincoln Navigator with exclusive benefits



MUSCAT: Own Lincoln's large and luxurious Navigator and avail Service 5 Years / 100,000km, 1 Year Registration and 3M Window Tint. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Lincoln showroom.) The campaign is valid until 18 May,. The Lincoln Navigator has been an inspiring full-size SUV that offers families some of the finest on-road experiences. A twin-turbo V6 engine producing 450 horsepower delivered through a 10-speed transmission powers the Navigator confidently. Navigator's lighter, high-

strength aluminium-alloy body helps create a more refined ride. The Navigator is equipped with a clean and uncluttered interior layout, with a simple, soothing ambience. At night, interior ambient lights sequentially illuminate each of the SUV's three rows. During the day, a panoramic roof fills the cabin with natural light. Inside, spaciousness comes in all three rows, including storage in each to keep the cabin clean and organised. An available rear-seat entertainment system allows passengers to

stream content wirelessly with an Android device to one of the 10-inch adjustable screens mounted on the rear of the front seats. The Navigator is designed to be intuitive and easy to use. A 12-inch configurable instrument cluster allows drivers to choose the information they want displayed. An available Head-Up Display can show selected information on the windshield instead of the instrument cluster. This helps drivers keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel. It does not

fade in the sunlight and is visible even with polarised lenses. Occupants can enjoy available Revel® Ultima audio with 20 speakers that work in concert with Navigator's interior design and acoustics. Standard SYNC® 3 enables clients to manage audio, phone, navigation and more from the vehicle touch screen or steering wheel-mounted controls. Second-row passengers have their own audio and climate control, while third-row seats feature power recline capability.



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Premium Motors sells first all-electric Audi e-tronSportback in the Sultanate

The new Audi e-tronSportback impresses with an athletic sill, a large single-frame octagon design with vertical struts in the front and the unmistakable sloping Sportback roofline at the back

MUSCAT: Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors, has sold the first Audi e-tronSportback in Oman. The first full-electric model from the brand, the e-tronSportback, combines the functionality of a spacious SUV with the elegance of a four-door coupe.

Commenting on the first buy, Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors Oman, said: “We are very happy to begin our EV journey in the country and pleased to open the door to electric vehicles. As Oman warms up to electric mobility, we are excited to register a lot of enquiries from customers. We continue to receive many queries about electric cars especially from customers who are environmentally conscious. The curiosity around the electric car bodes well for Audi Oman’s future strategy of bringing more electric vehicles to the country.”

He added, “Audi e-tronSportback combines the space and comfort of a typical luxury class automobile with a range suitable for everyday use, catapulting the driver into a new era with the electric all-wheel drive.”

The new Audi e-tronSportback impresses with an athletic sill, a large single-frame octagon design with vertical struts in the front and the unmistakable sloping Sportback roofline in the back. In the Audi e-tronSportback all-electric drive system, front and rear axles each have an electric motor and a



total output of up to 402 hp.

The Audi e-tronSportback comes with numerous innovative technologies such as the option of virtual exterior mirrors that project images into the vehicle via a small camera.

Interior digital technologies such as the Audi virtual cockpit

and MMI support enhance functionality. The optional panoramic glass roof ensures a pleasant, light-flooded interior and improved ventilation.

The S line exterior and virtual exterior mirrors help achieve an outstanding drag coefficient value of just 0.25. This is primarily due to

the coupé body shape and the associated lower aerodynamic drag behind the car. The high separating edge of the Audi e-tronSportback minimizes swirl in the airflow in this area, which ultimately also benefits efficiency.

With the range of e-tron charging systems, Audi offers a pow-

erful, intelligent and holistic charging concept. Customers can power up at home with e-tron connect charging system and at an e-tron Charging Service station when on the road. The long-range of the Audi e-tronSportback’s high-voltage battery allow owners to cover a substantial dis-

distance off a single charge.

Customers can book the Audi e-tronSportback at Premium Motors showroom located at Alfardan Heights at Ghala.

Premium Motors is spread across three floors and designed in accordance with global standards and corporate identity.

FESTIVE SEASON OFFER

‘Gold Promise’ – Get assured gold coins at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of 280 outlets spread across the globe has announced the much-awaited festive season offer, ‘Gold Promise’ giving customers a chance to get assured gold coins on their Gold & Diamond Jewellery purchases.

This offer will be valid across all stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds from 21 April to 3 May. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled the Festive Jewellery collection, featuring the most eye-catching and unique trends in gold, diamond and precious gem jewellery, bound to captivate jewellery lovers at the best price.

The ‘Festive Jewellery’ collection presents an array of exclusive and stylish designs that are sure to entice jewellery enthusiasts of all age groups and ethnicities.

These include Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Precia - Gem Jewellery, Divine - Indian Herit-



age Jewellery and Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery.

Further, Malabar Gold and Diamonds has also launched trendy and unique designs within the

‘Bella’ and ‘Elegance’ collections housing a range of dazzling jewellery set in pure gold, for an enhanced shopping experience.

Through the ‘Gold Promise’ by

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers can get a free 1 gm gold coin on the purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery worth OMR 500 and 500gm gold coins on the purchase of Diamond and precious gem Jewellery worth OMR300.

“In anticipation of the upcoming festive season, we wanted to be at the forefront of our offering by introducing new and varied collections in gold, diamond and precious gem jewellery, along with special festive offers. We are also currently running the gold rate protection offer as an added advantage for this festive season through our ‘Be Gold Smart’ campaign, providing customers with the best opportunity to invest in gold and block the gold rate by paying just 10% of the overall value in advance. We wish everyone blessing and safe festivities,” said Sham-lal Ahamed, Managing Director – International Operations, Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

RECOGNITION

Les Clefs d’Or announces Golden Keys in executive committee meeting at Kempinski Muscat

MUSCAT: Kempinski Hotel Muscat announced that during the annual meeting held by Les Clefs d’Or UAE and the Oman Concierge Group, Yasser Al Balushi, Assistant Chief Concierge, was pinned with the ‘Golden Keys’ of Les Clefs d’Or.

This represents his entrance to the Les Clefs d’Or family, which consists of an elite group of concierges from around the world. The Golden Key Hotel Concierge is the ultimate insider, knows everything about anything and can open the doors that no others can.

As a Golden Key member, concierges have to go through a rigorous process of evaluation to qualify, such as having worked a minimum of five years in a hotel, written exams to test their knowledge and references from current and previous employers to name a few. Usually found in five-star hotels around the world, they have the skills, knowledge base and contacts to open doors for both leisure and business travellers alike.



General Manager Carsten Wiegandt said, “We are beyond proud to have one of our team members, representing our hotel and being recognised in the most elite organisation of concierge members from around the world. I am certain that Yasser will continue to uphold the promise of not only Les Clefs d’Or, but also Kempinski Hotel Muscat in making the impossible possible every day and creating beautiful performances.”





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