

**OMANI RESEARCHER HELPS
DETECT CASES OF POWER THEFT**

An Omani researcher has come up with a method to help detect illegal activities by people trying to siphon electricity away from the power grid, and for their own questionable purposes. Faisal Al Yahmadi, a technician at the Royal Court Affairs, came up with a smart grid network, which digitises the power distribution grid and achieves smart, efficient, safe and secure operations of the electricity. **>A2**



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HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM KSA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Princess Nourah Faisal Abdulaziz Al Saud. In the cable, King Salman expressed his sincere appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sympathies and prayers, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harm. **-ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



**OMAN
Over 1,000 ancient
sites being studied**

1 Archaeologists have identified 155 ancient sites in Nufon and 900 in Duqm between 2015 and 2022. The researchers, who come from different European countries, and US were provided assistance by the Oman's Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. **>A2**

WORLD

**Biden decries Putin in
Warsaw address**

2 Russian President Vladimir Putin cannot remain in power, and his war against Ukraine has been a strategic failure, US President Joe Biden said on Saturday. "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power," he said in Warsaw at the end of a two-day trip to Poland. The unusually strong rhetoric was quickly played down by the White House. **>A7**

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

**Working hours
for Ramadan
announced**



MUSCAT: The official working hours for the month of Ramadan have been announced by the Ministry of Labour.

It was decided that official working hours at units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities during the Holy Month of Ramadan for 1443 AH will be from 9 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, working hours at the private sector's companies and establishments for Muslims during the Holy Month of Ramadan will be reduced to six hours per day, equivalent to (30) hours per week. **-ONA**

MARKET

**BankDhofar raises
\$400 million**

3 BankDhofar, the second largest bank in Oman by assets, announced that it had successfully raised a \$400 million dual-tranche syndicated term facility linked to Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR). The syndication was oversubscribed on the back of very strong participation. **>B1**

CDAA STATEMENT

**6 workers killed in rockslide
incident in Al Dhahirah**



Times News Service

MUSCAT: At least six workers died in a rockslide incident in Al Dhahirah governorate even as emergency operations are on to locate survivors.

"Search and rescue teams in Al Dhahirah Governorate are dealing with a report of a rockslide in Al Arid area in the Wilayat of Ibri, where five people were rescued and five others died," said a statement from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA). "The search for persons trapped under the rubble is still on.

CDAA later provided an update on the operations, stating: "The rockslides are still going on and are hampering the rescue operations. So far, six bodies have been recovered and four other persons have received treatment for injuries ranging from moderate to critical."

**ORGAN DONATION APP
TO ASSIST PATIENTS
SEEKING URGENT CARE**



**An event was
organised to promote
organ donation and
create awareness**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in Oman have been asked to register on the organ donation app launched by the Ministry of Health so that patients who are in urgent need of life-saving transplants can be helped.

During an event organised to launch the application and promote awareness on the im-

portance of organ donation, Dr Nevine Al Kalbani, head of the Organ Donation Department at the Royal Hospital, said the app encouraged people to donate their organs as a manifestation of social solidarity.

"We hope that this new application will help increase the number of organ donors to meet the increasing demand for organs received by health institutions in the Sultanate of Oman," said Al Kalbani.

Explaining the importance of donating livers and kidneys, Al Kalbani added: "There are at a times, 3,000 patients in queue for donors and are subsisting on dialysis, which is psychologically and physically a tiring experience."

The event, which was held in the presence of Minister of Health Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, was organised at

the Royal Hospital, with the support of Sohar Aluminium. The application, codenamed 'AttaOka', is financed by Sohar Aluminium, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR). It highlights the company's role in supporting the health sector and motivating society to go for organ donation.

Launched to instill the culture of organ donation in the society and raise awareness on an important issue, the app contains data, information and expert opinions that will help educate people in this matter.

The app defines the processes and mechanisms for organ donation in Oman, highlights the consequences of illegal trade in human organs, corrects misinterpretations about organ donation and provides information on the status of donor relatives. **>A3**



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32nd
MUSCAT

TTV EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Community welfare a priority for Pakistan's new envoy to Oman

MADIHA ASIF
madiha@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Welfare of the Pakistani community is a top priority for the country's new ambassador to Oman.

During an exclusive interview with TTV, Muhammad Imran Ali Chaudhary, the ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, explained the various changes he would be bringing in during his mandate in the country.

"It has to start from the embassy," he said, explaining why people need to take community welfare seriously. "I was very lucky in my last assignment in Barcelona that I could radically change the image of the mission there and I intend to do the same here.

"It is going to become a welfare-oriented mission – from the moment you enter the door, you are going to feel at ease, you are going to feel no formality and you are go-

ing to be taken care of," he added. "Giving you a few examples, anything that arrives from Pakistan – the cards, the passports – they [embassy officials] will put it up on the same day on Facebook so that anyone can just check instead of calling."

He said that for the ease of Pakistani nationals residing in Oman, six WhatsApp numbers have been provided on which they can com-

municate with embassy officials. "There are six WhatsApp numbers for emergency and non-emergency purposes, which answer various queries and also emergencies," he explained.

"These are just the first two steps, but I need to do more, and I have no hesitation in saying that I want a larger women's area, I want a play area for the children, and I want more friendly staff coming

out to help the applicant instead of the applicant going to the window."

This is Chaudhary's first appointment in the Middle East region having previously served in North America and Europe.

"The feelings, I have felt, have been very peculiar since I got off the plane," he said, recalling his arrival in Oman for the first time. "There is this aura of peace in this beautiful country and sudden calm

here, which I couldn't find in the tens of years I have spent in North America and Europe.

Amazing

"It is absolutely beautiful," he said, about his impressions of the country. "The Omani people have been so welcoming and so is the government. I got the chance to meet the top military leadership which was amazing."

Upon being asked how he felt being posted for the first time in this region and to Oman particularly, Chaudhary admitted that he did feel a bit nervous initially. "There was a certain bit of nervousness, not because of Oman, but because I have never been to the Middle East before," he explained. "So, I thought I would have to navigate fresh waters but the moment the people and the friends knew, they said 'you are probably going to the best place in the Middle East'. I then Googled and YouTube'd and I felt at ease."



**SCAN THIS
TO LAUNCH
THE VIDEO**

Muhammad Imran Ali Chaudhary,
Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman



PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:25pm

Asr.....3:44pm

Maghrib.....6:11pm

Isha.....7:22pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:18am

Over 150 archaeological sites at Nufon village and 900 in Duqm

The archaeological studies and research conducted by the specialised team that came from the Republic of Czech, USA, Ukraine, Italy, France, and Germany focused on the village of Nufon



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Specialists studied the stone tools used in the old stone age in the Wilayat of Duqm.



Times News Service

DUQM: A team of archaeologists has identified 155 ancient sites in Nufon and 900 such sites in Duqm between 2015 and 2022.

Conducted by a team from the Institute of Archaeology at the Czech Academy of Sciences, the researchers, who come from the Czech Republic, Ukraine, the United States, Italy, France and Ger-



many, were provided assistance by the Oman's Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones and the Sultanate's Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

The researchers focused on the village of Nufon, an ancient human settlement.

Iron Age

This was revealed by the archaeologists who documented the rock

art sites which are unique in terms of type and quantity.

In addition, the team excavated the mass graves of the Iron Age and discovered the Trilith stone monuments and a coastal settlement on the rocky hills.

Furthermore, specialists studied the stone tools used during the Old Stone Age in the Wilayat of Duqm.

The Public Authority for

Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in Oman documented these ancient settlements dating back to the Iron Age and the archaeological sites, for the purposes of research and study and also to provide necessary protection to archaeological monuments in the Wilayat of Duqm.

POWER DISTRIBUTION GRID

Omani's research helps detect cases of electricity theft from power grid

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani researcher has come up with a method to detect theft of electricity from the power grid for questionable purposes.

Faisal Al Yahmadi, a technician at the Royal Court Affairs, has come up with a smart grid network (SGN) which digitises the power distribution grid and achieves smart, efficient, safe and secure operations of electricity. The backbone of the SGN is information communication technology that enables the SGN to get full control of network station monitoring and analysis.

For his efforts, Al Yahmadi was awarded under the Young Researchers Category in the Information and Communication Technologies Field at the 8th National Research Award organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

"Security is essential in any network where communication is involved, as it has been observed during several recent incidents. An adversary can cause an interruption in the operation of the networks which leads to electricity theft," he explained.

"Therefore, in order to reduce



CHECKING POWER THEFT: Faisal Al Yahmadi, a technician at the Royal Court Affairs, has come up with a smart grid network (SGN) which digitises the power distribution grid and achieves smart, efficient, safe and secure operations of electricity.

the number of electricity theft cases, companies need to develop preventive and protective methods to minimise losses."

Faisal and his team introduced a machine learning based method that detects malicious nodes in a smart grid network. The algorithm collected data from electricity consumption and electric bills

from the nodes in the power grid and compared it with previously obtained data.

The results classified nodes into normal or malicious, giving the status of '1' for normal node and -1 for malicious, abnormal node. Once the malicious nodes were detected, a trust evaluation based on the nodes' history and recorded

data was conducted.

He also found that the detection rate of his programme had a 98 percent accuracy with false alarms raised in only two percent cases.

"For future work, the algorithm will be implemented at a hardware level to simulate a real-life situation and deliver a more accurate result, while countermeasures based on the trust value will be developed to solve and possibly automate a solution remotely," he said. "Furthermore, the algorithm will also have a dedicated software with a professional user interface UI and does not need to rely on MATLAB software."

The research project was conducted by Faisal Al Yahmadi and Dr. Muhammad Ahmed. It was published in the 'International Journal of Computer Science & Network Security' in June 2021.

"Winning the National Research Award or any national award is an honour itself," said Faisal. "Winning one at the start of my career is an amazing milestone that I am immensely proud of. The award gave me confidence and motivation to continue the hard work and help our beloved country Oman, even by a little, to reach the scientific research goals stipulated in Oman Vision 2040."

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Omani travel firm joins hands with global airlines to promote sustainable flying

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani travel company has joined hands with global airline Air France, KLM to promote the transition from conventional fossil fuels to sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) which will reduce carbon emissions by 75 percent leading to a cleaner environment.

Travel Point joined the programme as a show of support to the airlines as also to add its voice to those responsible for decisions to protect the natural world, said Sunil D'Souza, the company's CEO.

"Sustainability is simply everything that we need for our survival and well-being, either directly or indirectly," he said. "Environmental sustainability involves decisions and actions that are in the interests of protecting the natural world, with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life. Therefore, we took the first step towards sustainability along with Air France KLM."



Laila El Mansouri, country sales manager, UAE and Oman, Air France KLM said, "Our corporate SAF programme was launched in 2012 and now includes over seventy partners worldwide. These businesses and institutions help Air France KLM finance the purchase of SAF, thereby reducing the CO2 footprint of their business travel by air."

"Businesses can potentially cause damage to some areas of

the environment," Al Mansouri added. "Some of the common environmental concerns include damaging rainforests and woodlands through logging and agricultural clearing; polluting and over-fishing of oceans, rivers and lakes; polluting the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels and damaging prime agricultural and cultivated lands through the use of unsustainable farming practices. The same

applies to the aviation sectors. Therefore, I personally believe that we cannot overlook these areas and we must take action sooner, rather than regret later."

In 2011, KLM conducted the world's first commercial flight on blended biofuel. In February 2021 KLM operated a commercial flight with an admixture of sustainable synthetic fuel.

For SAF, KLM focuses on all technologies, that is, used cooking oil, forestry residues and sustainable synthetic fuel.

The CO2 emissions of SAF that KLM currently purchases are at least 75 percent lower than those of fossil kerosene. That is why, in the short term, SAF is the most important means of drastically reducing CO2 emissions, thus contributing to a more sustainable technology.

The costs of the sustainable fuel variant are at least four times higher and production is lagging. By increasing demand, KLM hopes to further develop the market for SAF so that supply is scaled up and sustainable fuel ultimately becomes cheaper.

65TH MEETING

ACI discusses challenges affecting airports and civil aviation sector



MEETING: As many as 29 CEOs of regional and international airports took part in the meeting. - ONA

MUSCAT: The 65th meeting of the Governing Board of the Airports Council International (ACI) was held in Muscat on Sunday under the chairmanship of Sheikh Ayman Ahmed Al Hosani, CEO of Oman Airports, Chairman of the ACI Board for the current session.

As many as 29 CEOs of regional and international airports took part in the meeting.

The meeting endorsed the ACI work plan for the next two years. It also explored ways to promote cooperation between airports and international aviation organisations.

The meeting also discussed environmental and economic sustainability projects, as well as the challenges impacting the airports and civil aviation sector.

The CEO of Oman Airports said that the meeting discussed the gradual return of travel traffic after Covid-19 pandemic. This traffic, he said, signals the restoration of air traffic at global airports with the rise of passenger numbers during the first months of 2022.

Luis Felipe, ACI Director General, said that the meeting discussed forging future plans to meet the challenges facing the aviation sector, especially with regard to working between airports to confront climate change. He also added that the meeting highlighted the keenness to open markets and support the trans-

formation of the aviation sector to be environmentally friendly.

At the conclusion of its deliberations, the meeting approved a set of recommendations, represented in endorsing updates in laws of security, safety and environmental sustainability, as well as approving a new centre for artificial intelligence (AI) for all airports in the world. The move aims to provide the necessary data and analysis for airports to be more capable to plan for future projects at the executive level.

The meeting also recommended to implement a joint virtual training centre under ACT's umbrella for the exchange of expertise among workers in the aviation sector.

The meeting also recommended endorsing a unified plan of action in which procedures are consistent to meet any new health challenges and to emphasize the use of modern technology in the airport sector.

The meeting called for a comprehensive review of fees and measures that can be approved by airports to ensure their ability to operate as independent entities, ahead of the ICAO meeting scheduled to be held next September 2022.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by Oman Airports, chairs the current session of the ACI Governing Board during the period from the beginning of 2022 until the end of 2023. -ONA





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Drive against aedes mosquito launched

To curb the spread of aedes mosquito, Muscat Municipality and the Ministry of Health has taken joint action plan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To prevent the spread of dengue and other diseases transmitted by the aedes mosquito, the Ministry of Health and Muscat Municipality have begun a joint plan of action.

Muscat Municipality will spray insecticide in the neighbourhoods of the capital area to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. On 27 March, measures to prevent the spread of mosquitoes were carried out in South Ghubra, Al Ansab and Al Hail.

"In a joint programme carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of health, Muscat Municipality initiates its pest control campaigns targeting neighbourhoods of Muscat Governorate," said a statement from the municipality. "The programme aims to identify mosquito breeding sites and foci that are suitable incubators for mosquito larvae.

"Besides intensive spraying operations, the teams will be tasked to get rid of solid and household wastes and all forms of stagnant water as these areas serve as a suitable environment for mosquitoes to breed," added the organisation.

Muscat Municipality has technical teams consisting of 73 supervisors and 172 technical and pest control workers equipped with vehicles and modern equipment. There will be 248 fog sprayers and 286 machines deployed to eradicate breeding spots for the insect. All preparations have been made to carry out periodic and emergency work by investigating mosquitoes and their breeding patterns in an outdoor environment and to dispose of them in an optimal manner.

"These efforts stem from Muscat Municipality's obligation to maintain the health and safety of community members and to combat sources of pathogens as well as to strengthen the preventive and awareness aspects to check the spread of diseases," added the statement. "The municipality urges all to contribute to the success of these campaigns and stresses the importance of adopting hygiene practices to stop the spread of mosquitoes."

Existing laws prohibit certain activities as they promote the spread of pests and increase transmission of diseases. Under Article 45 of local order 1/2006, owners of properties are obliged to take



measures to prevent breeding of rodents or spread of mosquitoes and other insects on their properties. Occupants of homes are also prohibited from keeping poultry or birds, as per Article 46. Article 48 states that building owners and contractors are fully responsible, during the period of construction, to prevent insects and rodents from reproducing, either in the building, or in areas such as water and sewage tanks and pipes. They must also ensure the building is free of insects and rodents once the work has been completed. Article 50 states that septic tanks, sewers, manholes and water and ventilation pipes must be kept closed and intact. A mesh must be placed over them to prevent mosquitoes from entering them.

Should owners of multi-storey buildings not comply with proper cleaning standards, pest control and waste disposal, they would be slapped a fine of OMR300 under administrative decision no. 55/2017. They will be given three days to correct the anomaly which, if repeated, leads to a doubling of fine. If sewage leaks are found or drainage lines are not maintained properly in commercial, industrial, residential or tourist buildings, a fine of OMR1,000 is imposed, while a fine of OMR3,000 is imposed if the violation is repeated. Those found at fault for these issues are given one day to correct them.

In an advisory video, the Ministry of Health explained the breeding patterns of the aedes mosquito. "The aedes aegypti mosquito is an insect that is active during the daytime and reproduces when a female mosquito lays her eggs in stagnant water," said MoH. "It causes transmission of many diseases like yellow fever, Zika and dengue fever." Symptoms of dengue include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, rashes, muscle and joint pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and a general feeling of illness.

"Dear citizen and resident, recognising and taking corrective actions will prevent breeding of mosquitoes," said MoH. "These include emptying water containers and cleaning them every day, proper coverings over water tanks, getting rid of stagnant water, taking personal protective measures to avoid mosquito bites by wearing clothes that cover most of the body's surface. Use mosquito repellents, window nets and insecticide spray, although you must exercise caution to prevent toxicity."

First-of-its-kind in Oman and the Arab World

It also provides people with information on liver and kidney transplants, while answering inquiries concerning children, adolescents and pregnant and nursing mothers. "This awareness electronic application is the first of its kind in Oman and the Arab World, when it comes to organ donation," said Al Saidi. "One brain-dead donor can save the life of eight other people. I urge all citizens and residents to familiarise themselves with the application and register on the 'Shifa' app, for posthumous organ donation.

"It is the ministry's endeavour to enhance the quality of life through organ transplantation, thereby advancing medical services in Oman," he added.

Dr Nevine Al Kalbani added: "The app educates donors about the types and stages of donation, while raising awareness about the organ transplantation operations conducted at the Royal Hospital and the healthcare provided after operations."

Representatives of Sohar Aluminium at the launch ceremony confirmed that the company



takes pride in supporting such endeavours. Such efforts are part of the company's commitment towards social responsibility and support towards concerning issues, initiatives and projects that serve all sections of society, as stipulated by the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (may God preserve and protect him), and in line with the objectives and aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.

The app was launched as an extension of the previous campaign launched by the Ministry of Health to raise awareness of society and urge them to pledge their organs for donation. As a result of these efforts, there has been an increase in the number of donors who signed up on the 'Shifa' application. Since its launch in December 2021, 17 kidney transplants from brain dead donors have been made possible at Royal Hospital and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. Furthermore, 300 kidney transplants from living donors, and 13 liver transplants from living donors have been conducted so far.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

41,284 REACH



Muscat Municipality launches preaching programmes for expats

A story on Muscat Municipality launches preaching programmes for expats reached 41,284 people and had 2,062 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

6,700 VIEWS



Times TV special on LuLu Hypermarket

A Times TV special on LuLu Hypermarket had 6,700 views and reached 17,475 people on Facebook.

📺 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

914 VIEWS



Morning Minute video on Sayyid Badr meets top Indian government officials

The Morning Minute video on Sayyid Badr meets top Indian government officials had 914 views and 55 likes on Instagram.



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INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Shura Council hosts Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology



MUSCAT: Majlis Al Shura hosted on Sunday Said bin Hamoud Al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for a discussion on the Ministry's statement.

It covered strategic plans under supervision of the Ministry, the key infrastructure projects, investment and external partnerships and the Ministry's projects.

During the session, the Minister reviewed the objectives, plans and programmes of the government, represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The Minister pointed to that the Ministry's various sectors receive the attention and care of the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

He said that the Ministry supervises on a number of national projects that contribute to diversification of sources of income and achievement of sustainable development in the various economic, industrial, commercial and tourism fields.

The transport sector has witnessed construction of a number of ports and harbours during the past years. — **ONA**

TRADE PROMOTION



OCCI receives Czech business delegation

MUSCAT: Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Sunday received a business delegation from the Czech Republic, headed by Dr. Petr Mixa, Deputy Director General of the Czech Geological Survey (CGS).

The meeting discussed means of enhancing the balance of trade. It also reviewed fields of cooperation and partnership in the investment sectors, such as mining sector, as well as exchanging expertise and knowledge transfer in light of Oman Vision 2040.

The OCCI Chairman explained that the meeting came to strengthen relations and expand their horizons to serve the interests of the two countries, besides promoting trade and investment relations. He added that the meeting aimed to accelerate signing commercial partnerships and qualitative investments to serve the economic sectors.

The OCCI Chairman also pointed out that the economy of the Sultanate of Oman and that of the the Czech Republic include many promising opportunities. He added that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries in 2021 reached more than RO 6.659 million, while the volume of imports amounted to more than OMR797,600. The volume of exports exceeded OMR5.862 million. Medicines and medical solutions are the most important exports from Oman to the Czech Republic, while Oman imports cars and machinery parts.

Dr. Mixa, reviewed investment opportunities in the Czech Republic, in addition to cooperation opportunities in various economic sectors.

On the sidelines of the visit, B2B meetings were held between the Omani businesspersons and their Czech counterparts. These meetings aim to exchange experiences and commercial opportunities, as well as encouraging business owners to establish commercial partnerships that enhance trade exchange between the two countries. — **ONA**

CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Meeting held with suppliers to ensure price stability, availability of foodstuff in Ramadan

MUSCAT: The Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) held a meeting on Sunday with the suppliers of commodities in Muscat Governorate as part of the preparations for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The meeting dealt with intensifying control on commodities and prices to ensure availability of commodities and services, stable prices of the same for consumers and proper implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT).

Strict control

During the meeting, Sulayem bin Ali Al Hakmani, Chairman of the Consumer Protection Authority said that the upcoming period would witness strict control to ensure stability of prices of commodities.

He pointed to that field teams would approach the various commercial centres and outlets to follow with prices and in case of any violations registered the violating vendors / providers would be dealt with in accordance with the applicable procedures.

The awareness of consumers while shopping would contribute to facilitating the mission and tasks of the Consumer Protection Authority to this end, he added.

The meeting stressed the necessity for providing consumers with real promotional offers that touch with the requirements of consumers.

The meeting discussed a number of issues related to some commodities and acquainted with the efforts of suppliers on provision of basic commodities on the advent of the Month of Ramadan.

— **ONA**



BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Sri Lanka discuss ways to boost trade ties

MUSCAT: Dr. Saleh Said Masan, Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry received in his office on Sunday Dr. Bandula Gunawardena, Minister of Trade of Sri Lanka.

The two sides explored aspects of the joint cooperation, economic diversification sectors and the investment and trade environment in both countries, as well as augmenting trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and Sri Lanka.

The two sides also discussed aspects of cooperation in the economy and industry sectors, logistics, ports and investment opportunities in both countries.

They also discussed exchanging expertise between the two sides, as well as seeking to benefit from the opportunities and potentials available in the two countries.

The two sides also reviewed the products that can be exported and imported.



The meeting also explored the incentives provided by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion to investors, the economic diversification sectors targeted by Oman Vision 2040, and the available investment opportunities. — **ONA**

OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

OCCI Chairman receives Sri Lanka Trade Minister

MUSCAT: Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) received on Sunday Dr. Bandula Gunawardena, Minister of Trade of Sri Lanka.

The two sides explored prospects for expanding cooperation between the private sector in the Sultanate of Oman and Sri Lanka. They also discussed establishing commercial and economic partnerships in various sectors, especially those targeted by Oman Vision 2040.

OCCI Chairman underscored the importance of enhancing interaction between business communities in the private sector in both countries.

Bilateral meetings

This step would open up avenues for serious work and yield more efforts between the private sector in the two countries to hold bilateral meetings to conclude trade and investment partnerships and explore opportunities for joint cooperation.

The Minister of Trade of Sri Lanka valued the visit of the OCCI delegation to Sri Lanka,

which contributes to strengthening bilateral relations, increasing the volume of trade exchange and benefiting from investment opportunities between the two countries.

He said Sri Lanka intends to send a business delegation to the Sultanate of Oman during the coming period.

He aspired for more direct coordination between the private sector in the two countries to explore investment opportunities in the sectors of food security, tourism, education, health and industry. — **ONA**



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
23/2022	Provision of a programmer & database supervisor for a Takaful system	Companies specialized in the field of information technology services that are registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Excellent and first degree	Monday 11-4-2022 02:00 PM	Tuesday 26-4-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>, On Monday 28/3/2022
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

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2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Biden to propose new ‘billionaires tax’

WASHINGTON: The administration of US President Joe Biden is set to announce a proposal to impose higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans, several US media outlets reported on Sunday.

It would be part of the 2023 budget proposal, expected to be released on Monday, according to a White House document cited by The Washington Post.

The so-called “Billionaire Minimum Income Tax” proposal would impose a minimum tax of 20% on households worth more than \$100 million (€91 million) and work toward cutting projected budget deficits by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, according to the document.

“This minimum tax would make sure that the wealthiest Americans no longer pay a tax rate lower than teachers and firefighters,” the document said.

Signifying a massive reorientation of the US tax code, the proposal would impact the top 0.01% of households. In this category, half of the expected revenue would come from households worth \$1



billion or more.

The proposal would keep the wealthiest people in the US from paying lower rates than those who think of themselves as middle class. Notably, a study by the Biden administration this past autumn revealed that 400 billionaire households paid an average of only 8.2% in taxes on their income between 2010 and 2018. This rate is often below that of many regular American households.

The new proposal will dramatically change the taxes paid by US billionaires. For example, Tesla boss Elon Musk would pay an additional \$50 billion in taxes, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos would pay close to \$35 billion more, according to figures deduced by University of California Berkeley economist Gabriel Zucman, cited by The Washington Post.

Higher taxation for billionaires has long been a demand of the po-

litical left. But the new measure still requires congressional approval. It could raise up to \$360 billion in new revenue over a 10-year period.

The Biden administration inherited a budget deficit that equaled 14.9% of the entire US economy from the former Trump administration. However, the deficit starting in the upcoming budget year will be below 5% of the economy, experts have said. **DW**



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

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

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

Elon Musk plans to create a new social media platform

WASHINGTON: Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk said on Sunday that he is “giving serious thought” to creating a new social media platform consisting of an open-source algorithm.

“Am giving serious thought to this,” Musk tweeted in response to another user’s question whether he considers building a new social media platform,

which would consist of an open-source algorithm and on which free speech would be given top priority.

On Friday, Musk posted a poll to his Twitter account, asking other users to vote whether they believe the platform adheres to the free speech principle. Over 2 million users participated in the poll, with 70.4% responding negatively. **ANI**



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DIVIDED

Deep divisions within Taliban over girls’ education



U-TURN BY TALIBAN: The U-turn taken by the Taliban regime over the education for girls is both disappointing and deeply concerning.

KABUL: According to a report, there are deep divisions within the Taliban’s Supreme Council of Jurisprudence on whether the girls could be permitted to seek education beyond Class 6.

The U-turn taken by the Taliban regime over the education for girls is both disappointing and deeply concerning. Notably, on March 21, the Taliban said they would lift a seven-month-old de facto ban on girls’ education from Class 6 onwards and reopen schools on the first day of Afghanistan’s new academic year, reported Dawn.

However, two days later, the regime while backtracking from its own statement said, they were putting in place policies compliant with the “principles of Islamic law and Afghan culture”.

Looking deeper into the Taliban mindset, it is abundantly clear that their leadership is still struggling to embrace the idea of women’s role in Afghan society.

There are different sorts of reports doing the rounds over the Taliban’s latest decision of not allowing girls to seek education

48 per cent of the population in Afghanistan consists of women and thus Taliban needs to realise that the country cannot progress without the active participation of its women

beyond class 6.

In one of the reports, the education ministry was facing a shortage of teachers, following the exodus of thousands of Afghans, many among them trained teachers, after the Taliban’s triumphant march into Kabul last August.

Moreover, a senior Taliban figure said the schools would be reopened after a “standardised uniform” for girls was introduced that reflected the Afghan culture,

reported the newspaper.

Various reports and commentary by the Taliban has only led to more confusion over the regime’s stance over girl education. Taliban while allowing public universities to reopen last month made a promise that the girls’ schools would restart too.

Even though their leadership held meetings and visited hospitals to speak to women doctors and nurses, encouraging them to return to work and continue to serve, still, the regime is grappling with the issue of girls’ education and women’s participation in public life.

48 per cent of the population in Afghanistan consists of women and thus Taliban needs to realize that the country cannot progress without the active participation of its women in building society.

Afghanistan society is already plagued with a plethora of issues such as unemployment, and shortage of skilled and trained manpower and amid this one can only hope that the Taliban revoke its decision and open schools for girls without any restrictions. **ANI**



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Oman Sail team bags medals at GCC Sailing Championships

The Omani entry is the first regional tournament for the young Optimist sailors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's sailing team has concluded their participation at the 11th GCC Sailing Championships, held from 22-26 March 2022 at Messilah Beach in Kuwait, after claiming the highest number of medals out of all participating nations.

The Omani entry is the first regional tournament for the young



Optimist sailors, who were joined by experienced ILCA sailors to claim podium seven positions. Medals were won by: Hood Al Nofali, silver (Optimist U12); Tameem Al Balushi, silver, and

Abdullatif Al Qasmi, bronze (Optimist); Nebras Al Owaisi, silver, and Elyas Al Fadhl, bronze (ILCA 4); Ahmed Al Bulushi, bronze (ILCA 6); Abdulmalik Al Hina, bronze (ILCA 7).



Sultan Abdul Aziz Al Zadjali, Optimist Coach, said, "This was a great performance from our young sailors in their first regional competition. We have worked hard behind the scenes to prepare them for the event and to return to Oman with so many medals is really pleasing. This is a very strong group of sailors and they will definitely learn from this challenge as they continue to improve and gain experience on the water."

He added, "It is inspiring to see the youth of the country embrace the sport of sailing and reinforce Oman's maritime heritage. The

achievements of this very young Oman Sail team shows that the future of sailing in Oman is promising and that the nation's youth is both highly-capable and highly-motivated to fulfil their considerable potential."

The 11th GCC Sailing Championships featured a total of 57 sailors from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates raced over four days in five classes. The team will now return to Oman to practice and prepare for the upcoming IODA, taking place in Korea from 29th April - 6th May 2022.

PV Sindhu claims Swiss Open 2022 crown

BASEL: India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu on Sunday claimed the Swiss Open 2022 women's singles crown here at St. Jakobshalle arena in Basel. This is Sindhu's second Super 300 title of the year. She has won Syed Modi International back in January. Battling it out at court 1, the double Olympic medallist Indian defeated Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand by 21-16, 21-8 in 49 minutes. With this win, Sindhu now has a head-to-head record of 16-1 against the Thai player.

Sindhu got to a fast start in the final as she gathered a 3-0 lead in the first game. But Thai shuttler refused to get overpowered as she levelled the game at 3-3. The first game moved at a steady pace and with the score of 9-9 on board, the two impressive points gave Sindhu an 11-9 lead at the first interval.

It was neck to neck battle after the resumption as Ongbamrunphan raised her level to get in a point difference against the Indian at 16-15. **ANI**

CRICKET

Oman and UAE win to close out GCC Women's T20i Championship Cup

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman clinched a hard-fought 2-run victory over Qatar on the final day of the GCC Women's T20i Championship Cup at the Oman Cricket Academy on March 26, 2022. They ended the tournament in 2nd place.

Electing to bat first after winning the toss, Oman made 97/8 after 20 overs.

Skipper Vaishali Jesrani was the only batter to cross the 20-run mark. Fiza Javed, Saya Channa and Amanda Dcosta chipped in with scores of 13, 13 and 12 respectively. The visitors were energetic in the field, but Oman paid the price for their indecisive strike rotation throughout the game. Qatar inflicted a total of four run-outs in the first innings. Saachi Dhadwal, Hiral Agarwal, Rochelle Sherlene Quyn and Aysha, with 1 wicket apiece, administered the other dismissals.

Qatar fell agonizingly short in the second phase of the match. Captain Aysha led the scoring for her side with a 25-ball 24. At the 14-over mark, her 41-run partnership with Saachi Dhadwal, who made 18 runs herself, looked to be enough to steer the visitors to victory.

However, Priyanka Mendonca



picked up 3 key wickets in the space of 2 overs to turn the tide back in Oman's favor. With 10 runs needed off the final 6 balls, Saya Channa held her nerve and secured the win for the hosts. Snehal Nair, Amanda Dcosta and Saya Channa accounted for Oman's remaining scalps. In the day's other game, the UAE cemented their spot at the top of the standings with a dominant 210-run victory over Bahrain. Batting first after winning the toss, the UAE openers forged a 193-run partnership in 16 overs to turn the remainder of the contest into a formality.

Kavisha Egodage was dismissed for 67 runs but Esha Oza contin-

ued the carnage. Her unbeaten 71-ball 158 - the second highest individual score in Women's T20i history, powered the UAE to 253/1 after 20 overs.

In response, Bahrain were bowled out in 16 overs for 43 runs, 25 of which belonged to opener Tharanga Gajanayake. Lavanya Keny was the pick of the UAE bowlers. She claimed 4 wickets while giving away just 3 runs.

Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain settled on 3rd, 4th, and 5th spot respectively, with net run rate separating all of them. Saudi Arabia were unable to pick up any points in the competition and finished last.

All in all, the GCC Women's T20i Championship Cup succeeded in providing game time at the top level to all sides competing. In addition, the matches were broadcasted live, serving to garner further exposure for the women's game in the Gulf.

Brief scores: Oman 97/8 in 20 overs (Vaishali Jesrani 23(33) ; Rochelle Quyn 13(1) beat Qatar 95/8 in 20 overs (Aysha 24(25) 2 x 4 ; Priyanka Mendonca 11(3) by 2 runs UAE 253/1 in 20 overs (Esha Oza 158(71) 22 x 4, 6 x 6 Kavisha Egodage 67(45) 10 x 4) beat Bahrain 43/10 in 16 overs (Tharanga Gajanayake 25(45) 3 x 4 ; Lavanya Keny 3/4) by 210 runs

COMMENTARY

Special from IPL and straight from the ground with Mr Cricket



Anis Sajjan, Managing Director, Danube Group

I had a decent chat with this legend of Indian cricket who was modest as always when I congratulated him on the under 19 team's world cup success under his tenure. He said it's the youngsters who did all the hard work. I am glad I was part of this success.

He has played many memorable knocks for team India but no one can forget the epic 281 played at the Eden Gardens ground when India came back from behind after following on to script a famous win.

When I reminded him about that knock, he said it was his day and would not have been possible without the great Rahul Dravid along with whom he stitched a partnership of 440 runs and batted the whole third day and frustrated the Aussie bowlers which had Glen McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Shane Warne.

He is now the head of National Cricket Academy of India and he is excited to groom the young talent coming out and feels very happy guiding them.

No wonder he is called the very very special Laxman.



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T10 CRICKET

Michael XI clinch 1st Grand Challenge Cup

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Michael XI claimed the inaugural Challenge Cup tennis ball T10 cricket tournament organised by the Grand Investment Group (GGI) at the Al Hail CC grounds on Saturday.

In the final, Michael XI edged past Kingfisher Cricket-ers by four wickets.

Sent into bat first, Kingfisher scored 90 for 7 wickets in 10 overs. In reply, Michael XI reached the target with three balls to spare for the loss of six wickets. Ruben of Michael XI was the man of the match in the final.

In the semifinals, Michael XI thrashed Matteo XI Barka by eight wickets and Kingfisher thumped Proline Knight Riders by the same margin.

A total of 48 teams took part in the men's Challenge Cup knockout and five teams participated in the Women's Cup organised as part of Grand cricket tournament from March 4 to 26. Dr Mohammed Humaid Al Alawi, Administration and Financial Manager at Jalan Bani Bu Ali Hospital, was the chief guest for the concluding ceremony in presence of chief organiser Ali Humaid al Alawi, CEO of GGI.



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,276.82 points, down by 0.10 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia index ended down by 0.58 per cent at 487.36 points. Galfar Engineering, up 9.21 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sharqiya Desalination, down 6.96 per cent, was the top loser.

BankDhofar raises \$400mn dual-tranche syndicated term facility

BankDhofar has become the first Omani bank and one of the first banks in the region to raise a Secured Overnight Financing Rate linked term facility

Times News Service

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, the second largest bank in Oman by assets, announced that it had successfully raised a \$400 million dual-tranche syndicated term fa-

cility linked to Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).

The syndication was oversubscribed on the back of very strong participation from regional banks and banks from Asia.

BankDhofar has become the first Omani bank and one of the first banks in the region to raise a SOFR linked term facility.

BankDhofar's Chief Executive Officer, Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, stated: "Despite challenging market conditions, the success and oversubscription of this transaction is evidence of the confidence in BankDhofar and Sultanate of Oman. Being the first bank in Oman to price a syndicated facility off SOFR averages, represents a significant achievement for the bank as the industry transitions away from the Interbank Offered Rate (IBOR). The transaction also demonstrates BankDhofar's position as a leader in adapting and aligning its systems and processes to embrace change."

BankDhofar is well prepared for the IBOR transition, and this landmark transaction is an important step towards developing relevant products for its corporate customers in Oman.

Bank ABC (Arab Banking Corporation (B.S.C.) and Emirates NBD Capital Limited (EMCAP), acted as Joint Coordinators, Joint Underwriters, Initial Mandated Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners for this transaction. In addition, Emirates NBD Bank PJSC also acted as the Facility Agent on the transaction.

Since its inception in 1990, BankDhofar has played a key role in the growth and development of the banking industry in the Sultanate of Oman, with a strong presence in corporate banking, retail banking, treasury and project finance. The bank caters to customers' needs and requirements and sets the standard for the best customer experience through innovative products and creative financial solutions.



“

Despite challenging market conditions, the success and oversubscription of this transaction is evidence of the confidence in BankDhofar and Sultanate of Oman. Being the first bank in Oman to price a syndicated facility off SOFR averages, represents a significant achievement for the bank as the industry transitions away from the Interbank Offered Rate

Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili
BankDhofar's Chief Executive Officer

AGREEMENT SIGNED

Sohar International to seek new venture capital investment opportunities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its aspiration to bring the best of the world to Oman, Sohar International has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hambro Perks, an international investment firm that specialises in identifying and funding game-changing companies and founding teams in technology-enabled sectors.

As part of this MoU, Sohar International and Hambro Perks will seek new venture capital investment opportunities in the region through the creation of co-investment platforms and joint funds. The agreement will provide new investment opportunities for Sohar International's customers and uncover business opportunities in the local market for international investors.

The MoU was signed recently at Sohar International's head office at Waterfront in Shatti Al Qurum. Signing the agreement on behalf of Sohar International was Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Al Musalmi, with Hambro Perks Limited represented by Ali Qaiser, Managing Director of Hambro Perks.

The agreement's white-label venture capital (VC) fund structures will provide Sohar International clients with direct exposure to the VC asset class. The agreement will also enable partnership opportunities in the Sultanate for Hambro Perks' portfolio of companies.



COLLABORATION: Signing the agreement on behalf of Sohar International was Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Al Musalmi, with Hambro Perks Limited represented by Ali Qaiser, Managing Director of Hambro Perks. - Supplied picture

Ahmed Musalmi said, "The joint initiative with Hambro Perks is a testament to the Bank's focus on being digitally driven. This strategic partnership is aligned to the embedding of innovation in our business operations, and in doing so, demonstrates that it is important for us to play a pivotal role in bringing in new protentional foreign investments to the country by partnering with experienced VC investors."

"We are excited that this partnership will enable early-stage Omani technology companies to access global markets and products. This strategic step will deliver on our purpose and allow our clients to win and achieve their goals through benefiting from next-generation fintech and exploring new business incubation."

Backed by sovereign funds, well-established institutions, family offices and influential individuals from across the world, Hambro Perks is a multi-stage investor, investing across several specialised strategies.

Dominic Perks, CEO and co-founder of Hambro Perks, said, "We are looking forward to developing this close working relationship between Sohar International, Hambro Perks and our portfolio of technology companies globally. This is a great opportunity to support the Omani technology ecosystem by working together. Oman has unique opportunities to offer and this partnership will help us deliver value and access to new growth markets for our portfolio companies as we continue to help them scale."

ADVERTORIAL

EP (ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY STUDY) AND RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION FIRST TIME IN PRIVATE HOSPITAL'S IN OMAN



Muscat Private Hospital takes pride in conducting successful complex cardiac procedures electrophysiological study and Radio frequency Ablation of heart rhythm disturbance. A specialized medical team well experienced in cardiac intensive electrophysiology headed by Dr. Najib Al Rawahi- Senior Consultant Invasive /Adult electrophysiologist was able to perform this procedure which took 2 hours. Dr. Najib shared that the cause of rhythm disturbance was detected during the operation and it was treated using radiofrequency ablation.

Muscat Private Hospital bags the opportunity of being the first Private Hospital in the Sultanate of Oman to perform such surgery.

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GOVT DATA

India's coal imports fall 23% as domestic production rises

NEW DELHI: India's imports of non-cooking coal fell to 125.61 million tonnes during the April-January period of the current financial year, which is 23.33 per cent lower when compared with the 163.85 million tonnes recorded in the corresponding period of last fiscal, the government data showed.

"With a considerable increase in domestic coal production, India has achieved a significant reduction in import of coal despite a surge in power demand," the Ministry of Coal said in a statement. The domestic coal-based power generation up to January 2022 is 815.72 Billion Units (BU) with an increase of 12.55 per cent over 724.746 BU during the corresponding period of FY20. Imported coal-based power generation which was 78.07 BU from April to January 2020 has reduced by 55 per cent. -ANI

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Galfar Engineering, up 9.21 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sharqiya Desalination, down 6.96 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,276.82 points, down by 0.10 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.58 per cent at 487.36 points.

Galfar Engineering, up 9.21 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sharqiya Desalination, down 6.96 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman-tel was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 863 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR6.74 million, with more than 39.19 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 22 advanced, 15 declined and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR662,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR354,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR307,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,840.02 points, down 0.12 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, Al Omaniya Financial Services, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, and Taa-geer Finance were up by 7.18

per cent, 5.26 per cent, 4.94 per cent, 2.82 per cent, and 2.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, National Bank Oman, Muscat Finance, HSBC Bank Oman, and Sohar International Bank were down by 6.12 per cent, 1.91 per cent, 1.70 per cent, 1.61 per cent, and 0.86 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,012.65 points, down 0.45 per cent. Prices of Galfar Engineering, National Aluminium, Oman Fisheries, and Gulf International Chemicals were up by 9.21 per cent, 4.82 per cent, 3.61 per cent, and 1.02 per cent respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics, Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products, and Oman Cement were down by 6.72 per cent, 5.70 per cent, 3.89 per cent, 1.00 per cent, and 0.83 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.11 per cent before closing at 1,628.17 points. Prices of National Gas, Oman Telecom, and Renaissance Services were up by 3.76 per cent, 2.22 per cent, and 1.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Sharqiya Desalination, SMN Power Holding, OIFC, and Ooredoo were down by 6.96 per cent, 6.67 per cent, 4.14 per cent, and 0.60 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,282.99	4,270.20	4,276.82	4,281.17	-4.34	-0.10
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,848.99	6,829.64	6,840.01	6,847.91	-7.90	-0.12
Industry Index	6,069.33	6,012.65	6,012.65	6,039.58	-26.94	-0.45
Services Index	1,629.14	1,623.90	1,628.17	1,626.44	1.73	0.11
MSX Shariah Index	487.36	485.63	487.36	490.19	-2.83	-0.58
MSX TR INDEX	5,239.68	5,224.03	5,232.13	5,234.77	-2.64	-0.05
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,926.50	6,906.94	6,917.43	6,914.82	2.61	0.04
SERVICES TR IDX	1,647.10	1,641.80	1,646.11	1,644.36	1.75	0.11
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,246.19	6,187.86	6,187.86	6,187.89	-0.04	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
39,199,370	6,740,003	863	22,266,919,992	22	15	15	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 27

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	10,770	1,939	1	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.171	0.009	5.263	0.180	0.176	0.175	0.100	52,548,331
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	336,757	46,312	36	0.134	0.142	0.134	0.138	0.135	0.005	3.759	0.140	0.140	0.143	0.100	11,730,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	2,408,895	2,215,251	65	0.900	0.924	0.900	0.920	0.900	0.020	2.222	0.920	0.920	0.920	0.100	690,000,000
OM0000001535	OMINVEST	10,000	3,400	2	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.334	0.006	1.796	0.340	0.332	0.338	0.100	227,244,245
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	107,000	47,230	9	0.440	0.446	0.440	0.442	0.436	0.006	1.376	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	104,493,230
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	104,440	8,539	12	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.081	0.080	0.083	0.100	7,380,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	882,949	74,834	30	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	17,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,380,883	714,918	36	0.516	0.520	0.516	0.518	0.518	0.000	0.000	0.516	0.516	0.526	0.100	1,944,156,839
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	3,000	1,920	1	0.640	0.640	0.640	0.684	0.684	0.000	0.000	0.640	0.640	0.680	0.100	47,196,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,333	1,228	4	0.490	0.490	0.484	0.506	0.506	0.000	0.000	0.484	0.484	0.490	0.100	27,830,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	22,790	7,582	9	0.336	0.336	0.332	0.334	0.336	0.002	0.595	0.332	0.332	0.334	0.100	217,415,373
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	182,000	22,352	6	0.124	0.124	0.121	0.123	0.124	0.001	0.806	0.121	0.121	0.124	0.100	23,907,869
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	25,240	6,002	7	0.237	0.238	0.237	0.238	0.240	0.002	0.833	0.238	0.237	0.238	0.100	78,747,705
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	2,015,710	233,791	4	0.114	0.116	0.114	0.116	0.117	0.001	0.855	0.116	0.114	0.116	0.100	346,847,226
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	28,078	11,111	9	0.398	0.398	0.392	0.396	0.400	0.004	1.000	0.392	0.390	0.394	0.100	49,459,592
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,235,390	71,667	46	0.058	0.060	0.057	0.058	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.057	0.057	0.059	0.100	17,814,487
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	286,621	49,591	44	0.180	0.180	0.168	0.173	0.180	0.007	3.889	0.168	0.168	0.176	0.100	34,600,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	478,683	66,841	22	0.143	0.143	0.138	0.139	0.145	0.006	4.138	0.138	0.135	0.144	0.100	32,943,000
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	607,000	261,010	11	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.456	0.026	5.702	0.430	0.412	0.430	0.100	94,600,000
Total	39,199,370	6,740,003	863	10,128,509	3,845,316	354										
Parallel Market																
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,776,093	147,416	42	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.076	0.007	9.211	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.100	16,847,875
OM0000001095	DHOFAIR INSURANCE	10,000	1,940	1	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.181	0.013	7.182	0.194	0.190	0.193	0.100	19,400,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,234,826	275,481	62	0.083	0.087	0.083	0.085	0.081	0.004	4.938	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	29,677,275
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,115,990	97,224	82	0.084	0.089	0.084	0.087	0.083	0.004	4.819	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	2,920,716
OM0000001586	OMAN FISHERIES	227,457	19,477	22	0.083	0.087	0.083	0.086	0.083	0.003	3.614	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	655,719	48,907	57	0.071	0.075	0.071	0.073	0.071	0.002	2.817	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	8,864,875
OM0000003281	TAAJER FINANCE	5,500	473	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.381	0.086	0.086	0.092	0.100	21,808,740
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	421,300	63,157	19	0.149	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.147	0.003	2.041	0.149	0.147	0.149	0.100	11,328,300
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	787,701	55,155	35	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORP.	29,041	2,323	4	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.075	0.080	0.100	5,602,297
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	8,460	833	6	0.097	0.099	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.100	19,600,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT.CHEMI.	7,000	692	2	0.096	0.100	0.096	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.100	0.096	0.104	0.100	2,079,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	17,066,522	1,704,146	58	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	30,885	9,347	3	0.304	0.304	0.302	0.302	0.300	0.002	0.667	0.302	0.300	0.300	0.100	30,300,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	893	71	1	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.098	0.103	0.100	14,980,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	158,596	6,931	8	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.041	0.043	0.100	3,561,643
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	420	354	1	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.884	0.884	0.000	0.000	0.844	0.844	0.000	0.100	83,980,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	8,785	216	1	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.000	0.000	0.242	0.245	0.246	0.100	16,481,085
OM0000003265	NAT. DETERGENT	1,000	590	1	0.590	0.590	0.538	0.538	0.500	0.000	0.590	0.538	0.538	0.590	0.100	10,760,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	215	26	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.116	0.119	0.100	9,849,733
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	3,000	204	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.100	6,600,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	49,533	2,381	8	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004893	AL SUWAI POWER	77,624	3,790	8	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	38,068,911
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	470	23	1	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	70,204,579
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	26,950	3,075	4	0.115	0.115	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.125	0.100	17,732,746
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,438,100	175,444	4	0.124	0.124	0.120	0.122	0.124	0.002	1.613	0.122	0.120	0.122	0.100	244,038,160
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	835,196	172,389	12	0.207	0.207	0.204	0.206	0.210	0.004	1.950	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	394,944,949
OM0000004768	ADNIA TAKAFUL	2,429,825	45,350	44	0.122	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.125	0.003	0.983	0.125	0.123	0.125	0.100	16,760,000
OM0000004246	SUN POWER HOLDING	13,178	554	2	0.045	0.045	0.042	0.042	0.045	0.003	6.667	0.042	0.042	0.045	0.100	8,384,668
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	29,861	3,320	8	0.111	0.112	0.111	0.111	0.119	0.008	6.723	0.112	0.108	0.112	0.100	13,320,000
OM0000004669	SHARIQIAH DESALIN.	17,596	1,883	7	0.112	0.112	0.106	0.107	0.115	0.008	6.957	0.106	0.100	0.112	0.100	10,464,831
Total	29,067,526	2,893,884	507													



5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOME COFFEE EXPERIENCE EVEN BETTER

These days, everyone is seeking the best gadgets and products to help them savour their own home-brewed coffee, looking to enhance the flavour and even turn coffee making into a soothing daily ritual. Fortunately, there are many ways to enjoy your cup of joe that don't require more work - but will make your experience more blissful, luxurious and delicious.

If you are one of the many coffee lovers out there looking to make the most of your morning java, here are some tips to help you rival the best barista in town.

1 Explore a new world of coffee possibilities
Widen your taste options by discovering what else is out there. Try small samples of different types of beans -

from light roast to dark, and everything in between. Try beans from different parts of the world with their own unique flavours, or you could even combine a selection of beans you like to create your own one-of-a-kind blend. Do check the roast date on the label before you buy, which tells you how fresh the beans are.

2 Select the best creamer - for optimal taste and for your well-being
Adding a delightfully creamy touch to your coffee can turn an ordinary day into something truly special. But don't settle for just any creamer. Organic Valley in the US has created new premium organic Creamers in French Vanilla and Sweet Cream flavours that have 40% less sugar than the leading national brand, no artificial ingredients and are lactose free.

They're also ethically made with real organic milk and cream from pasture-raised cows on small family farms - so you can feel good about your choice.

3 Dress up your coffee
Now that you've found your favourite blend and premium creamer, it's fun to "dress up" your coffee for a truly customized experience. You can froth your creamer, and/or sprinkle a tasty dusting of cinnamon, nutmeg or cocoa on top. Make it look as good as it tastes by watching a few YouTube videos to learn how to create a whimsical foam design in your cup.

4 Find the perfect bites to go with your java
Coffee tastes even more delightful when you pair it with just the right breakfast bite, mid-morning treat

or after-dinner dessert. Exploring flavour combinations can be a fun way to enhance your coffee experience with everything from donuts to egg bakes, and crepes to cookies. Whether you're looking for savoury or sweet recipes using organic ingredients to pair with your cup of coffee, you can find a world of great ideas at [OrganicValley.coop/recipes/](https://www.organicvalley.coop/recipes/).

5 Choose a special cup
To transform your morning coffee into a magical ritual, find a cup that you love - not just for how it looks, but how it feels in your hands. You know you've found your perfect coffee mug when it feels comforting just taking your first sip each morning. Make every morning a special treat by following these tips - and you just may become your own favourite barista. -BPT

THE WORLD IN PICTURES



A view of cherry blossoms along Chidorigafuchi Moat in Tokyo
A view of cherry blossoms along Chidorigafuchi Moat in Tokyo, Japan, on Sunday. **Xinhua**



Actors perform Chaozhou Opera in Thailand
A Chaozhou Opera actor performs fire-breathing in Nakhon Sawan, Thailand. Chinese migrants brought the Chaozhou Opera with them to Thailand more than a hundred years ago. **Xinhua**



China's Tianzhou-2 cargo craft leaves space station core module
Screen image taken at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on Sunday shows the Shenzhou-13 astronauts watching the Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft leaving the core module of China's Tiangong space station. **Xinhua**



World marks Earth Hour
Combo photo shows the London Eye before (top) and during Earth Hour in London, Britain, on Saturday. **Xinhua**



People visit exhibition featuring Chinese and Brazilian Art in Brazil
People visit an exhibition featuring Chinese and Brazilian Art, at the museum of art of Brasilia, in Brasilia, Brazil. **Xinhua**



Boys enjoy swimming in Cleopatra's Pool at Siwa Oasis in Egypt
A boy dives into the Cleopatra's Pool at Siwa Oasis in Matrouh Governorate, Egypt. The oasis lies in Egypt's western desert and there are some 2,000 natural hot springs in which locals love taking a bath. **Xinhua**

ROUND-UP

MG Motor’s exciting ‘Festival of Winning’ Ramadan offer is back

Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), the sole MG Motor dealership in Oman, has announced that this year’s Ramadan offer will extend from March 22 to May 20



MUSCAT: Following the massive success of the MG Motor’s Festival of Winning Ramadan offer last year, the MG festival returns once again this year with its exciting rewards for MG Motor’s customers. Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), the sole MG Motor dealership in Oman, has announced that this year’s Ramadan offer will extend from March 22 to May 20. The Festival of Winning extends a variety of benefits including the opportunity to win one’s car back; a Scratch and Win coupon enabling customers to win plenty of prizes, among which are Huawei mobile phone bundles, 100 rial fuel cards, and up to 200,000km service packages. In addition to, free insurance coverage in Oman and UAE, and free car registration.

To enjoy the benefits of this offer, customers can choose from the exceptional range of the 2022 MG cars, which come with a one-of-a-kind manufacturer warranty of 10 years with unlimited km. This range consists of sedans like the rebellious MG GT, the stylish MG 6, and the exciting MG 5; and SUVs such as MG’s largest 7-seater SUV RX8, the dynamic MG HS, the adventurous MG RX5, and the ambitious MG ZST. This all-new fleet of MG sedan and SUV vehicles encompasses diverse choices that serve all needs and tastes. The latest MG GT, the coupé-like fastback sedan that embraces MG’s latest design ethos, is hard to miss. This car’s exterior will catch your eyes at first glance, with its wide stance and the silhouette

of a fastback, aerodynamic, flowing body lines that create a visually stunning vehicle. But the look is only the beginning because MG GT exceeds expectations with its performance. Available in two engine variants, it impresses from the moment you ignite the engine. With up to 173HP and 250Nm maximum torque, it propels you from 0-100km/h in only 8.5 seconds. One of the most popular MG sedans in Oman is the MG 5. With the three trim levels - STD, COM, and DEL, it offers amazing performance and its state-of-art features include Interactive Technology, 5-Star CNAP Safety, 1.5L CVT and a Dual Cooling Cycle Engine and 29 storage spaces and 512 L super trunk space. The exciting MG 5 model is a manifestation of confi-

dence on the roads that gets you to embrace life and its many journeys in style. Another remarkable MG sedan to look at is the MG 6, which also comes in three trim levels. The lively 1.5L turbocharged engine gives this model a dynamic performance, complemented by the sporty styling and head-turning aesthetics inside and out. Its other strong points include its C-NCAP 5 Star safety rating and its stability control system for complete peace of mind. In the SUV category, the MG HS offers a thrilling driving experience and a sense of adventure, thanks to its X-Motion design concept. The dynamic MG HS is a smart and practical SUV that exudes charm and capability, letting you experi-

ence life like never before, powered by its 2.0-litre High-Efficiency Turbo Engine and its praiseworthy design makes it an irresistible choice for adventure seekers. The ultimate SUV from MG Motor – the MG RX5 – makes every journey a memorable one. Versatile, capable, sporty and fun, the MG RX5 perfectly encapsulates the Do More ethos of the brand and offers a sporty yet elegant design including violin-style tail lights and an 8-inch touchscreen console. It comes with a panoramic sunroof and spacious interiors with up to 1,639 L storage space. It is also available with the choice of Red, Blue, Black, White and Silver finishes. Another class-leading SUV is the MG RX8. Epitomizing seven-seat perfection, the MG RX8 is a

bold and capable SUV built to be noticed. This vehicle is packed with all features allowing it to top competitors in the category. With the 2.0T engine paired with a six-speed automatic transmission, MG RX8 is unstoppable on any terrain. Add that to the exceptional safety features, technology-enabled control, and the amazingly elegant exterior this car boasts. A contemporary design and punchy drive characterise the MG ZST which, though designed and built with a British heritage in mind, has already proved its popularity in the Middle East. This striking crossover offers more equipment than ever, with an upgraded engine, additional styling features and the very latest in technology.

HOLY MONTH



Mercedes-Benz Oman offers rewarding journeys this Ramadan

MUSCAT: This Ramadan, Mercedes-Benz Oman is joining the festivities with a host of special benefits on its latest models. From April 1 to May 31, customers can drive away with one of the most sought-after vehicles and enjoy five years/75,000km service package, four years Mobilo on-road assistance service, three years unlimited mileage warranty, free registration for the first year, plus a complimentary gift from the Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Collection. With an uncompromising commitment towards style and luxury, Mercedes-Benz Oman makes sure every journey is comfortable and peaceful. Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman, said, “The Holy month of

Ramadan is filled with joy and goodwill, and at Mercedes-Benz Oman, we love to celebrate it with our customers. We are thrilled to be able to offer this fantastic package, adding to the benefits of owning one of our iconic vehicles. With all of the latest models to choose from and our dedicated specialists on hand to help, customers are sure to drive away with a car that matches their lifestyle in every way.” Extending across the new Mercedes-Benz Cars and SUVs stock range, except the Mercedes-AMG G-Class, drivers are sure to find the perfect vehicle for themselves and their families. With these exceptional benefits, customers are guaranteed an unmatched driving experience long after their purchase.

PROMOTION

Nissan Oman announces special Ramadan scheme for customers



MUSCAT: Nissan Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), is offering a wide range of benefits for Nissan patrons as part of its special Ramadan offer. The offer, which is available on all models purchased for personal use, will go on till May 19, 2022. As part of the special scheme, Nissan Oman is offering a free periodic vehicle service package, free insurance, assured gift vouchers, free registration and many more. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet and rental-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. A senior official of Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), said, “At Nissan Oman every Ramadan we try to offer the best possible value proposition for the benefit of our esteemed customers. “We would like to emphasise that this is the best time to buy

Nissan cars. Nissan Oman has always made genuine efforts to offer world-class facilities and services to its valued customers. We are happy to launch a special promotion on the wide range of Nissan vehicles in celebration of the holy month of Ramadan.” **EMI for popular models** Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan Sunny 1.5L is OMR 92, Nissan Sunny 1.6L is OMR 108, Nissan Kicks is OMR 120, Nissan X-Trail is OMR 186, Nissan Altima is OMR 174, Nissan Maxima is OMR 262, Nissan X-Terra is OMR 209, Nissan Pathfinder is OMR 271, Nissan Patrol Y 61 Super Safari is OMR 327, Nissan Patrol Y62 is OMR 364, Nissan Navara is OMR 162 and Nissan Urvan is OMR 160. These EMIs are calculated on the price of the base model with a 20% down payment, 3.5 % rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals. All customers purchasing Nis-

san vehicles during this scheme period except GTR, 370Z will be eligible for a free periodic maintenance service package for three years / 60,000km (whichever is earlier), limited to six services only. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km. All customers buying Nissan vehicles during this scheme will be eligible for Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers up to OMR 200. The gift voucher value will vary from model to model. All customers purchasing Nissan Sunny and Kicks will be eligible for a gift voucher worth OMR 50; Altima, X-Trail, X-Terra, Navara, and Urvan buying customers will be eligible for OMR 100 gift vouchers; Maxima and Pathfinder buying customers will be eligible for gift vouchers worth OMR 150; Nissan Patrol (Y61 & Y62) customers will be eligible for gift vouchers worth OMR 200. Vouchers can be redeemed for the purchase of any consumables, value-added service products, services contracts

and Parts at SBA service centres. The gift voucher offer is subject to terms and conditions: VAS vouchers will have to be utilized fully in one go and cannot be fragmented. Any additional expenses on top of the voucher amount will be paid by the customer separately. VAS Voucher will have a limited validity period and will have to be a consumer before October 31. VAS Voucher is transferable. VAS Voucher will be in OMR 50 denomination. Multiple vouchers will be issued for OMR 100 / OMR 150 / OMR 200. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the Voucher amount cannot be discounted in cash. All customers purchasing Nissan vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle insurance (Oman and UAE only) except GTR, 370Z and Urvan. All customers purchasing Nissan vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration except GTR, 370Z and Urvan.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat receives accolades at Oman Sustainability Week

The bank received the Silver Award for its stellar efforts in sustainability

MUSCAT: In recognition of its pioneering role in the field of Sustainability, Bank Muscat was honoured at the Oman Sustainability Week Awards held recently at the W Hotel Muscat.

The bank received the Silver Award for its stellar efforts in sustainability from the chief guest, His Highness Sayyid Dr Fahad Bin Al Julanda Al Said. Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, received the award on behalf of the bank at the ceremony, which was attended by a number of their excellencies and senior executives from some of the top institutions and corporates in Oman.

The awards provided a platform for the participating organisations to perform a situation analysis, mapping out their current sus-



tainability status in comparison to industry peers and identifying medium and long-term risks and opportunities. Some of the other benefits included in-depth evaluation by highly specialised sustainability assessors, introduction to self-assessment tools and assessment methodologies offered through a specially designed online platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank

Muscat, said, "We are delighted to receive this prestigious award, which reconfirms BankMuscat's pioneering role in promoting sustainability in Oman. By aligning to Oman Vision 2040, the bank has a roadmap to generate and make maximum use of opportunities, which promote economic competitiveness, social well-being, growth and development, and reflect positively on socio-economic development."

"As a leading financial services

provider in Oman, Bank Muscat works to ensure sustainability across its operations, and also to serve the Omani society through various programmes and initiatives. The bank will continue to move forward with its strategy of strengthening cooperation and partnership with various government and private sector institutions, in line with the latest sustainability trends, both at the local and international levels."

It is worth noting that the

bank's sustainability strategy aims at delivering long-term benefits to the nation. Today, the widespread adoption of renewable energy is a key part of creating a green economy in the Sultanate, and Bank Muscat has been playing its part in making large scale adoption of renewable energy possible by the general public by offering Green Finance, Oman's first environmentally-friendly finance product, for installation of residential solar panels.

Bank Muscat is also committed to adapting its business operations to incorporate sustainable practices like replacing lamps with LED lights, managing Greenhouse Gas emissions, and reducing water and paper consumption as well as electronic waste. Earlier in 2018, Meethaq Islamic Banking installed rooftop solar panels at its Al Khoudh branch which was the first branch in Oman running on renewable energy.

Bank Muscat is currently running about 10 long term Sustainability and CSR programmes serving different segments of society. These include the landmark Green Sports programme, the Tadhmun program, which provides household appliances to social welfare families, the Jesr Al Mustaqbal

programme, which provides scholarships to young people from social welfare families and the Al Wathbah SME Academy, which equips Omani entrepreneurs with business skills and help them acquire internationally-accredited certification.

Earlier, the bank also joined hands with the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage to develop the old village of Misfat Al Abriyeen in Al Hamra to boost heritage tourism and also contribute to the creation of new jobs and other benefits for the local community. In 2020, the bank celebrated the completion of the 15,000 square metres Al Khoudh Park project in partnership with Muscat Municipality, which is promoting domestic tourism and also strengthening the local community.

Bank Muscat also works closely with a number of civil society organisations to support and encourage persons with disabilities. In 2021, the Bank was recognised by the Ministry of Social Development and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its stellar efforts in CSR. Bank Muscat continues to channel its resources for creating sustainable, positive changes in communities by investing in their welfare.

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

ESO partners with HSBC Oman for whale conservation, capacity building programmes

MUSCAT: The Environment Society of Oman (ESO) has signed a two-year sponsorship agreement with HSBC Bank Oman to support its efforts towards the conservation of the Arabian Sea humpback whale.

Under the partnership, ESO will carry out two new projects; a Conservation Management Plan that aims to work with local authorities to implement alternative solutions to harmful marine practices that threaten the whales' survival, and a Capacity Building programme that focuses on developing the next generation of cetacean (whales and dolphins) researchers.

Maia Willson, Research and Conservation Manager at ESO, said, "We've been researching Oman's whales for the last 20 years with the help of local and international collaborations.

"Whilst this work is still ongoing, we now have sufficient scientific information to inform conservation actions. As we move into 2022, our attention turns to how we tackle the issues threatening the survival of the endangered Arabian Sea humpback whales.

"With the valuable support of HSBC, we are able to move towards



tangible action, to help implement policies for greater protection, and to prepare the next generation of local marine research and conservationists needed to continue this vital work."

"HSBC has a long-standing commitment to supporting the communities in which we operate. Through our partnership with the Environment Society of Oman, this conservation and capacity building programme

will give a valuable opportunity to develop the next generation of marine researchers and activists and support one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals on building human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation," said Melika Betley, CEO of HSBC Oman.

The Arabian Sea humpback whale is one of 20 species of marine mammals found in Oman's waters. Classified as endangered

on the IUCN Red List of threatened species in 2008, it is estimated to be one of the smallest and potentially most vulnerable whale populations in the world, numbering fewer than 100 individuals. Research supported by ESO has also proven Oman's humpback whales to be the only known population in the world not to migrate between high and low latitudes, staying instead to breed and feed in the waters surrounding Oman.

OFFER

Toyota Hilux with 'Biggest Excitement' benefits



MUSCAT: Own the powerful and capable workhorse - the Hilux and get service 2 years/20,000 km (whichever is earlier), 1-year insurance or cash gift instead of Insurance from OMR 200 up to OMR 250 and grand raffle Toyota Supra.

Customers also get a chance to Scratch and Win Laptop, iPhone 13, Fuel Card, Apple Watch Series 5. Additionally get a chance to Walk-in and Win Apple Airpod 2 and Apple Watch Series 5. The campaign 'Biggest Excitement' is valid until May 19. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year.

Terms & Conditions apply.)

In Oman, the Hilux is available in two versions - The rugged Hilux with J-Deck and the sporty 4.0 Litre V6 Hilux Adventure with the A Deck. The 4.0 Litre V6 Toyota Hilux Adventure is a truly exciting mean machine that's been developed by Toyota to get your pulse racing. Check out the Hilux Adventure and Unleash the Power.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022



Alizz Islamic Bank honours top performing students in Suwaiq

MUSCAT: In a celebration attended by the branch manager of Alizz Islamic Bank's Suwaiq branch Abdullah Al Hadhrami, parents, the school principal, and a number of educators and administrators, Alizz Islamic Bank honoured the top performing students for the academic year 2021/2022 in Thabet Bin Kaab School in Al Batinah North Governorate.

The branch manager of Alizz Islamic Bank in Al Suwaiq also honoured 60 runner-up students who came 11th - 20th in several different classes (i.e 60 students) as part of a new initiative implemented this year.

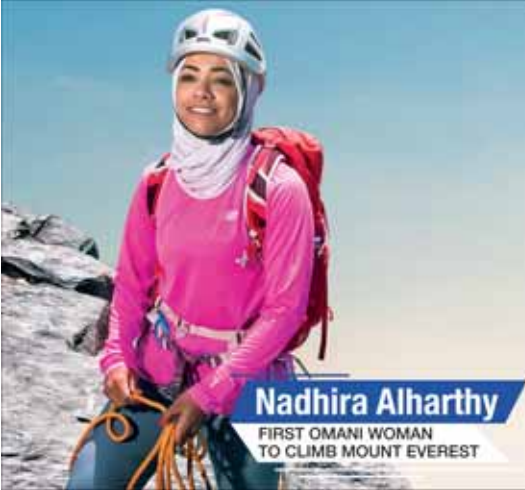
Additionally, Nabil Al Salhi, supervisor of the Holy Quran competition and top students in that competition at the wilayat level were also felicitated during this celebration that witnessed a variety of activities.

Guided by the CEO of the bank, Alizz Islamic Bank seeks to support all segments of society by investment in various social initiatives and the bank has allocated budgets in each wilayat branch to contribute to promoting and supporting social responsibility programmes that ensure the optimum benefit of people across Oman, which reflects the bank's

deep belief that growth of individuals and businesses is the key driver of welfare and growth of the community.

In this respect, students commended the role played by Alizz Islamic Bank towards the community, as the bank makes great efforts to fulfil its commitment to social responsibility by providing robust support to institutions that contribute to building strong and cohesive communities. Recently, the bank offered support to a number of events across governorates and wilayats of the Sultanate, as part of its commitment to help its customers and the community and to extend its services to anyone seeking a different experience in the Islamic banking sector.

It should be noted that the bank received several awards in recognition of the banking services, products, and programmes it offers to the community, which reflects the bank's understanding of the market needs. Since the launch of its operations in 2013, the bank gave priority to investment in the community, particularly in civil society initiatives, education, youth development, and raising awareness about Islamic Banking as a means of the welfare of society.



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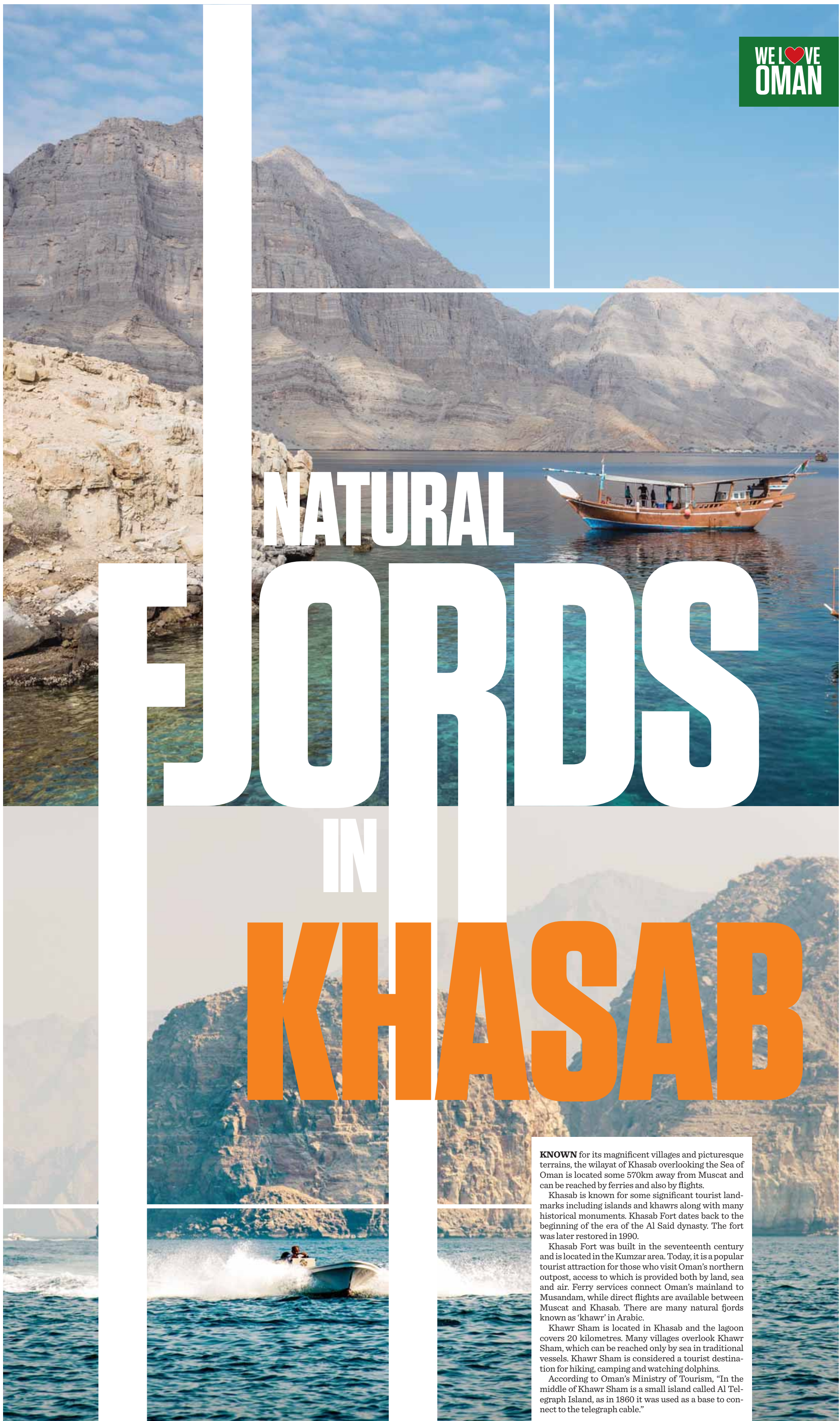


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KNOWN for its magnificent villages and picturesque terrains, the wilayat of Khasab overlooking the Sea of Oman is located some 570km away from Muscat and can be reached by ferries and also by flights.

Khasab is known for some significant tourist landmarks including islands and khawrs along with many historical monuments. Khasab Fort dates back to the beginning of the era of the Al Said dynasty. The fort was later restored in 1990.

Khasab Fort was built in the seventeenth century and is located in the Kumzar area. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction for those who visit Oman's northern outpost, access to which is provided both by land, sea and air. Ferry services connect Oman's mainland to Musandam, while direct flights are available between Muscat and Khasab. There are many natural fjords known as 'khawr' in Arabic.

Khawr Sham is located in Khasab and the lagoon covers 20 kilometres. Many villages overlook Khawr Sham, which can be reached only by sea in traditional vessels. Khawr Sham is considered a tourist destination for hiking, camping and watching dolphins.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "In the middle of Khawr Sham is a small island called Al Telegraph Island, as in 1860 it was used as a base to connect to the telegraph cable."



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