

TOURISM REPRESENTATION OFFICES PROMOTE OMAN

The annual forum for tourism representation offices was organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. The event covers tourism promotion activities in 15 countries around the world and the latest developments in the field. **>A3**



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HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONDOLENCES TO PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Dr. Arif Alvi of Pakistan on the death of Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, former president of Pakistan. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Alvi, family of the deceased and the people of Pakistan. **-ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Indian budget carriers to resume operations

1 Low cost airlines of India are gearing up to start Oman operations after the Government of India decided to resume international flights from March 27, 2022. **>A3**

WORLD

Crude price may top \$300 a barrel: Russia

2 Ban on imports of Russian petroleum products will have catastrophic consequences for the global economy, says Russia. **>A6**

SPORTS

Hamed takes on 'Border to Coast' challenge

3 Hamed Al Harthi, one of Oman's best and most experienced long-distance runners, has set himself the daunting challenge of running 560km in seven days. **>A8**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM sends written message to president of Tanzania

ZANZIBAR: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania, dealing with the bilateral relations between the two countries and their people.

The message was handed over by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he was received by the President of Tanzania at the Presidential Palace in Zanzibar yesterday. Sayyid Badr conveyed greetings



of His Majesty the Sultan to President Suluhu, along with His Majesty's best wishes of permanent health and happiness to her. His Majesty also wished the people of Tanzania continuous progress and prosperity.

In her turn, President Suluhu asked Sayyid Badr to convey her greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people.

The two sides underlined the advanced relations between the

two countries and expressed their keenness on the continuation of cooperation in various spheres which serve the peoples of the two countries.

They also discussed regional and international developments of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Liberata Mulamula, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the delegation accompanying Sayyid Badr and several Tanzanian officials. **-ONA**

RIISING GOLD PRICES DAMPEN WEDDING PLANS

The jump in prices over the last few days is a knock-on effect of the Russia-Ukraine conflict

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: High gold prices are forcing many business owners in Oman to put on hold their expansion plans and compelling young people to delay their marriages.

The jump in prices over the last few days is a knock-on effect of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has impacted the prices of many commodities,

including oil, foodgrains, and precious metals.

"Never before have we seen this kind of increase in such a short span of time, and we are also closely monitoring the fluctuations in gold rate," said K Najeeb, regional head for Malabar Gold and Diamonds. "Gold prices are rallying because of their acceptability as a safe-haven asset, owing to the geopolitical and economic conse-

quences of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine."

Gold prices have been steadily rising over the past week. The cost of 24 carat gold rose from OMR 24.35 on 28 February to OMR 25.7 on 8 March. Similarly, the price of 22 carat gold rose from OMR 23.3 to OMR 24.55, 21 carat gold increased from OMR 20.9 to OMR 22.1. Gold prices rose to the highest in two years and last week

reached \$2,000 per ounce.

"I am putting on hold my expansion plans to open another gold shop this year. There is currently a low demand for gold buying. I would say 60 percent of my usual customers have stopped coming in the last four months and that hit my business hard," Khalfan Al-Rashdi, the owner of a gold shop in Seeb, told *Times of Oman*. **>A5**

RANKING

Oman 7th best tourist destination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is the seventh best tourist destination in the world.

According to the Government Communication Centre (GCC), Oman is the seventh-best tourist destination in the world due to its environmental richness, biodiversity and unique series of reserves.

The Sultanate has many natural reserves that include a variety of wildlife and marine life, including Daymaniyat Islands Reserve which is considered the best place for diving and snorkeling to see sharks, whales, dolphins and coral reefs.

Arabian gazelle

Al Saleel Natural Park is one of the largest sites in the Middle

East, which is considered a habitat for the Arabian gazelle. Khor Salalah Reserve is the best place to see the birds in the Sultanate.

Nature Reserve

Oman also enjoys Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve, which is the habitat for the Arabian leopard. It is located in the Governorate of Dhofar. Green turtles also nest on the sandy beaches of the reserve.

Ras Al Hamra to host 48th Muscat Open Golf Championship

A8

RESEARCH PAPER

Only 28% of future tech covered in school curriculum



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Only 28 percent of technologies that will be available to people in the future are being taught to students at schools, a researcher in Oman has found out.

In his research, Yasir Al Shuhumi of the Ministry of Education found that even the aspects of future tech taught to students are primarily theoretical in nature with little practical application of actual technologies, which will be important elements of life for the people in the years to come.

He also realised that IT syllabi in schools were not being updated in line with developments and global trends, as around the world there is a tendency to teach students about future tech, and go beyond just teaching the basics.

Al Shuhumi's project, titled 'Studying the reality of pioneering education and future technology in school education in the Sultanate of Oman', was awarded under the Young Researcher's category in the field of Education and Human Resources at the 8th National Research Awards organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MOHERI).

School curricula deficient

"The importance of the study is seen in the vitality and modernity of the subject," he said. "It is also important to share the realities of pioneering education and future technology in school education in the Sultanate. This research will also assist educational decision-makers in developing the educa-

tional system in line with local and international trends in the economic and technological fields to solve and remedy some economic and social problems.

Pioneering education

"The study can benefit schools by adding pioneering education in the field of future technology within their plans when designing curricula," he added. "They will also benefit from the scheme of integrative roles to promote pioneering education in the field of future technology."

Research conducted by Al Shuhumi pointed to a lack of organised and planned projects and activities involving senior school staff, education specialists and career guidance counsellors when it came to future tech. **>A3**

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WILAYAT OF MUTTRAH

Over OMR1mn saved through water waste detection

MUSCAT: Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company saved OMR1.03 million in 2021 through the use of water waste detection techniques, a strategic approach espoused by the company to achieve its annual goals.

The assessment was based on data and statistics collected by specialists, whose efforts also led to the recalibration of meters of major consumers, the modification and repair of defective meters or replacement of the same with electronic meters.

Eng. Saleh Mohammed Al Kindi, Director of Operation and Maintenance in the Wilayat of Muttrah, said that the water waste detection project targets the technical

operation of networks to help improve their functioning, cut down commercial waste and update information in the invoicing system. The process involves field surveys and visits of technical teams to areas where high water waste is detected, so that the common causes could be studied and analysed.

Over the past period, the project was carried out in Area 1 of the Wilayat of Al Amerat and the industrial estate of the Wilayat of Muttrah's Al Wadi Al Kabir area, as well as the areas of Al Bustan and Qantab in the Wilayat of Muscat.

Currently, field study is being conducted in several wilayats of Muttrah. — **ONA**

PRICES OF COMMODITIES

< FROM A1 Small business owners putting plans on hold

Business owners are also hoping the current situation cools down quickly.

"The war in Ukraine is making it worse. Half of my supply comes from the East European countries where the no-fly zone and sanctions to Russia and Ukraine are taking place. The import of commodities are now expensive because of high cost of insurance and that drives up inflation," Haidar Al Salami, an owner of building materials in Barka, told *Times of Oman*.

New SME owners also are putting on hold their plans to start their trades until the inflation situation calms down.

"I was about to start a food distribution business to the Batinah cities but suddenly found that the prices of commodities have gone up because of inflation. If I start the business now, then I would have to increase prices and that would not go well with my prospective customers," Rashid Al Maqbali, a 26-year old from Seeb, told *Times of Oman*.

In turn, higher gold prices are now forcing young people in Oman to tone down their wedding celebrations while some simply delay tying their matrimonial knots waiting for some reprieve in the near future.

"I got engaged and my wedding is due in June this year, just after the Eid Al Fitr. But the prices of gold are almost double compared to last year when my sister got married. As a bride to be, I would certainly need to buy gold for my wedding. It looks like I would not be able to buy much from the dowry I would get," Jokha Al Zaabi, told *Times of Oman*.

But high cost of marriages have not only been driven by record gold prices, but the general wedding costs due to inflation, too, according to young Omani men who are considering tying matrimonial knots.

"I would need to work another year and save more money before I even consider getting married. It is not just the gold prices which are high but the wedding costs like the hotels, food, gifts and clothes as well, have gone up. So I am just delaying my marriage for another year," Khalid Al Harthi, told *Times of Oman*.



PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL TENDER

PSM intends to offer Annual Contract for the year 2022 – 2023.
The contractors with relevant experiences are invited for following bidding:

Tender No.	Tender's Name	Tender Collection Date	Submission Date
2022/001	Running of School Canteens	March 12 to March 15, 2022 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM Working Days/Hours	Before and Until March 17, 2022

Experience contractor(s) having relevant experience of at least 3 years of similar nature jobs preferably in Oman, who wishes to participate in the bidding may collect the documents after payment of RO. 20,000 (non-refundable) per Job.

Admin Office
Pakistan School Muscat
P.O. Box 987, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman; Tel: 24702489 Fax: 24709746,
In case of any query you may contact 00968 93690691
Email: tulaib@pakistanischool.edu.om, director@financebods@pakistanischool.edu.om

The tenders shall be submitted in Original and complete with all relevant documents. Tenders not in compliance with tender's requirements shall not be considered.
Tender Documents shall be submitted in sealed envelope with clearly mentioned Tender Number/name, Company Name and POC's Number/name. The sealed envelope shall be dropped in the Tender Box available at Admin Office on or before the date mentioned above and addressed to:

Pakistan School Muscat
(PSM is not bound to accept the lowest Tender or any Tender)



DEFENCE SECRETARY GENERAL RECEIVES BRITISH ADVISER
Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Tuesday Lord Astor of Haver, Adviser of the British Minister of Defence, the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy. The two sides exchanged views that serve the defence ministries of the two countries. They also discussed several matters of common interests. — **ONA**



Notice of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of Ahli Global Equity Fund

We, the Management of **Ahli Global Equity Fund** (the "**Fund**") hereby invite the unit holders to attend the Annual Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 3:00 P.M., on Monday, 28 March 2022, at Ahli Bank HQ (subject to complying with the decisions of Supreme Committee tasked with tackling the developments resulting from the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)). In the event that the quorum to convene the Annual Ordinary General Meeting is not complete, the second general meeting will be convened at 3:00 P.M., on Tuesday, 29 March 2022, at Ahli Bank's HQ to discuss and consider the following agenda:

1) To consider and approve the Fund Management Report for financial year ended on 31 December 2021.

2) To consider and approve the Auditors' Report on the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

3) To ratify the sitting fees for the Fund's Management Meetings for the financial year ended on 31 December 2021 and determine the sitting fees for the financial year ending on 31 December 2022.

4) To inform the general assembly of the related party transactions which took place during the financial year ended on 31 December 2021.

5) To appoint an auditor for the financial year ending on 31 December 2022 and determine their fees.

According to the Articles of Association of the Fund, any unit holder shall have the right to authorize in writing any other person to attend the meeting and vote on the resolutions taken thereat on his/her behalf. The authorization must be on the proxy forms, which is enclosed with the invitation. Natural persons must enclose copies of their IDs. Minor unitholders and unitholders who do not have IDs shall enclose copies of their passports. Non-Omani unitholders shall enclose along with their completed proxy forms copies of their passports or their resident card. Proxy forms for corporate persons shall be signed by their authorized signatories. Copies of commercial registration documents as well as ID/passport copies of their authorized signatories' must be enclosed with their completed and stamped proxy forms.

To prevent delay in starting the meeting, unitholders are requested to arrive about half an hour before the scheduled meeting time.

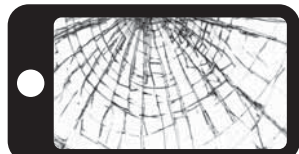
In case of any enquiries, please contact **Mrs. Duaa Al Zaabi** Phone No **24577922**.



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Muscat Municipality invites interested companies to the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Documents Fee	Deadline for inquires submission	Deadline for obtaining Tender Docs.	Deadline for Tender Submission
53/2021/MM/PA-14 Recall-1	Supply of Stationary for Muscat Municipality	25/-OMR	22/03/2022	24/03/2022	27/03/2022
9/2022/MM/PA-1	Supply of Spare Parts for Chain Saw Machines	25/-OMR	27/03/2022	13/04/2022	17/04/2022
10/2022/MM/PA-2	SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FOR PEST CONTROL MACHINES	25/-OMR	27/03/2022	13/04/2022	17/04/2022

1. Specialized Companies with a valid registration certificate from Tender Board can obtain tender documents from the website through the following link:
https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om. Starting from the date of this announcement until the end of deadline mentioned above.

2. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically through link mentioned above.

3. Tender Bonds shall be E-Bond which is equivalent to (1%) of the total value of the tender to be submitted through E-Tendering system, addressed to Muscat Municipality and valid for (90) days starting from the deadline for submission.

4. **Tender not accompanied by a tender bond will be rejected.**

5. **Clarifications and support:**

- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please contact us through e-tendering website: (https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
- For technical support of e-tendering system, please send an email to **etenderhd@mtc.gov.om** (or call **(+96824402200)**).
- For technical support of E-Bond through e-tendering system please send an email to **esnad@gstb.gov.om**(or call **(+96824402200/24402330)**).

Website: **www.mm.gov.om**

PRICE HIKE

Crude price may top \$300 a barrel, warns Russia

NEW DELHI: Ban on imports of Russian petroleum products by the western countries will have catastrophic consequences for the global economy and it will push crude oil price to over \$300 per barrel, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak has warned.

“It is absolutely obvious that abandoning Russian oil will lead to catastrophic consequences for the



world market. A surge in prices will be unpredictable - more than \$300 per barrel, if not more,” Russian

News Agency TASS quoted Novak as saying. The crude oil price has soared to a 14-year high. Brent crude oil price in London surged to near \$140 a barrel on Monday, the highest level since July 2008. Novak said the ban on Russian oil will lead to a rise in prices for fuel, electricity and heating in Europe and the United States.

“It is impossible to replace the volume of Russian oil on the Eu-

ropean market quickly, it will take more than one year, and it will be much more expensive for European consumers,” Novak told reporters in Moscow.

“Under this scenario, they will become the main victims. European politicians should then honestly warn their citizens, consumers, what awaits them and that prices for gas stations, for electricity, for heating will skyrocket,” he said. **ANI**



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DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of National Gas Company SAOG's Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Business Environment

The year 2021 continued to be impacted by the adverse business conditions carried over from 2020. Businesses continued to face disruptions with newer virus variants forcing governments to bring fresh rounds of lock downs/ restrictions. The slow economic activity we had been experiencing pre-pandemic got further aggravated in the last two years. Businesses across geographies continued to face liquidity issues and declining realizations and the newer virus variants continued to cause anxiety and uncertainty. Some light at the end of the tunnel is seen with the Omicron virus scare which came in as a huge fear quickly subsided as we saw generally milder infections and insignificant hospitalizations compared to the earlier wave. The speed at which the vaccinations and even booster doses have been administered does generate a lot of confidence as we look to the year 2022.

Your Company's Performance

The continued pandemic situation adversely impacted our revenue segments pertaining to industrial and hospitality sectors considering that operations across our geographies underwent various forms of movement restrictions and lockdowns at various points in time during the year 2021. The adverse effects of the pandemic were even worse than what we saw in the year 2020. With the overall slowdown that our markets faced the Company has posted a loss at the group level of RO 1.57 million in 2021 as compared to a group profit of RO 350k in 2020. The decline is largely attributable to drop in volumes and consequent realizations from the industrial and bulk businesses, lesser one-off other incomes in 2021 vis-à-vis 2020 and impairment loss from a proposed exit from a joint venture operation that the Company believes is no longer aligned with its long-term strategy. The group revenue however saw an increase to RO 92.45 million in 2021 as compared to RO 66.59 million in 2020 primarily due to steep increase in Saudi Aramco CP rates in the international markets which also aggravated the working capital situation in our geographies especially Malaysia and the UAE. The Company continued to see the deferment of projects and installations in the market due to the pandemic's newer variants.

The Company continued to respond well across geographies in managing the expenses well during the pandemic period. The liquidity remained weak in general with the customers delaying payments beyond agreed credit periods due to which the Company saw additional adverse impact to the bottom-line of the group on account of the mandatory accounting standards and the disclosure requirements. With LPG availability in the domestic market improving and continuous price reductions to offload the product by all market players contributed further to depressing the gas margins. The Company continues to actively engage with the relevant governmental authorities to push for the pricing changes and the branding rules to be formulated for the cylinder business segment. These efforts also continued to get impacted due to the pandemic. The Company is hopeful with the pandemic situation improving in 2022, that its efforts with the governmental authorities in bringing out the required regulatory changes in the business will come to fruition in 2022.

In Saudi Arabia market, the Company has had a good project pipeline however the business saw slow execution in the light of continued travel/ visa restrictions and site disruptions off and on due to the infections spreading faster.

In the UAE, though the Company's efforts have been generating reasonable operating profits despite steep decline in product realizations and erratic product supplies, the enhanced depreciation costs and finance costs have resulted in consistent loss situation for the entity. The Board through its Executive Committee working closely with the management has formulated a business recovery plan and strategic measures have already been activated to this effect. The results of these measures should be visible in the second half of the year 2022 and the Company would be able to take way forward decisions accordingly with respect to the UAE operations of the group.

Our West Malaysia business, which is the second largest LPG business in the peninsular Malaysia also suffered badly with about 3 months of complete lockdown in the country with comparatively slower pace of vaccinations and increasing number of infections in Malaysia. The business however saw good recovery towards the last quarter of the year 2021 and into the new year 2022. The challenges on stiff competition and margin pressures continued despite adding volumes and saw significant erosion in the industrial and hospitality segments. Weak liquidity and certain customer defaults also resulted in an adverse impact to the bottom-line of the business in Malaysia. Despite the challenges, the business was able to declare dividend for its shareholders which helped improve the Oman results.

In the wake of the tough times, the Company as part of its overall restraingizing of operations is also in advanced negotiations for a significant premium on a possible divestment from the India terminal project. This transaction if finalized will help bring significant shareholder value and strengthen the Company's balance sheet significantly.

As part of strategy roadmap, we continue to evaluate newer opportunities to further diversify our geographical presence and enhance shareholder value.

The Company continues to comply with safety and ISO standards and was in complete alignment to its core beliefs of 'Reliability, Safety & Value'.

The Company conducted its business with total adherence to ethical and legal norms and ensured compliance to its moral, environmental, and social responsibilities for the welfare of its shareholders and employees.

The Audit Committee provided commendable guidance and came up with several policies aimed at reinforcing internal controls. The Company continued to take various initiatives during the year to further strengthen its control framework and processes to ensure a strong internal controls environment. In line with Corporate Governance requirements, the Company has an in-house Internal Audit function which is helping us add value and strengthen controls as we move forward with our diversified business portfolio and growing regional footprint.

The Company's Executive Committee provided valuable inputs as we embark on newer geographies and special projects. The Executive Committee provided ample support in bolstering the management's strategic plans and delivered valuable direction to the management in its efforts to bring real value to its growth initiatives.

The Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board put in concerted efforts to ensure the continued evaluation of the Company's performance management system and the human resources manual by bringing changes aimed at making the evaluation and remuneration of employees to be just and proper.

Looking Forward

National Gas sees continued growth in all the markets and to continue adding value to the various stakeholders and enhance shareholder value.

Acknowledgements

The Company's Board of Directors has provided excellent guidance to the Company's management to take the Company forward consistently through varying market conditions, and I am confident that it will continue to steer the Company's growth in the coming years.

On behalf of the Board, I express our sincere gratitude to the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq as he takes Oman forward under his wise leadership and steadfast commitment to benefit the people of the Sultanate of Oman. Special thanks are due to the Ministry of Energy & Minerals, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry & Investment Promotion, the Public Authority For Civil Defense & Ambulance, the Capital Market Authority and the Muscat Stock Exchange for their guidance and support to the Company.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely thank our shareholders, our partners and our valued employees with whose whole-hearted contribution the Company continues to forge ahead despite the challenging environment.

Abdulla Suleiman Hamed Al Harthy
Chairman

The separate and consolidated financial statements on pages 11 to 53 were authorised to issue by the Board of Directors on 22 February 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021				
	Parent		Group	
	2021 RO	2020 RO	2021 RO	2020 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	5,281,041	5,493,063	29,141,291	25,888,832
Right-of-use assets	287,596	319,047	3,920,679	4,307,208
Financial assets at fair value through OCI	877,053	809,461	877,053	809,461
Investment in subsidiaries	11,282,501	11,452,943	-	-
Goodwill	-	-	7,759,931	8,084,283
Trading license	-	-	10,106	20,211
Other investments	-	75,000	-	674,388
Amounts due from related parties	4,882,344	3,779,982	-	-
Total non-current assets	22,610,535	21,929,496	41,709,060	39,784,383
Current assets:				
Inventories	769,838	501,583	1,641,904	1,363,026
Trade and other receivables	3,698,374	3,356,277	21,447,639	11,024,622
Cash and bank balances	87,895	206,351	2,704,616	4,114,414
Total current assets	4,556,107	4,064,211	25,794,159	16,502,062
Total assets	27,166,642	25,993,707	67,503,219	56,286,445
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Capital and reserves:				
Share capital	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000
Share premium	1,787,632	1,787,632	1,787,632	1,787,632
Legal reserve	1,968,170	1,968,170	1,968,170	1,968,170
Other reserves	300,000	300,000	534,996	543,320
Fair value reserve	282,511	214,920	282,511	214,920
Revaluation reserve	3,212,849	3,212,849	3,561,504	3,576,077
Foreign currency translation reserve	-	-	(2,250,252)	(1,820,393)
Retained earnings	610,105	735,407	4,461,379	6,090,750
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent Company	16,661,267	16,718,978	8,845,940	20,860,476
Non-controlling interest	-	-	11,073,140	10,866,693
Total equity	16,661,267	16,718,978	29,919,080	31,727,169
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities:				
Borrowings	3,397,705	3,195,812	6,087,637	3,195,812
Lease liabilities	235,822	263,182	1,980,082	2,053,461
Staff terminal benefits	387,068	339,233	500,581	432,107
Deferred tax liability-net	607,436	612,373	2,914,177	2,996,537
Total non-current liabilities	4,628,031	4,410,600	11,482,477	8,677,917
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accruals	1,426,849	1,300,485	13,191,124	8,632,029
Lease liabilities	49,639	60,149	199,062	303,933
Bank overdrafts	1,097,853	409,338	1,102,729	409,338
Borrowings	3,356,264	3,012,917	12,163,616	6,365,982
Provision for taxation	21,739	81,240	(147,869)	170,077
Total current liabilities	5,952,344	4,864,129	26,508,662	15,881,359
Total liabilities	10,580,375	9,274,729	37,991,139	24,559,276
Total equity and liabilities	27,241,642	25,993,707	67,503,219	56,286,445
Net assets per share	0.196	0.197	0.222	0.245
SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021				
	Parent		Group	
	2021 RO	2020 RO	2021 RO	2020 RO
Revenue	9,751,820	9,206,078	92,447,235	66,588,025
Cost of revenue	(8,814,443)	(8,229,164)	(84,483,100)	57,198,612
Gross profit	937,377	976,914	7,964,135	9,389,413
Administrative expenses	(900,540)	(841,718)	(4,656,705)	(4,883,740)
Operating profit before depreciation	36,837	135,196	3,307,430	4,505,673
Depreciation expenses	(340,017)	(366,998)	(3,195,535)	(3,241,253)
Operating (loss)/profit after depreciation	(303,180)	(231,802)	111,895	1,264,420
Other income - net	301,465	490,679	264,758	997,613
Finance costs	(398,888)	(304,621)	(985,619)	(852,758)
Net share of (loss)/profits from joint venture	-	-	(267,388)	26,222
Dividend income	512,050	569,800	-	-
Provision for expected credit losses	(237,069)	(167,260)	(512,101)	(485,525)
(Loss)/profit before tax	(125,622)	356,796	(1,388,455)	949,972
Income tax credit/(expense)	320	(49,714)	(184,516)	(600,349)
(Loss)/profit after tax	(125,302)	307,082	(1,572,971)	349,623
Other comprehensive (loss)/income				
Items that will not be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss:				
Changes in fair value of investments carried at fair value through other comprehensive income	67,591	(66,315)	67,591	(66,315)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	67,591	(66,315)	67,591	(66,315)
Items that may be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss:				
Exchange difference on translation of foreign operations	-	-	(302,709)	1,202,885
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	67,591	(66,315)	(235,118)	1,136,570
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	(57,711)	240,767	(1,808,089)	1,486,193
(Loss)/profit attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	(125,302)	307,082	(1,628,471)	(130,126)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	55,500	479,749
Total (loss)/profit for the year ended	(125,302)	307,082	(1,572,971)	349,623
Total comprehensive income attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	(57,711)	240,767	(2,014,536)	64,230
Non-controlling interest	-	-	206,447	1,421,963
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year ended	(57,711)	240,767	(1,808,089)	1,486,193
Basic and diluted (loss)/earnings per share attributable to ordinary equity holders of the Parent Company	(0.001)	0.004	(0.019)	(0.002)

JOINT STATEMENT

US, 10 others condemn missile launches by North Korea



WASHINGTON: The United States and 10 other countries on Monday condemned North Korea's repeated missile launches this year.

The joint statement came two days after Pyongyang tested what regional military authorities reported as a ballistic missile.

North Korea had "violated multiple Security Council resolutions" with its March 5 weapons test, the statement read.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield read the joint statement after a closed Security Council briefing on North Korea's latest test.

The US was joined in the statement by Albania, Australia, Brazil, France, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

The 11 countries also bemoaned the failure of the UN Security Council to respond, saying inaction eroded its credibility.

"Each ballistic missile launch that results in inaction by the council erodes the credibility of the UN Security Council itself in addressing [North Korea] and undermines the global non-proliferation regime," Thomas-Greenfield said.

She said that while North Korea "escalates its destabilizing actions, the Security Council continues to remain silent."

The statement called on all 15 members of the Security Council "to speak with one voice in condemning these dangerous and unlawful acts."

Where does the Security Council stand?

The UN's most powerful body has been unable to reach an agreement on a common stance on North Korea's recent launches.

The US was joined in the statement by Albania, Australia, Brazil, France, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. The 11 countries also bemoaned the failure of the UN Security Council to respond

This has partly been due to resistance from permanent members Russia and China, which remain the North's main ally.

Neither of the two countries endorsed the statement.

The council first imposed sanctions on Pyongyang after its first nuclear test in 2006 and toughed them after subsequent tests.

What has US and its allies offered?

Washington and its allies have repeatedly offered dialogue with North Korea without preconditions.

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield on Monday reiterated this position, said the US was committed to seeking "serious and sustained" diplomacy with the North.

But Pyongyang had opted instead for an "increasingly escalatory series of ballistic missile launches in total violation of international law," she said. **bw**

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Russia declares ceasefire in five cities for humanitarian corridors

The development comes following the third round of talks between Russia and Ukraine in Belarus on Monday



MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday declared a ceasefire amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine from 10 am (Moscow time) to provide humanitarian corridors in the cities of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Mariupol, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia said in a statement.

lowing the third round of talks between Russia and Ukraine in Belarus on Monday, which apparently ended up in failure. In the meeting, both sides addressed the issues of civilian evacuation and the Ukrainian side assured Russia that the humanitarian corridor will start working from Tuesday.

time) on March 8, 2022, the Russian Federation declares a ceasefire and is ready to provide humanitarian corridors," the statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry said, giving further details of the humanitarian corridors to be created in the cities of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Mariupol for the

evacuation of civilians.

"The Ukrainian side should also inform, in accordance with the established procedure, about the planned humanitarian operation before 03:00 a.m. (Moscow time) on March 8, 2022," the statement said, while additionally seeking written approvals of the proposed humanitarian corridors from Ukraine and also guarantees of security on the declared routes of humanitarian operations by the Ukrainian authorities.

The Russian and the Ukrainian sides are also expected to be in continuous communication starting 9:30 am (Moscow time) for the mutual exchange of information on the preparation and carrying out the evacuation of civilians and foreign citizens.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has confirmed his plans to meet with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on March 10.

tary operations in Ukraine on February 24, three days after Moscow recognized Ukraine's breakaway regions, Donetsk and Luhansk as independent republics followed by the announcement of a "special military operation" to "demilitarize" and "de-nazify" Ukraine.

Number of refugees reaches 2 million, UN says

The number of refugees fleeing Ukraine has reached 2 million, the head of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi said on Tuesday.

It represents the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

Grandi added that a second wave of refugees from Ukraine is likely to be more vulnerable than the first wave,

"If the war continues we will start seeing people that have no resources and no connections," he said at a press conference in Oslo.

"That will be a more complex

situation to manage for European countries going forward," adding that "even more solidarity" will be needed in Europe and beyond.

On Tuesday, the first safe corridor allowing the evacuation of civilians out of Sumy was opened, Ukrainian officials confirmed. The Russian Defense Ministry had announced routes out of a total of five cities.

Where are the refugees going?

Approximately 1.2 million refugees from Ukraine have fled to Poland, including 141,500 on Monday alone, the Polish Border Guard said on Tuesday.

Other neighbouring countries have also welcomed a large number of refugees following the war. Hungary has taken in 191,348 and Slovakia 140,745, while Russia took in 99,300 and other European countries have accepted 210,239, according to the latest UN data on Tuesday. **ANI/DW**



REF: OFM/TD-22-003
Tender for (Sohar Port/ MCT Airport & logistics stations) Clearing Agent



Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize vendor to participate in our tender for "Carrying out all customs and clearance processes as per the scope of work and specifications"

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-22-003
Tender subject	Sohar Port/ MCT Airport & logistics stations
Start date for tender collection	09/03/2022
Last date for tender collection	20/03/2022
Last date for receiving the technical queries	22/03/2022
Closing date of the tender	24/03/2022
Email address for communication	tender3@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee to the email tender3@omanflourmills.com by 24 th March 2022.

- To get the tender document please send us an email to the address mentioned above.
- Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.
- All tender communication must be addressed to: tender3@omanflourmills.com.
- Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate sealed envelopes (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number (OFM/TD-22-03).



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WITHDRAWAL

UK, Poland agree on providing defensive aid to Ukraine



LONDON: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Tuesday, and agreed that the UK and Poland should continue to work together on ensuring that defensive aid reaches Ukraine.

Johnson also said the UK stood ready to increase its military support to Poland, should they require it. The leaders agreed that the UK and Poland should continue to work together on ensuring defensive aid reached Ukraine. "The Prime Minister spoke to Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, as the country faces increasing humanitarian pressures from the war in Ukraine," said the UK government in its press release.

Johnson added that the UK stood in solidarity with Poland, and thanked Prime Minister Morawiecki for the Poles' kindness to the Ukrainian people at such a 'horrendous time'.

"Ukrainians were suffering

TERRORIST ATTACK

Two soldiers, nine terrorists killed in Mali attack

BAMAKO: Two Malian soldiers and nine terrorists were killed in an Armed Terrorist Groups (GAT) attack on Monday in the north of the country, confirmed the Directorate of Information and Public Relations of the Armed Forces (Dirpa) in a statement released on Monday.

According to the statement, the attack targeted N'Tahaka-based troops in the Gao region (north); two Malian soldiers were killed and two others were injured.

The air-land response of Malian army killed nine terrorists.

These tragedies occurred a few days after the terrorist attack in Mondoro (central Mali), which resulted in the death of at least 27 soldiers and 33 others.

Since 2012, Mali has been facing multifaceted security, political and economic crisis. **ANI**

JAZEERA STEEL



حديد الجزيرة

INVITATION TO ATTEND ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG are delighted to invite the shareholders of the company to attend the Ordinary Annual General Meeting ("AGM") to be held on Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 3.00 PM at Habrout and Lubaan Hall, Grand Hyatt Muscat as well as through Muscat Clearing & Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event the legal quorum for the meeting is in-sufficient, a second meeting will be held on Sunday, 27 March 2022 at 3.00PM at Habrout and Lubaan Hall, Grand Hyatt Muscat as well as through Muscat Clearing & Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om) to consider the following agenda:

1. To consider and approve the Board of Directors Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.
3. To consider and approve the Auditors' Report and the statement of financial position and the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.
4. To consider and approve the sitting fees of the Directors and Subcommittees for the past year and determination of the fees for the next financial year.
5. To consider and approve the proposed distribution of cash dividend of Thirty-Two (32) Baiza per share to the shareholders as on AGM date.
6. To consider and approve the remuneration to the directors for the year ending 31 December 2021 amounting to RO 140,000/- (RO. One Hundred Forty Thousand Only).
7. To inform the related party transactions for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.
8. To inform the Corporate Social Responsibility for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.
9. To discuss and approve the Board of Directors evaluation report.
10. To discuss and approve the Company's proposal to establish a Subsidiary Company in United Arab Emirates.
11. To appoint the statutory Auditors of the company for the financial year 2022 and fix their fees.

Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association and procedures issued by Capital Market Authority for holding General Meeting through electronic platform, we would like to draw your attention on the following points:

- a) A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the meeting of the General Assembly and vote on his behalf through electronic portal, provided that this natural person has an investor number with the MCD.
- b) Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three (3) days before the date of the AGM until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the AGM.

If you have any queries you may please contact Mr. Yousuf Ismail Al Kamali on telephone 26751763 / 4 / 5 Ext: 117.

Sheikha Amal Suhail Bahwan
Chairperson

BDO LLC
Auditor

Dr. Oman Al Balushi Law Firm
Legal Advisor

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هاتف: ٢٦٧٥١٧٦٣/٤/٥ فاكس: ٢٦٧٥١٧٦٦ (٩٦٨) بريد الكتروني: contact@jazeerasteel.com

Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG
Suhar Industrial City, P.O.Box 40, P.C.327, Suhar, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: (968) 267 51763/4/5, Fax: (968) 267 51766
E-mail: contact@jazeerasteel.com, Website: www.jazeerasteel.com



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-retundable)
12/2022	Design & implementation work for two halls in MOSD HQ	Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Excellent degree	Monday 28-3-2022 02:00 PM	Sunday 17-4-2022 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 Wednesday 9/3/2022
- ❖ 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 though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry "

www.mosd.gov.om

Omani runner Hamed takes on ‘Border to Coast’ challenge

The route he has chosen will pass through the village of Al Khuwayr in the Al Dhahira Governorate, ‘Uwayfiyah and Adam – the halfway point of the journey

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hamed Al Harthi, one of Oman's best and most experienced long-distance runners, has set himself the daunting challenge of running 560km in seven days as he takes on the ‘Border to Coast’ challenge.

Starting from Um Zumul, the border town where Oman meets the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, on 13 March 2022, he aims to arrive in Sur by 19 March, all in aid of Donate.om, Oman's donations portal for charitable organisations.

The route he has chosen will pass through the village of Al Khuwayr in the Al Dhahira Gov-



DAUNTING CHALLENGE: Hamed will start on 13 March 2022 from Um Zumul, the border town where Oman meets Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

ernorate, ‘Uwayfiyah and Adam – the halfway point of the journey. From there, he will head to Al Mudaybi and Al Qabil in the North Al Sharqiya Governorate and then through to Sur.

The journey offers a varied challenge of different terrains, landscapes and temperatures to contend with.

Speaking ahead of the start, Hamed said, “I have always been passionate about challenging myself and inspiring others through running. The Border to Coast event is an opportunity to engage

with runners from across the country and raise awareness of the sport in each Governorate, while raising funds for charitable causes within Oman. It is a unique challenge across the entire width of our nation, covering a variety of different surfaces and communities, and I hope to see many more runners along the way as they come together to share this journey with me.”

63-year-old Hamed has dedicated his entire life to running and has conquered some of the most challenging races in the world. In

2018, he competed in OMAN by UTMB® and Ushuaia by UTMB® in Argentina in 2019, UTMB® Mont-Blanc 2021 and reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro the same year.

He will be accompanied by a community of running enthusiasts in each Governorate along the way, as well as a technical and logistics team to ensure his safety and maintain the correct course. The Border to Coast challenge is also supported by Dhofar Insurance, Hamed's personal sponsors for the endeavour.

Ras Al Hamra to host 48th Muscat Open Golf Championship



Times News Service

MUSCAT: This weekend Ras Al Hamra Golf Club will be hosting the 48th Muscat Open Golf championship on March 11th and 12th. This is the oldest running amateur golf event in Oman and the GCC region, and a signature event for the club.

Yet again the event has attracted a strong field of top amateur golfers from Oman, including Oman National team players along with a large contingent of golfers from Bahrain and other neighbouring countries who will all be vying for the prestigious title of Muscat Open champion.

There was a tremendous interest in the tournament and a handicap cut off had to be applied. As a result, 88 golfers with handicap of 13.2 and below can compete in this year's prestigious event. The tournament has a waiting list of almost 50 players. These numbers are reflective of the growing interest in golf amongst juniors, ladies and men at the Ras Al Hamra Golf Club.

Ras Al Hamra Golf Club has

seen major works recently to ensure that the course is in pristine condition for the club's signature event. Corporate support is a key to hosting a successful event and the Muscat Open has again attracted many prestigious sponsors. This year the event has been graciously supported by Hydro and HSBC as Platinum sponsors as well as CMS, Masirah Oil Limited as Gold sponsors. Seven Seas Petroleum and Ramada Encore are Silver sponsors while Milly O'Brien's golf society is a Bronze sponsor.

Jas Dhanju, President of 48th Muscat Open stated, “We are excited to again host the Muscat Open Golf Championship at Ras Al Hamra Golf Club and we are grateful to all our sponsors for their support. We look forward to welcoming the players to Ras Al Hamra. All preparations are now completed. We thank PDO Recreational Centre for their continuous support as well as all the staff at

the club and volunteers who have put tremendous effort in preparing for this event”

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Young Narayana powers LC Tech to easy victory

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Young Lakshmi Narayana powered LC Tech to a comfortable 7-wicket win over Orient Travels/Aby Amin Metal in a T20 A Division game at Oman Cricket Turf 2 in Amerat on Friday.

Narayana picked up 3 for 23 along with Abdul Rauf who bagged 3 for 17, leading to Orient Travels' dismissal for 111 in 19.1 overs. The youngster then struck an unbeaten 49 to lead the chase. LC Tech sealed the win in 16.1 overs, scoring 114 for 3. Rahul Rajeev was the other notable scorer with 31.

Brief Scores (A Division T20): Orient Travels / Abu Amin Metal

111 all out in 19.1 overs (Ibrar Husain 30 – 4x4, Abdul Rauf 3-17, Lakshmi Narayana – 3-23, Shihab Said 2-14) lost to LC Tech 114 for 3 in 16.1 overs (Lakshmi Narayana 49 not out – 6x4, 1x6, Rahul Rajeev 31 – 7x4) by 7 wickets.

OCT Ruwi beat Ideal

Ali Akbar's 3 for 25 helped OCT Ruwi to trounce Ideal International by 5 wickets in a Senior Division T20 Knockout match at Muscat Municipality ground 3 on Friday.

Ideal was bundled out for 94 in 16.3 overs. Apart from Ali Akbar's superb spell, Najeeb Qader, Mohammed Al Balushi and Zubair Ali all claimed two wickets each. Ru-

ban Durai was its top scorer with 24 off 16.

OCT Ruwi surpassed the total in 15.5 overs, scoring 96 for 5, Shuaib Ismail leading the way with a brisk 22 off 14.

Brief Scores (Senior Knockout T20): Ideal International 94 all out in 16.3 overs (Ruban Durai 24 – 2x4, 1x6, Ali Akbar 3-25, Najeeb Qader 2-3, Mohammed Al Balushi 2-9, Zubair Ali 2-19) lost to OCT Ruwi 96 for 5 in 15.5 overs (Shuaib Ismail 22 – 3x4) by 5 wickets.

Mubeen stars in KCA Deutag victory

Mubeen Ullah's excellent all-round performance steered KCA

Deutag to an exciting 4-wicket victory against Pitspot in a Junior Division T20 Knockout clash at Muscat Municipality ground on Friday.

Pitspot posted 162 for 7 on the board with notable scores from Mohazin Moosa (40), Wajid Ali (34) and Aneesh Chaziyottill (31). Mubeen and Irtaza Ahmed took two wickets each.

KCA fought hard and sealed the win in the 19th over, scoring 164 for 6 thanks to brilliant batting by Mubeen (54), Irtaza (34) and Mujtaba Ahmed (31). Jitkumar and Fahad Hamsa bagged two wickets each.

Brief Scores (Junior Knockout

T20): Pitspot 162 for 7 in 20 overs (Mohazin Moosa 40 – 4x4, Wajid Ali 34 – 4x4, Aneesh Chaziyottill 31 – 3x4, Mubeen Ullah 2-22, Irtaza Ahmed 2-39) lost to KCA Deutag 164 for 6 in 18.5 overs (Mubeen Ullah 54 –

6x4, Irtaza Ahmed 34 – 4x4, Mujtaba Ahmed 31 – 4x4, 1x6, Ajithkumar Krishna 2-22, Fahad T Hamsa 2-35) by 4 wickets.

Amir helps Israr Ghala beat MDC

In another Junior Division T20 Knockout game, Amir Munir's sparkling 50 helped Israr Ghala to a 5-wicket win over Mazoon Dairy Company (MDC) on Friday.

Batting first, Mazoon Dairy collected 145 for 6 in 20 overs thanks to top knocks from Ali Asger (61) and Yusuf Patanwala (22).

Amir's solid half century and Ali Gul's vital 39 helped Israr Ghala to victory as it reached 146 for 5 in 15 overs. Khalid Mazhoor claimed 3 for 39.

Brief Scores (Junior Knockout T20): Mazoon Dairy Company 145 for 6 in 20 overs (Ali Asger 61 – 6x4, Yusuf Patanwala 22 – 2x4, Mohammed Sufyan 2-28) lost to Israr Ghala 146 for 5 in 15 overs (Amir Munir 50 – 5x4, Ali Gul 39 -7x4, Sagheer Muhammed 21 – 1x6, Khalid Mazhoor 3-39) by 5 wickets.

MOTORSPORTS

Red Bull car park drift is back



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The thrilling motorsports event Red Bull Car Park Drift is back to Muscat after 2 long awaited years. Gathering all drifting enthusiast and pros from Oman, the event is set to take place on the 18th of March 2022, at the Oman Automobile Association. Doors will open at 5:00 pm, event starts at 7:00 pm.

This prestigious motorsport event will be held in partnership with Oman Automobile Association and Dunlop Tires, with Oman FM, Mubashir and Muscat Media Group as the exclusive media partners. The drift face-off is expected to attract approximately 20 drifters who will put their expert skills

to test behind the wheel as they take on a stimulating and exciting obstacle course inspired by the masterful Red Bull Athlete and Drifting Legend; Abdo Feghali, who will also be present on the day to supervise the event and put off a drifting show in the Nissan 350Z.

Abdo Feghali expressed his excitement about the event saying: “I'm super excited to be back in Muscat after 2 years for the Red Bull Car Park Drift Oman Qualifier. Thrilled to be taking the Nissan 350Z for a spin on the track and can't wait to see what the drifters have got to show us.”

The drifters will be judged based on their skill level, expertise, precision, and their creative approach for them to achieve the

highest scores. The higher the score, the closer they become to being crowned Oman's 2022 King of Drift as well as getting the opportunity to compete in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, representing Oman at the World Final set to be held in November 2022.

The Red Bull Car Park Drift Series has become widely known and represented by thousands of fans and motorsport enthusiasts in Oman and around the world. This, with no doubt, comes with a high standard of safety and security including COVID protocols and respecting social distancing. These precautions will guarantee an entertaining and enjoyable environment for both the contestants and

CRICKET

Australia women's cricket team immortalised in art at MCG

MELBOURNE: The legacy of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 final has been forever immortalised, as the Melbourne Cricket Club commissioned, with the support of Cricket Australia, a portrait of the world champion Australian Women's Cricket Team was unveiled at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Two-time Doug Moran National Portrait Prize winning artist, Vincent Fantauzzo, Melbourne Cricket Club President Michael Happell alongside World Cup winning squad members Georgia Wareham, Sophie Molineux and Delissa Kimmince, were on hand to reveal the artwork - a ‘team of the century’-style creation depicting the moment of celebration for all 16 squad members of the T20 World Cup-winning Australian team.

The artwork will be showcased on the Level 2 corridors of the Melbourne Cricket Club Members' Reserve in close proximity to the iconic Long Room, and is the first artwork to depict a Women's sporting team to be on permanent display at the MCG. It will be on display along the route of the world-famous MCG Tour, visible to the approximate 130,000 people including families and schoolchildren who undertake tours each year.

March 8, 2022, is International Women's Day and marks the



two year anniversary of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 Final at the MCG contested between India and Australia, which saw 86,174 fans - an Australian attendance record for a standalone women's sporting event and the highest crowd figure for a women's cricket match globally.

Australian Women's Team Captain Meg Lanning said it was an honour for the side to be the first women's sporting team to be immortalised in art at the MCG.

“The ICC Women's World Cup final in 2020 was a special day and

now to have a piece of artwork to remember the occasion is really exciting. Whilst we couldn't be there, having the artwork unveiled the night before International Women's Day, which will mark two years since winning the final, reminds us of what can be achieved,” Lanning said in an official release.

“We hope that we can make all our fans at home proud and emulate our performance from that World Cup in 2020 while we are here in New Zealand competing for the 50 version,” she added. -ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by May 2022 reaching \$122.93, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.23 from the price of Monday, which was \$125.16. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,223.04 points, up by 0.50 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48 per cent at 493.10 points. Construction Material, up 7.32 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics, down 3.10 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR141.4mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from March 9 until June 8



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR141.4 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from March 9 until June 8, 2022.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.830 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.825 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.68349 per cent and

0.68465 per cent, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The

Central Bank of Oman acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Omani delegation discusses securities and exchange of expertise with Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) met with Viraj Dayaratne, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC).

The two sides discussed enhancing cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Sri Lanka in the fields of securities and exchanging expertise.

The OCCI Chairman also met with Eng. M. K. Lawrance, Executive Director of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka.

Eng. Lawrance gave a presentation on investment opportunities and incentives, as well as the future projects that the Sri Lankan side intends to implement during the coming period.

Then, the OCCI chairman and



the business delegation toured a factory specialised in ready-made wear. They were briefed on the production stages and the technology used in the factory.

The company's officials expressed their desire to enter a partnership with the Omani investors through establishing a similar factory in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as benefiting from the US-Oman Free Trade Agreement. - **ONA**

BUSINESS COOPERATION

Oman-Iran discuss ways to boost business cooperation

TEHRAN: A forum was held here between Omani entrepreneurs from the Governorate of South Al Batinah and their counterparts from Iran.

The forum discussed means of boosting economic relations and increasing trade exchange between Oman and Iran. It also highlighted the promising sectors in the Governorate of South Al Batinah and Khazaen Economic City.

The forum also reviewed aspects of joint business cooperation in the fields of industry, food, tourism, health, mining, and investment opportunities in Iranian markets.

Eng. Hamoud Salim Al Sa'adi, Head of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's branch in the Governorate of South Al Batinah, gave a presentation on the promising sectors in Oman,



investment opportunities and the foreign investments law, as well as economic and business incentives for investors. - **ONA**

investment opportunities and the foreign investments law, as well as economic and business incentives for investors. - **ONA**

MEETING

Bilateral relations between Oman, Sri Lanka discussed

COLOMBO: Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka met with the Omani business delegation, headed by Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

The meeting discussed the bilateral relations binding the Sultanate of Oman and Sri Lanka and the means of enhancing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries. The meeting also reviewed the available investment opportunities in the two countries.



The meeting was attended by Sheikh Juma Hamdan Al Malik Al Shehhi, Ambassador of Oman to Sri Lanka, Ajith Nivard

Cabraal, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Amir Ajwad, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Oman. - **ONA**

MADAYN

Training programme on statistical analysis held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) organised a training programme on statistical analysis (SPSS) as part of a series of programmes organised by Madayn to qualify and develop the human cadres in the various industrial cities.

The programme aimed at introducing the participants to SPSS software, statistical methods used in research and data analysis, and methods and steps of field research.

This training programme is derived from Madayn's vision, mission and objectives to develop the human cadres in its industrial cities by boosting essential administrative, financial and technical skills to enhance their performance and productivity.



TENDER

Oman chamber of commerce and industry would like to announce the following public tender:

Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Fees (irrevocable)	Specialized companies	Deadline for Obtaining Documents	Deadline for Tender submission
2/2022	Maintenance and Decoration (Omani Products Exhibition -OCCI Headquarter)	25 /-R.O	Companies specialized in Maintenance and Decoration work – first and excellent Grade in Tender Board	21/3/2022	Before 12 pm 31/3/2022

Companies specialized in **Maintenance and Decoration work – first and excellent Grade in Tender Board** may obtain the tender documents from the Administration Department at the Second Floor of the chamber's Headquarters in Ruwi , during the official working hours against the payment of tender fees.

Tender Terms:
Provide valued CR,OCCI membership ,Tender Board membership and taxation certificate .

Interested companies should enclose their bids a 1% Bank guarantee/ certified cheque of proposal value issued by one of the banks operating in Oman valid for 90 days from the deadline of submitting the bids addressed in the name of **Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry**. The bids without this temporary guarantee will not be considered.

The bids should be submitted in red waxed envelopes addressed to - Head of main tendering Committee , OCCI, written outside the Number and title of the Tender. No indication about the bidder is allowed on the envelope.

Offers should be deposited in the tender box kept at the Administration Department in the Second floor of OCCI Head office.

OCCI is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bids. It has the right to accept or reject any bids without showing reasons.

Interested companies should submit the Tenders before 12 pm on 31/3/2022.
For further details, you may call 24763803 – Project Consultant 99034777
pacecons@hotmail.com



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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Construction Material, up 7.32 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics, down 3.10 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,223.04 points, up by 0.50 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48 per cent at 493.10 points. Construction Material, up 7.32 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics, down 3.10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Omaniya Financial Services were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 718 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR7.7 million, with more than 34 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 16 advanced, 11 declined and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR114,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR70,000 followed by domestic investors for OMR44,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6753.5 points, up by 0.73 per cent. Prices of HSBC Bank Oman, Bank Dhofar, Taageer Finance, Sohar International Bank, and Al Omaniya Financial Services were up by 2.89 per cent, 2.66 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 1.79 per cent, and 1.33 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Oman United Insurance, National Bank Oman, Bank Muscat, and Al Batinah Development Company were down by 1.15 per cent, 1.04 per cent, 0.51 per cent, 0.36 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at



5906.68 points, down by 0.28 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, Oman Fisheries, Voltamp Energy, Raysut Cement, and Oman Cables Industry were up by 7.32 per cent, 2.7 per cent, 1.08 per cent, 0.55 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Ceramics, and Gulf Stones were down by 3.1 per cent, 1.37 per cent, 0.5 per cent, 0 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.22 per cent before closing at 1639.63 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Muscat Gases, Oman Telecom, OIFC, and National Gas were up by 3.77 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 1.43 per cent, 1.31 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services, Phoenix Power, Ooredoo, Al Batinah Hotels, and United Power - Preferential Shares were down by 3.08 per cent, 2.08 per cent, 1.15 per cent, 0 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,228.04	4,204.12	4,223.04	4,202.09	20.95	0.50
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,753.50	6,710.25	6,753.50	6,704.58	48.92	0.73
Industry Index	5,930.16	5,904.23	5,906.68	5,923.52	-16.85	-0.28
Services Index	1,647.58	1,639.63	1,639.63	1,643.28	-3.64	-0.22
MSX Shariah Index	495.47	493.10	493.10	495.47	-2.37	-0.48
MSX TR INDEX	5,089.49	5,060.70	5,083.48	5,058.26	25.22	0.50

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
34,076,414	7,703,256	718	22,212,432,781	16	11	23	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 8

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (R)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	993,000	112,772	15	0.112	0.114	0.112	0.114	0.112	0.002	1.786	0.114	0.114	0.120	0.100	340,867,101
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	302,350	257,449	20	0.840	0.852	0.824	0.852	0.840	0.012	1.429	0.840	0.824	0.852	0.100	639,000,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	8,363,548	1,273,144	79	0.150	0.155	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.002	1.333	0.155	0.150	0.155	0.100	44,374,146
OM0000001535	OMAN INVEST & FIN.	3,900,000	604,157	14	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.002	1.307	0.155	0.140	0.155	0.100	36,735,709
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	15,000	1,880	2	0.125	0.126	0.125	0.125	0.124	0.001	0.806	0.126	0.125	0.126	0.100	243,707,183
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	333,688	109,269	28	0.326	0.330	0.326	0.328	0.326	0.002	0.613	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.100	219,223,860
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	5,620	1,033	2	0.184	0.184	0.183	0.184	0.183	0.001	0.546	0.183	0.183	0.185	0.100	36,800,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	88,415	55,388	24	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	19,550,218
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	5,000	1,198	4	0.239	0.240	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	78,078,578
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	854,720	391,449	8	0.456	0.458	0.456	0.458	0.458	0.000	0.000	0.458	0.458	0.502	0.100	100,760,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,000	290	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.282	0.288	0.100	17,749,239
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	2,255	1,551	2	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.000	0.000	0.688	0.684	0.688	0.100	47,472,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,971,438	2,179,888	46	0.548	0.550	0.546	0.548	0.550	-0.002	-0.364	0.550	0.546	0.550	0.100	1,958,512,196
OM0000002176	ALJAZEERA STEEL PROD.	21,515	8,617	4	0.402	0.402	0.400	0.400	0.402	-0.002	-0.498	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.100	49,959,184
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	20,000	7,600	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.384	-0.004	-1.042	0.380	0.380	0.390	0.100	38,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	794,605	68,387	39	0.088	0.088	0.085	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.086	0.088	0.100	17,200,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	25,714	8,846	5	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.348	-0.004	-1.149	0.344	0.344	0.348	0.100	223,924,815
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SER.	3,208,470	1,411,747	38	0.440	0.442	0.440	0.440	0.454	-0.014	-3.084	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	194,020,400
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	10,278	5,139	4	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.516	-0.016	-3.101	0.500	0.500	0.516	0.100	27,500,000
Total		19	23,712,616	6,499,815	336											

Parallel Market

OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	31,950	1,753	4	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.053	0.002	3.774	0.054	0.054	0.055	0.100	12,223,200
OM00000001178	MUSCAT GASES	16,000	2,560	2	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.155	0.005	3.226	0.160	0.160	0.165	0.100	4,800,000
OM00000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,714,747	183,817	29	0.105	0.108	0.105	0.107	0.104	0.003	2.885	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.100	214,033,469
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	142,019	10,828	13	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.074	0.002	2.703	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	9,500,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	50,000	5,800	22	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.113	0.003	2.655	0.117	0.117	0.123	0.100	347,578,797
OM00000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	350,000	30,758	20	0.087	0.089	0.087	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.089	0.082	0.087	0.100	22,315,920
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	58,600	5,520	13	0.093	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.095	0.095	0.099	0.100	7,651,859
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	48,850	8,793	4	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.180	0.181	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	94,143	10,708	13	0.114	0.115	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.116	0.100	14,820,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,152,200	96,555	70	0.085	0.086	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	5,332,397
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	2,514	2,245	4	0.880	0.900	0.880	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.828	0.900	0.100	87,400,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,512,635	299,330	77	0.086	0.088	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	29,677,275
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	3,010	376	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.124	0.125	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORP.	3,532	518	6	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	5,332,397
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	39,500	3,002	2	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.083	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	186,000	8,184	9	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.043	0.045	0.100	8,783,966
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	300,140	29,714	8	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.105	0.100	221,458,350
OM0000004735	SEBMOBPS SALALAH	63,050	5,109	5	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	77,320,328
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	294,546	27,801	21	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.099	0.100	16,973,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	5,000	230	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.070	0.100	6,600,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	32,880	1,579	7	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	9,116	442	3	0.049	0.050	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	34,291,504
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	5,000	1,690	1	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332	0.332	0.340	0.100	23,969,480
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	5,000	725	3	0.141	0.145	0.141	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.140	0.145	0.100	10,950,690
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,700,000	329,800	41	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.195	-0.001	-0.513	0.194	0.190	0.194	0.100	315,433,593
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	7,000	553	1	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	37,223,724
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	383,500	27,592	13	0.072	0.073	0.071	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	14,615,024
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	8,237	350	2	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.048	-0.001	-2.083	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.100	68,742,269
Total		28	10,212,189	1,096,340	376											

AGREEMENT

Al Mouj Muscat enters into new partnership with Oman's leading fintech company

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An agreement was signed between Al Mouj Muscat and Thawani Pay, Oman's leading digital payment company, which makes it possible for residents to start paying for services by smartphone. This announcement is the latest strategic partnership where digital innovation is transforming life at the Sultanate's leading life-style destination and is creating opportunities for enterprise.

A local start-up success story, Thawani Pay is the Sultanate's first non-banking financial company (NFBC) to be granted a Payment Service Provider (PSP) license by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

The fintech payment app can now be used by Al Mouj Muscat residents to securely and easily pay for services such as service charges and cooling charges. Through the application, they will be able to navigate and find Al Mouj Muscat's tab and be able to enter their residential details to settle their outstanding payments.

As Al Mouj Muscat's CEO Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani says, this new agreement with Al Mouj Muscat is set to elevate its customer service further: "We are delighted to have entered into a partnership with Thawani demonstrating how we continue to innovate at Al Mouj Muscat. Thawani's impressive solutions will greatly enhance and add value to the customer experience of our 7,000 residents.



APP: Thawani Pay can now be used by Al Mouj Muscat residents to securely and easily pay for services such as service charges and cooling charges. - Supplied picture

"The agreement also demonstrates our commitment to SMEs, which are critical to the successful diversification of our economy and so it is extremely rewarding to be able to support Thawani Pay by providing them with a platform for

increased visibility." As CEO of Thawani Pay, Majid Al Amri said: "We are very proud to enter an agreement with Al Mouj Muscat. Oman's premier lifestyle and leisure destination continue to innovate, ensuring that digital solutions play their part in creat-

ing great moments for residents every day. We know that users value our app for its real-time visibility and anytime, anyplace accessibility and we are excited to work to provide a solution that delights customers with a business partner as significant as Al Mouj Muscat."

ENERGY GIANT

Shell says it will stop buying Russian oil, natural gas

LONDON: Energy giant Shell said that it will stop buying Russian oil and natural gas and shut down its service stations, aviation fuels and other operations in the country amid international pressure for companies to sever



FUTURE TEACHERS SEE EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL IN COMPUTER GAMES

A recent study led by the team at the University of Cologne showed that future teachers increasingly want to use computer games in the classroom. The study identified particularly relevant aspects that should be addressed in teacher training programmes in order to support this intention.

The study was published in the journal, 'British Journal of Educational Technology'.

Computer games play a major role in the lives and media use of children and adolescents people. However, current school teaching rarely takes this medium into account. The future generation of teachers currently being trained at universities could change this.

"In our current study, we focused on the teachers of tomorrow and how they can

be better prepared to employ computer games in the classroom because computer games have great potential for teaching," said Marco Ruth from the University of Cologne's Psychology Department.

In previous studies, the authors had already shown that as a learning tool in the classroom, computer games can support students' skills development. They also found that after using computer games in class, students can reflect critically and constructively on their experiences with the medium. Based on this, the researchers surveyed 402 teacher trainees from German-speaking universities online about their intention to integrate computer games as learning tools and as an object of reflection in their future school lessons. The team examined 21 personal characteristics, including perceived effectiveness of computer games, knowledge about computer games, and fear

of using computer games in the classroom.

"Above all, the perceived effectiveness of computer games and perceived connections of computer games to curricula play a central role in the intention of teacher trainees to actually want to use them in school lessons," Professor Kai Kaspar explained.

The current survey also revealed differences between the scenarios in which computer games are used, "If teacher trainees want to use computer games to promote the competencies of students, they pay particular attention to their own fear of using computer games and the extent to which people important to them think they should use computer games," explained Marco Ruth.

"If, on the other hand, they want to use computer games for media-critical discussions, the focus was instead on the effort

involved for them," he added.

Since computer games are currently rarely included as a relevant medium in teacher training programmes, the researchers recommend that, above all, insights into the effectiveness of computer games and their relevance to curricula should be included in teacher training programmes. Likewise, teacher trainees should be aware of potential pitfalls in practical implementation and be able to deal with them, so that teaching competencies with computer games are promoted in the long term.

"This would require not only adjustments to the curriculum of the teacher training programme but also further support services and research findings so that teachers in their later school practice know exactly when and how they can use computer games effectively in the classroom," said Professor Kaspar. - ANI

THE WORLD IN PICTURES

Migrant birds seen at Caohai National Nature Reserve in Guizhou

Black-necked cranes and other migrant birds are seen at the Caohai National Nature Reserve in Weining Yi, Hui and Miao Autonomous County, south-west China's Guizhou Province. **Xinhua**



People attend Maslenitsa celebrations in Kaluga region, Russia

A child slides on a slope during Maslenitsa celebrations in Gamzyuki village, Kaluga region, Russia. Maslenitsa is a traditional holiday to celebrate the beginning of spring. **Xinhua**



Filipinos brace for higher fuel, food prices amid supply shocks

A worker refuels a jeepney at mid-night in Quezon City, the Philippines. On Tuesday, oil companies imposed another round of fuel hikes in the Southeast Asian country. **xinhua**



Paris Fashion Week

A model presents a creation of Hermes' Fall/Winter 2022 ready-to-wear collections during Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France. **Xinhua**



Vidya Balan at the Mirchi Music Awards 2022

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan poses for a picture at the Mirchi Music Awards 2022, in Mumbai on Monday. **ANI Photo**



Local residents attend 'Great Fire' ceremony in Belgium

Local residents wearing traditional costumes attend the 'Great Fire' ceremony in Bouge of Namur, Belgium. On the first Sunday of Lent, people in Bouge celebrated spring's coming with a ceremony of lighting a colossal bonfire, during which the 'Winter Man' is burnt. This tradition has been perpetuated for over 1,000 years. **Xinhua**



Wheelchair Curling Round Robin Matches at Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics

Jang Jaehyuk (second from right) of South Korea competes during the Wheelchair Curling Round Robin Match between South Korea and Canada during the Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics at National Aquatics Centre in Beijing. **Xinhua**

ROUND-UP

Avail attractive offers on Jeep Gladiator

During the current offer, the Jeep Gladiator is available with a monthly instalment starting from OMR247

MUSCAT: Dhofar Automotive, the official distributor of Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler and Ram vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the launch of its amazing offers for the year 2022, during which it offers great benefits on a range of distinctive models of Jeep, Dodge and RAM vehicles. The recently launched offers will continue until April. During the current offer, the Jeep Gladiator is available with a monthly instalment starting from OMR247, with a free service for 3 years/60,000 km, a 5-year warranty, and roadside assistance for 5 years, plus free registration for the first year, as well as excellent after-sales services and an excel-



lent ownership experience from Dhofar Automotive. Hatem El-Naggar, General Manager at Dhofar Automotive, said, "Dhofar Automotive offers a wide range of models in its special offers, such as the premium variants of the Jeep Gladiator, which are in our current offers. "It is an ideal opportunity for performance enthusiasts to own the most capable off-road mid-size pickup truck while enjoying additional benefits. The Gladiator sets the Jeep brand's exceptionally high standards for off-road perfor-

mance in harsh desert conditions. Jeep has developed its various models and tested them in some of the world's toughest and most rugged regions, ensuring that the Gladiator delivers a new level of capability thanks to its groundbreaking prowess on rocky and sandy terrain." The Jeep Gladiator is available in various attractive colours and features a unique design, combined with an array of impressive equipment and precision-crafted details to accommodate large loads while preserving its spacious cab-

in. It hosts several driving systems and security features, to ensure a smooth driving experience and enhanced road safety on any terrain, including mountains, rocky roads and even sands and deserts. The vehicle boasts of a 3.6-litre Pentastar V-6 engine, rated at 285 horsepower and 353 Nm of torque, combined with an eight-speed automatic transmission. In the Sultanate, a great selection of Jeep Gladiator variants are available, including Sport, Overland, Rubicon® and Sand Runner. Each variant of the Jeep Gladiator is equipped with unique features that distinguish it from the other to meet all expectations and perform various tasks to the fullest by providing them with smart technology, solid materials, meticulous details and thoughtful storage spaces. In addition, the cabin is designed to provide absolute comfort and perfect fit. "The recently launched offer is valid until April. Therefore, I would like to invite all adventure lovers and fans of cars with incredible performance to visit the Dhofar Automotive showrooms in Wattayah, Azaiba, Sohar, Nizwa and Salalah, and take advantage of the offer and enjoy its advantages and own one of the class-leading vehicles," he added.

AGREEMENT

Oxy Oman sponsors national freelancer platform to help connect Omani companies and jobseekers

MUSCAT: Oxy Oman recently signed an agreement with AWJ Innovation (Sustainable Technologies & Innovation Development - STID), to develop a national freelancer platform, which is designed to provide opportunities for freelancers and fresh graduates in the market to present their skills and capabilities to companies registered on the platform. The signing event was held at AWJ Innovation headquarters. Saif Al Busaidi, Vice President of Admin, Human Resources, and Corporate Social Responsibility at Oxy Oman, represented the company at the agreement signing, and Dr Yousuf Al Balushi, CEO of AWJ, represented AWJ Innovation. The freelancer platform will enable clients to get different expertise and services from skilled and qualified registered workers. In addition, the platform will showcase freelancer profiles to employers and facilitate employment opportunities. The platform is to be developed



to advance the goals of the Oxy Oman exclusively sponsored - NXT training programme, which continues on its 2nd year to target fresh graduates with training in frontier technologies and entre-

preneurship, through workshops and online technical courses. The platform will also service NXT programme graduates to find future career opportunities and have access to the job market.

"We are proud to sponsor the development of a national freelancer system, as a unique service to connect employers with fresh graduates and job seekers, and to display their skills and capabilities," said Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager at Oxy Oman. "The freelancer platform builds on Oxy's commitment to investing in national capacity development and prioritising the training of fresh graduates for entry into the job market, as we continue to support job seekers with internship programs, on-the-job training, and other specialized programs such as .NXT," he added. This sponsorship falls under the umbrella of strategic partnerships and continuous collaboration with key stakeholders and is part of Oxy Oman's endeavour and long term commitment to support programs that enhance economic growth and sustainable development that yields positive impacts in the neighbouring communities.

WORLD RALLY TEAM

Toyota GAZOO Racing celebrates victory in Rally Sweden

MUSCAT: The GAZOO Racing (GR) World Rally Team (WRT) recently celebrated the first win this season for its new GR Yaris Rally vehicle when Kalle Rovanperä secured victory at Rally Sweden in round two of the 2022 FIA World Rally Championship. Rovanperä's fellow Finnish driver Esapekka Lappi claimed third place to complete a double podium finish during his first start for the team since 2018. All three of the team's drivers were part of a close fight for victory for most of the rally on the unfamiliar, high-speed, snow-covered roads around the event's new base in Umeå. As the highest-placed driver in the championship, Rovanperä was disadvantaged by having to run first on the road in the No. 69 Toyota GR Yaris Rally1, however, he concluded the



second day leading team-mate Elfyn Evans by 8.3 seconds. Rovanperä won the first of the final day's four stages to add to his lead and finished 22 seconds clear as he and co-driver Jonne Halttunen secured the third win of their WRC career in the No. 69 Toyota GR Yaris Rally. The win places Rovanperä 14 points clear at the top of the Drivers' Championship.

Lappi was in a close fight for second position throughout the last day, and ultimately finished just 8.6 seconds behind in the No. 4 Toyota GR Yaris Rallyas he and co-driver Janne Ferm completed a fantastic comeback weekend with the team. The result saw Toyota take the lead in the Manufacturers' Championship with a 24-point advantage.

CULINARY COMPETITION



Oman Tourism College awards winners of Oman Chef contest

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism College (OTC), celebrated the awards ceremony of the 4th edition of 'Oman Chef', a culinary competition supported by Omran Group in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), that aims to encourage and promote the consumption of Omani food products to enhance the local products' efficiency and competitiveness. The awards ceremony was organised under the auspices of Eng. Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi, Chairman of Omran Group, at the OTC campus in Muscat, in the presence of a number of officials from Omran Group and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), managers of hotels and resorts of Omran Group, in addition to other officials from government institutions, and the participants of the competition from various tourism institutions and the hospitality sector in the Sultanate.

The Oman Chef competition received a remarkable turnout and active participation of 89 chefs from 32 institutions; including the hotels and resorts owned by Omran Group, and other hospitality organisations operating in the Sultanate. Aimed at promoting Omani products and ingredients, the competition showcased true Omani hospitality and inspired contestants to demonstrate their culinary creativity using a variety of national ingredients. Eng. Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi, Chairman of Omran Group said, "The Oman Chef competition is part of Omran Group initiatives aiming at increasing In-Country Value by supporting the Omani food industries and empowering the workers of the tourism sector, as well as promoting awareness of the significance of implementing sustainable practices. It highlights Omani products in the industry and contributes to the growth of Omani businesses and SMEs." "We commend the role of the Oman Tourism College in launching initiatives that moti-

vates and supports the competencies in the hospitality sector. We are also pleased to collaborate with the FAO to encourage food self-sufficiency in the local market," Al Busaidi added. Qais bin Zahir Al Hosni, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Tourism College and Acting Dean, said, "We are pleased with the success of Oman Chef competition, as it demonstrates the important role that OTC plays in developing the talents in the tourism and hospitality sector and underpins the importance of utilising local resources to strengthen the hospitality sector, in cooperation with the relevant institutions and industry professionals. This will result in promoting Omani products, boosting their quality, and thereby providing an authentic Omani hospitality experience." He added: "We thank Omran Group and the (FAO) for supporting the competition and recognise the role of Celebrate Oman in organising the various activities. We wish all participants success." Dr Nora Ourabah Haddad, FAO Representative in Oman further stated, "FAO's support for the Oman Chef Competition stems from its keenness to provide a sustainable environment that contributes to achieving food security for all while enabling the local chefs working in the industry to serve both the hospitality and tourism sectors and capitalise on the Sultanate's abundant resources of various agricultural and food products." Alila Hinu Bay Resort's chefs Raghava Raju Peetha and Farhan Ansari won first place, while the second prize went to W Muscat Hotel's Chef Viet Quoc Pham and Chef Ravi Ratan Kumar Singh. The third prize went to Chef Moo Kaum Ansari and Chef Bilal Sharif from Tuk Tuk Taxi Muscat Restaurant. Along with the presentation of the "Promising Chef" award to Chef Sultan Al-Wardi from the Kempinski Hotel Muscat, and the chef Salah Al-Balushi from the Bustan-Ritz Carlton Palace Hotel.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

Cash prizes for four winners each month with Ahli Islamic credit card

MUSCAT: Ahli Islamic has announced the launch of a special campaign for its credit card customers, which allows them to win cash prizes monthly. The campaign is scheduled to be held for 3 months from February. This campaign aims to offer monthly cash prizes to four winners from Ahli Islamic credit card holders (OMR100 for each winner). Ahli Islamic will announce the winners on its social media pages. Commenting on the promotion, Yousuf bin Salim Al Rawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of Ahli Islamic said, "An exclusive campaign for our credit cardholders exemplifies our continued commitment towards the cus-

tomers experience and confidence that we aspire to build. At Ahli Islamic, we provide various ways of banking to our customers, catered through multiple channels. This, coupled with a high level of security, ease and convenience, especially while using Credit Cards, is something that we consider as an important aspect to us." He also said that by adding more interesting offers and surprises for customers, Ahli Islamic is keen to keep pace with its client's lifestyle while also ensuring that these banking offers are following Sharia. Ahli Islamic's credit cardholders are eligible to participate in the campaign when they spend at least OMR 100 monthly through their

credit cards. There are four cash prizes every month each with a value of OMR100 which will be drawn through a random draw system. Customers can use their Ahli Islamic credit card, locally as well as internationally, to be eligible for the draw. Ahli Islamic will conduct the draw monthly and will announce the winners on the bank's official social media pages. The bank has witnessed remarkable growth over the past period, bringing added value and exceptional Islamic banking experience to the people of Oman. Through an extensive branch network, and digital channels, Ahli Islamic is committed to providing the market with new banking products.

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ROUND-UP

Stylish all-new INFINITI QX55 makes its official debut in Oman

From a provocative design perspective, the INFINITI QX55 is the spiritual successor to the brand’s iconic FX series

MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has launched the all-new QX55 SUV featuring a bold, stylish and tech-savvy look and innovative new technologies befitting its luxury status.

From a provocative design perspective, the INFINITI QX55 is the spiritual successor to the brand’s iconic FX series. Now available in the INFINITI Oman showroom, the vehicle’s striking roofline and unapologetic shape are in tune with equally bold buyers.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, “We are pleased to announce the launch of INFINITI QX55 in Oman. The provocative all-new QX55 returns to the soul of INFINITI — bringing the legendary crossover coupe shape of the FX back to life. The INFINITI QX55 has an entirely new shape with more stylish details and a modernised interior.”

The QX55 inserts INFINITI back into a category it helped to create with a refined design language, and sporty styling. The signature double-arch grille is complemented by a stunning, origami-inspired mesh pattern that delivers visual depth and showcases modern Japanese-inspired artistry. Flanked by standard LED headlights that mimic the human eye, the QX55 announces its arrival in style.

The elegant and flowing lines of the all-new model reach from the hood, over the front fenders, across



the doors, and over the rear wheels. Twenty-inch wheels are standard on all QX55 models, which fill the wheel arches and assert the SUV’s dynamic presence.

The rear of the QX55 accentuates the subtlety of the automaker’s design and interpretation of Japanese minimalism by coupling an uncluttered liftgate with handsome, understated technology to deliver a lasting impression. Digital “piano key” taillights combine 45 separate LEDs in a single housing to create an elegant light signature.

The INFINITI logo on the tailgate is similarly advanced and houses the power liftgate release, which further frees the rear end from clutter.

Inside, the QX55 features INFINITI’s dual-screen, InTouch infotainment system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, and multiple USB inputs for charging. The upper 8-inch and lower 7-inch high-resolution screens inform the driver and entertain passengers with an available Bose series audio system providing a concert-like acoustic experience.

Leatherette, leather, or semi-aniline leather appointments for the seats adorn the QX55’s spacious interior, and its sliding second-row seats provide flexible cargo capacity or increased legroom, depending on need.

Under the hood of the QX55 is INFINITI’s award-winning and innovative Variable Compression Turbo four-cylinder engine that outputs 268 horsepower and delivers enhanced efficiency or on-demand power, based on the



driver’s needs. That power is shifted through a confident Continuously Variable Transmission with manual shift mode and delivered to INFINITI’s Intelligent All-Wheel Drive system, which is standard on all QX55 models. A Drive Mode Selector empowers the driver with programmable settings (Standard, Eco, Sport and Personal) to tailor each drive.

The all-new QX55 is packed

with a suite of intelligent safety technology, including Predictive Forward Collision Warning, Lane Departure Warning and Prevention System, Forward Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection to Blind Spot Warning and Intervention and Backup Collision Intervention.

INFINITI’s QX55 will be available in three well-appointed categories: Luxe, Essential and Sensory.

GERMAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY OMAN

GUtech holds 10th graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: The German University of Technology Oman (GUtech) celebrated the graduation of the tenth batch, where certificates in various programmes were awarded to master’s and bachelor’s degree students to more than 276 graduates for the academic year 2020-2021.

Dr Hussain bin Suleiman Al-Salmi, Acting Rector of the University, gave a speech. He congratulated the graduates and commended their resilience in facing the challenges of the events that took place in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic during these two years, and urged them to take the initiative in facing all the events that may afflict this world, armed with



science, the ability to adapt and openness to the new means of education and rapid changes.

Prof. Dr Armin Eberlein, Deputy Rector for Academic Affairs, also expressed his sincere congratulations to the graduates for their success, hard work, and dedication despite all odds, and called on them to show a spirit of determination and ambition to achieve their dreams in the future and to set an example in their professional and social lives through their contribution to

innovation and development. And to make positive contributions to their community.

Graduate, Safaa Al Habsi, gave the graduation speech in Arabic, recalling all the beautiful memories that the students lived during their years of study at the college. Then the graduate, Aya Yousuf Al Muhammed, delivered the graduates’ speech in English. The graduate Majid Al Kayyal, who received the President’s Medal for Academic Excellence, and the graduate Ahoud Al Hammadi Recipient of the University President’s Medal for Non-Academic Excellence, followed by a visual presentation of some graduates sharing their experiences and their joy on graduation day.

OFFERS

Exclusive benefits on Lincoln range ending today



MUSCAT: Experience distinctive luxury and enjoy the difference with a Lincoln vehicle. Now available with exclusive benefits. Enthusiasts can now look forward to Service 5 Years / 100,000 km, 1 Year Registration and 3M Window Tint. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Lincoln showroom.) The campaign is getting over on March 9. Luxury automotive enthusiasts

can choose from an exciting range of vehicles in Oman. They include the family-size Lincoln Navigator, Lincoln Nautilus, the Lincoln Aviator and the Lincoln Corsair.

Customers wishing to own their dream Lincoln are encouraged to visit their nearest Lincoln showroom. In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Spend and get money back with Alizz Islamic Bank credit cards

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank continues to offer its customers exciting Sharia-compliant offers and services with its ongoing credit card cashback offering.

Alizz Islamic Bank customers can get 2.5% cashback on fuel every day of the week when they use their credit card to pay at any petrol station in Oman. Additionally, Alizz Islamic Bank offers all its credit card customers 2.5% cashback on grocery spending every Friday and Saturday.

Customers with a World or World Elite credit card can avail of 15% cashback every Friday and Saturday when they use their credit cards to pay at any restaurant in Oman and customers with a Titanium or Platinum credit card can avail of 10% cashback every Friday and Saturday when they use their credit cards to pay at any restaurant in Oman.

Alizz Islamic Bank offers a variety of unique benefits, rewards and exclusive experiences with its credit cards, including cash withdrawals of up to 80% of the card limit, secure protection when shopping online and access to airport lounges at selected air-



ports around the world as well as some exclusive discounts from MasterCard.

All credit cards are based on the Islamic concept of ‘Qard Hasan’ which is adopted by numerous leading Islamic banks all over the world and applied to all credit card products. A customer can pay the amount shown in the credit card statement of account at the end of the month or settle it in form of deferred instalments according to the minimum payment option.

Alizz Islamic Bank, was the first Islamic bank in the Sultanate to offer credit cards from MasterCard in accordance with the principles of Islamic Sharia and offers the most affordable credit cards in the local market. The cards are designed based on the highest quality standards to meet customers’ diverse needs.

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