

HM RECEIVES CABLE FROM KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable on his country's National Day. In the cable, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his utmost appreciation for His Majesty's sincere sentiments and best wishes, praying to Allah the Almighty to grant His Majesty good health and well-being. He also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty and the relations between the two countries. - **ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Sayyid Bilalab opens ABA Al Irfan Campus

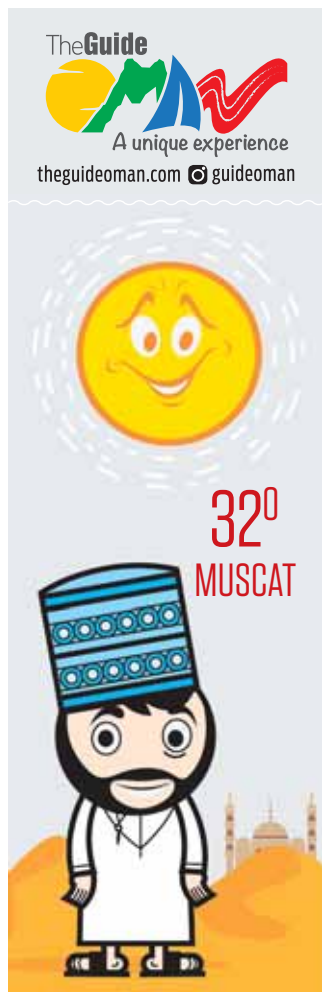
1 His Highness Sayyid Bilalab bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said unveiled the foundation stone to mark the new beginnings of the ABA Al Irfan campus. **>A4**

SPORTS D10 cricket league starts on March 12

2 Oman Cricket has announced the inaugural edition of the D10 league, which will commence on March 12, 2022. **>A8**

MARKET 12 exploration-to- mining pacts signed

3 The Ministry of Energy and Minerals, and Minerals Development Oman (MDO), has signed 12 exploration-to-mining concession agreements. **>B1**



EXPATS CAN NOW OWN PROPERTIES OUTSIDE ITCs



INVESTORS BUYING PROPERTIES ABOVE OMR500,000 TO BE OFFERED 1ST-CLASS RESIDENCY

EXPATS CAN'T OWN PROPERTIES IN MUSANDAM, AL BURAIMI, AL DHAHIRAH, AND AL WUSTA

LIWA, SHINAS, MASIRAH, JABAL AKHDAR, JABAL SHAMS ARE ALSO OFF-LIMITS

New decisions enable foreign investors to own properties upward of OMR250,000

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expatriates can now own properties in Oman outside integrated tourism complexes (ITCs) following a ministerial decision issued by Dr Khalfan bin Saeed Al Shuaily, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning. The new decisions enable for-



Fahad Al Ismaili, the founder of Tibiaan Properties.

foreign investors to own properties worth over OMR250,000, and is split into two tiers of ownership: Investors who buy properties above OMR500,000 are offered first-class residency, while those who buy properties valued between OMR250,000 and OMR500,000 are given second-

class residency.

Explaining this further was Fahad Al Ismaili, the founder of Tibiaan Properties, a real-estate company in Muscat.

Two categories

"The main difference between these two categories of ownership is that first-class residency enables investors to buy residential, commercial, and industrial properties, but second-class residency is limited only to residential units," he said.

"Furthermore, the new law does enable expatriates to own properties outside the ITCs, but only if these properties are valued above OMR 250,000," he added. "Should an expatriate wish to buy a house that costs less than this amount, they can do so through the existing ITC projects or usufruct schemes." **>A6**

MEETING HELD

Tender Board awards projects worth over OMR17 million

MUSCAT: During its second meeting of the year on Wednesday, the Tender Board awarded projects worth OMR17,565,428.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Chairman of the Tender Board.

The most important projects for which the tender were awarded include: Providing consultancy and administrative services for Oman Cultural Complex and National Records and Archives



building for OMR5,271,021; Maintenance of dust roads in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate for OMR4,332,968; Maintenance of dust roads in the Al Dakhiliyah

Governorate for OMR4,069,525; Upgrading the display of the Luban Land (frankincense land) in Dhofar Governorate for OMR129,752, among others. -**ONA**



ROHM to host
L'Elisir d'Amore
- The Factory of
Ideas

A6

VIBRANT LOOK

Local art work gives Muscat International Airport a fresh look

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Visitors to Muscat International Airport will be greeted by new paintings installed as part of the efforts to give the airport a more vibrant look as also to promote Omani artists.

Three paintings by artist Alia Al Farsi have been installed in the Primeclass Lounge and from her 'Voyager' series.

Her main artwork, 'Nations and Tribes', is at the centre of the display area and celebrates the spirit of diversity and connectivity, so peculiar to international airports. The other two paintings, 'Habta 1' and 'Habta 2', shed light on the Eid habta, a traditional marketplace that is part of the heritage of Oman and has been preserved by genera-



tions and have been part of practices handed down from parents to their offspring.

The 'Voyager' collection also includes a selected range of merchandise from Alia Gallery's gift shop. Visitors to the lounge can

also buy hand-painted travel bags and chairs, if they wish to.

Speaking on the occasion, Alia Al Farsi, founder of Alia Gallery said: "I am pleased to share my art with the visitors at Primeclass Lounge. We hope to continue bringing up

unique projects and collaborations with this prominent brand to celebrate Omani art and add value to the tourism sector in Oman."

Alia Al Farsi will also take part in the coming Venice Biennale in May 2022. Her work is sourced

from the ineffable belief in the need to explore inner beauty and to help project it to discerning viewers.

She has held solo exhibitions in Tokyo, Seoul, Paris and Brussels and exhibited with similar-minded artists in Stockholm, Berlin, Shanghai, Abu Dhabi, and Geneva amongst many exhibitions over the past 20 years and in over 20 countries.

The event was also attended by Samer Al Nabhani, chief commercial Officer of Oman Airports and Aylin Alpay, chief marketing officer of TAV Operation Services.

A statement from Oman Airports said, "Oman Airports hosts a collection of Omani artist Alia Al Farsi's works, which will be displayed at the Primeclass lounge throughout the year."



BEST LEARNING FACILITIES

His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said inaugurates ABA Al Irfan Campus

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, an alumnus of ABA from the graduating class of 2012, unveiled the foundation stone to mark the new beginnings of the ABA Al Irfan campus. HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said was given a tour of the campus, accompanied by Lamya Al Kiyumi, ABA Board Chair and Craig Williamson, ABA Head of School.

Ahmed Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, Honourable Lujaina bint Mohsin bin Haider Darwish Al-Zaabi, Member of the State Council, Bill Murray, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Thomas Friedrich Schneider, German Ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, and corporate officials were among the dignitaries present to celebrate the momentous occasion.

ABA's new campus is located in Madinat Al Irfan, Airport Heights, in close proximity to the new Muscat International Airport at Seeb, Muscat Hills, and Al Mouj Muscat. The expansive campus spread over 3.5 hectares includes a contem-



porary Learning Centre, state-of-the-art Athletics Centre, an avant-garde Performing Arts Centre, and interactive indoor and outdoor learning spaces that enable facilitation of a truly global education to local and expatriate students.

In her inaugural address, Lamya Al Kiyumi, Board Chair, ABA Board of Directors said, "Over the past 35 years, ABA has seen remarkable growth and we are delighted to begin the next chapter of our story at our new Al Irfan campus. To everyone who has been a part of our ABA family, this campus is the result of the vision and the culmination of

the efforts of numerous Heads of School, Board directors, teachers, staff, families, volunteers, architects, engineers and project managers. We are beyond excited for our children's first day here on the 27th of March and we look forward to the happy memories they will create in their new home."

Craig Williamson, the Head of School expressed, "The ABA Al Irfan campus was built with the vision to provide our students with an enriching environment that is conducive to holistic growth. It took a team of dedicated individuals many years



of hard labour to realise this long-harboured dream and the result is truly incredible. We continue to constantly strive to ensure that our ABA community has access to the best learning facilities where students thrive and flourish, building on their skills to realise their true potential."

With 11 dedicated science laboratories, 6 design and technology labs, and an extensive library and resource centre, the ABA Al Irfan campus provides top-notch facilities for students to expand their learning. The purpose-built Athletics Centre includes two gym-

nasiums with multiple courts for basketball, badminton and volleyball, all built to international standards, while the Aquatics Centre houses a 25 metre 8-lane indoor swimming pool. Among the many striking features at the ABA Al Irfan campus are the rooftop tennis courts that offer a stunning view of the Muscat skyline.

ABA Al Irfan has plenty of open play and learning spaces too, including an outdoor shaded amphitheatre, the Early Childhood Garden, and a unique Sky Terrace. At the heart of the exceptional Performing Arts Centre, complete

with innovative fine art studios, recording and music studios as per Wenger standards, is a world-class Theatre that can accommodate more than 500 people.

Laila Al Mawali, a long-time parent with three children studying at ABA stated, "We are extremely excited for our children to experience a world of endless possibilities, through the exceptional learning facilities at the new ABA Al Irfan campus. We strongly believe that the value added IB curriculum supports our belief as parents to ensure our children are global minded citizens."

ABA Oman International School is a not-for-profit IB Continuum School in Muscat, Oman, providing international education of the highest quality in an intercultural environment. With over 930 K-12 students, the diverse and inclusive ABA community is represented by a highly experienced faculty, staff and families from over 70 different nationalities. Founded in 1987 as the American British Academy, ABA continues its long legacy of educating the next generation of leaders and innovators, inspiring them to impact their world positively. Visit www.abaoman.org to discover The ABA Way.

THE UNDISTURBED BEAUTY OF RAS AL MARKAZ





RAS AL MARKAZ BEACH near Duqm is picturesque and an undisturbed beauty. Though the area is an important place for oil exploration, the unique beauty of the beach's deserted white sands is hard to miss. It's a hidden paradise for many explorers of nature in Oman. Ras Al Markaz has great cliffs with sedimentary rocks, which have its unique coloured layers, and a calm sandy beach down the cliffs and it is a great spot for angling, swimming, and snorkelling. It is also a great place for camping as the 40-metre cliff casts a beautiful shadow over the beach area. Take a pair of binoculars with you if you are visiting this place in winter, as migratory birds are abundant this season.

During stormy weather there will be huge waves. The patches of mud flats on the beach make a 4X4 essential to access the beach. Also beware of flash floods during the rainy season. Prepare for some adventure when taking the 500-km trip down to Ras Al Markaz from Muscat, but that is part of its attraction.

From Muscat, take the expressway. When you reach Duqm, drive in the direction of Haima. After 17km, head straight for Al Jazar. The turning point for Ras Al Markaz is 49km from the petrol station. Take the dirt road and continue for 14km to reach the beach.



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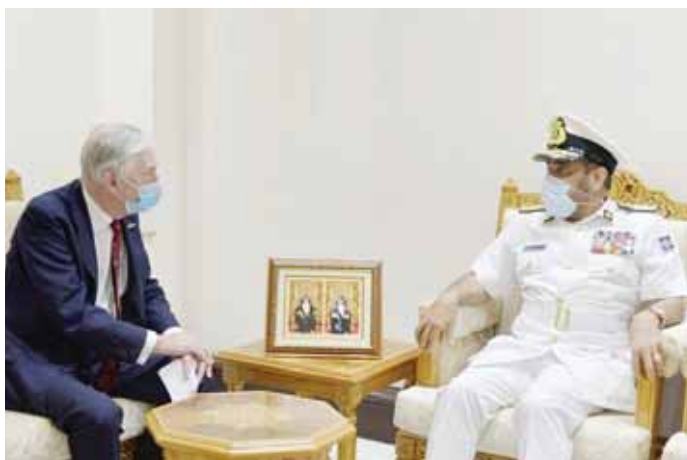
REVIEW MEETING

Sultan's Armed Forces Chief of Staff receives British Adviser

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a a Garrison on Wednesday Lord Astor of Hever, Adviser of the British Minister of Defence, the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy.

The two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries. They also exchanged views on several matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Muscat. — **ONA**

**THEATRE CATEGORY**

Ministry shortlists six performances

MUSCAT: The main committee of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth's Competition for Clubs in Cultural Creativity announced the results of the lot for shortlisted performances in the diorama theatre category.

The performances will be staged from 26 till 29 March 2022 in Nizwa.

The lot resulted in 6 theatrical performances, namely by Oman Club, representing Muscat on 26 March, Masirah Club, representing South A'Sharqiyah on 26 March, Bahla Club, representing A'Dakhiliyah and Al Nasr Club, representing the Governorate of Dhofar on 27 March, A'Rustaq Club, representing the Governorate of South Al Batinah on 28 March, Al Ittifaq Club, representing the Governorate of North A'Sharqiyah on 28 March, Yanqul Club from the Governorates of A'Dhahirah and Al Buraimi on 29 March and Majees Club, representing the Governorate of North Al Batinah on 29 March. — **ONA**



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A TIMES OF OMAN HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE



ACWA Power Barka SAOG

P.O. Box: 572, P.C.320, Barka. Tel.: 26896499, Fax: 26894387

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of ACWA Power Barka SAOG (the “Company”) is pleased to invite all shareholders to the Annual Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 March 2022 in Ruby Hall at Grand Millennium Hotel and via the electronic platform for convening general meetings which can be accessed through the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company website (www.mcd.gov.om), if quorum is not met, a second annual general meeting shall be held at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 March 2022, to discuss the following agenda:

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

1. To consider and approve the Directors' Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
3. To consider and approve the Auditor's Report and the Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account) for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
4. To consider and approve the proposed distribution of RO 49,121, being remuneration for the directors for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
5. To approve the sitting fees of board of directors and sub-committees payable to the Board of Directors for the previous financial year and to determine and approve the sitting fees for the next financial year.
6. To disclose the transactions that the Company entered into with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
7. To inform the meeting of the donations made to support community services during the financial year ended on 31 December 2021.
8. To consider and approve a budget of RO 5,000 for the year ending 31 December 2022 towards Corporate Social Responsibility activities.
9. To elect one member (either a shareholder or non-shareholders) to the Board of Directors of the Company to fill the vacant seat on the board. Any person who wishes to be nominated shall complete the director's nomination form and submit it to the Company at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. Any form received after the 17 March 2022 will not be accepted.
10. To consider and approve the report on the evaluation of the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
11. To appoint the auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2022 and agree on their fees.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association and the rules for convening general meetings via electronic means issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- a. A legal (juristic) person, exclusively, shall have the right to appoint a natural person, as proxy, to attend the general meeting, and vote on decisions taken on his behalf using electronic means. Such natural person must have an investor number registered with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.

Shareholders will be able to vote for the items set out in the agenda starting from 3 days prior to the meeting date up until the end of the voting process for that particular item presented in the agenda on the day of the meeting. If a shareholder's shareholding is increased or decreased, then such shareholders votes will be void, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the general meeting.

For further information please contact Mr. Maitham Mohammed Mohsin Al Talib on phone number: 9364 0224.

**AGENDA OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NATIONAL GAS COMPANY SAOG**

The Board of Directors of National Gas Company SAOG (the "Company") are pleased to invite the shareholders for the Company's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") to be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 24th March 2022, at Hilton Garden Inn, Al Khuwair, Muscat, or through the electronic platform for holding General Meetings, which can be accessed through Muscat Clearing and Depository Company ("MCD") website (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event, that the quorum for the first AGM is not met, Wednesday, 30th March 2022, at 3 p.m. will be the date of the second AGM, at the aforementioned meeting venue and electronic platform to consider the following agenda:

1. To consider and approve the report of the Board of Directors' on Company's activity and its financial position for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
2. To consider and approve the report of the Board of Directors' on corporate governance for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
3. To consider and approve the report of the evaluation of the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
4. To consider the statutory auditors' report and to approve the financial statements and the profit and loss account for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
5. To ratify the sitting fees paid to Directors' for attending meetings of the Board and sub committees for the previous financial year and to determine the Directors' sitting fees for the upcoming financial year.
6. To consider the transactions carried out with related parties during the financial year ended 31st December 2021
7. To consider and approve the related parties transactions that the Company will enter into during the financial year ending 31st December 2022
8. To inform the Shareholders of the amounts paid towards corporate social responsibility activities during the year ended 31st December 2021.
9. To consider and approve the allocation of RO 10,000 for Corporate Social Responsibility programs during the financial year ending on 31st December 2022.
10. To appoint statutory auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2022 and determine their fees.

Pursuant to the Company's articles of association and general meeting regulations, through modern technology means issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following

- (a) A juristic person, exclusively, has the right to authorize a natural person to attend the general meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
- (b) Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three days before the date set for the Meeting until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting, and in the event that the shareholder's balance is increased or decreased, the voting process will be invalid, and he must re-vote again on the day of the Meeting.

Any questions relating to this Notice should be addressed to Mr. Nasser Al Rahbi (Telephone No. +968 99336130)

Chairman

Auditors

Legal Advisor



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

Gaetano Donizetti's Factory of Ideas returns to ROHM

Times News Service

MUSCAT: L'Elisir d'Amore – The Factory of Ideas is the upcoming opera to be performed at the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM).

The opera, based on the L'Elisir d'Amore composed by Gaetano Donizetti (1797–1848) will be performed by the internationally renowned company As.Li.Co Teatro Sociale di Como. Returning to Muscat for the 4th time, the com-



pany is widely acknowledged as the most successful touring company developing new and young audiences for opera.

Classic opera

L'Elisir d'Amore – The Factory of Ideas explores Donizetti's classic opera with an eye for capturing the imagination and attention of children.

The opera has been reworked so that elements of the singing can be

interactive, and so that the stage cast can appeal directly to children in the audience for their contribution and involvement in the story.

Schools across Muscat have been collaborating with As.Li.Co, culminating in a series of performances exclusively for schools in a fascinating learning journey, featuring significant artistic commitment from the schools, teachers and especially the children of Muscat.



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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



ROYAL DIRECTIVES: The ministry also expressed gratitude for Royal directives to revise social assistance programmes and principles of calculation of Social Security allocations. – **ONA**

Over 107mn disbursed annually for social security beneficiaries

MUSCAT: The number of Social Security Scheme cases stood at 72,707 till the end of February this year and these received a monthly pay of OMR7,681,915.

This was unveiled at a statement issued by Ministry of Social Development on Wednesday.

The statement indicated that a total sum of OMR107,546,810 is being paid on an annual basis, after the addition of two extra

salaries during Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Ad'ha.

The ministry valued the Royal directives issued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to disburse an additional pay for Social Security Scheme beneficiaries upon the advent of Ramadan and to alleviate the impact, on this segment, of high prices of commodities and services.

The ministry also expressed

gratitude for Royal directives to revise social assistance programmes and principles of calculation of Social Security allocations.

The ministry explained that the Social Security Sector covers the segments of orphans, widows, the elderly, the deserted, the divorced, unmarried girls, the decrepit, families of the imprisoned and other special segments. – **ONA**

REAL ESTATE SECTOR

< FROM A1 Expatriates can continue to buy, own properties in ITCs

Ownership rights of expatriates must be in line with Royal Decree No. 29/2018 and Ministerial Decision No. 292/2020, which detail areas where expatriates cannot own property and the executive regulations concerning foreign ownership of real estate.

Out-of-bounds areas

Non-Omanis cannot own properties within the governorates of Musandam, Buraimi, Dhahirah and Wusta. Furthermore, with the exception of Wilayat Salalah, expatriates are also not permitted to own properties in the rest of the Dhofar region. Expatriates can, of course, continue to buy and own properties in integrated tourism complexes (ITCs).

The wilayats of Liwa and Shinas are also closed to expatriate ownership, while Masirah, Jabal Akhdar, Jabal Shams and any other landforms such as mountains and islands that are deemed to be of strategic importance are also off-limits. Locations near high-priority installations such as security and military facilities, archaeological and historic structures and areas designated as agricultural land is not open to expatriates when it comes to

owning property.

Encouraging long-term residency

Fahad Al Ismaili added that the decision to encourage foreign investors to own properties in Oman came as part of ways to offer long-term residency in the country.

“Less than a year ago, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MO-CIIP) announced packages for foreign ownership and long-term residence across two categories,” he recalled. “In light of this decision, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MOHUP) brought out the foreign ownership scheme, because MOCIP could not issue a decision concerning the ownership of real estate.

“Accordingly, the ability of foreign investors to own real estate was confirmed through the decision of the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning,” he added. “This will no doubt be good for the real-estate market. However, I hope that real estate ownership will soon be allowed for values less than OMR 250,000, because currently, small inves-

tors are unfortunately unable to buy property at this rate.

“There will of course be investors who will benefit from this decision, but they will be moneyed people,” he said. “Enabling ownership of properties at lower values will lead to more economic flexibility and attract investment to Oman's real estate market, allowing it to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Part of economic diversification plan

The decision to allow expatriate investors to own property comes as part of the efforts to make the real estate sector a bigger part of economic diversification, to create a competitive business environment and to expand real-estate development projects.

It is also a continuation of efforts to open more real estate to foreign ownership, which was previously expanded through the usufruct facility, the ability of foreign nationals to purchase property in integrated tourism complexes and the provision for nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council to buy property outside areas prohibited for foreign ownership.

 Dhofar Cattle Feed Company P.O. Box 1220 - PC 211 - Phone 23225381 - Fax 23225258									
Dhofar Cattle Feed Company Audited Financial Statements Consolidated and Parent Company 31st December 2021									
Dear Shareholders, On behalf of the Board of Directors', I am pleased to present the annual report of your company along with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. General The year 2021 was highly challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government review expenditure and subsidy program resulting in unprecedented slowdown of economic activity and pressure on industrial sector. The raw material and shipping cost increase also had profound impact on the various facets of human life. The gradual increase in crude oil price gradually in 2021 has created additional burden on raw materials heavily namely soybean, corn, wheat, sugar etc. This impacted the operation of the company, which resulted a operation loss for the year 2021. The selling price of feed and dairy, beverage are controlled by Public Authority for Consumer Protection (PACP) and this impacted the gross margin of 2021. Future Performance All indicators predict positive local economy growth during 2022 on back of rising oil prices, and expected increase in government's spending as well as fiscal reforms. Oman has emphasized on diversification of its economy through investments in key pillars which includes Manufacturing, Tourism, Fisheries, Mining and Logistics. The priority remains on achieving self-sufficiency in the food sector with efforts taken by the Government institutions and authorities to invest in new projects along with private sector contribution. Financial Performance Parent Company The overall revenue for the company decreased by 1% as compared to the previous due to competition, look down effects because of covid-19 pandemic & overflow of products into the Oman market. Sales were mainly driven by consumer confidence which has remained strong during the year. The company has responded to the current market situation by protecting its market share in terms of volume and tried to maintain the margins with continuous focus on controlling the costs. Gross profit margin in the current year decreased by 12% compared to the previous year mainly due to product / sales mix combined with reduction in volume, marginal increase in material prices and valuation loss from biological assets, higher costs of diesel and utility charges. The overall costs have slightly increased compared to last year. The overhead costs, distribution costs and manpower costs have increased in line with the									
trend. The total assets of the company as of Dec '21 was RO 48,259 million as compared to RO 45,180 million as of previous year. The NAV stood at 0.313 Riials as against NAV of 0.320 Riial as of last year. The assets increase is mainly due to increase in market value of its available for sale investments and valuation gain in biological assets. Group Companies The sales & profit performance of the poultry segment was lower as compared to last year due to competition and increase in cost of operations. The Management is planning to increase operation efficiency by efficient use of company available resources introduce cost saving program and upgrade of production facilities. The other subsidiary and associate companies' performance also declined due to competition and the effect of implementation of sin tax and excise duty during the year. The Board continues to focus on the core business of the Company and despite various challenges that lie ahead, foresees improvement in the performance of our business in 2022. Borrowings and Liquidity The company's overall borrowings were RO 13.3 million as compared to RO 9.7 million for the corresponding period of last year. The net financing cost for the current year was RO 859 k as against RO 845 k last year, increase by approx. 1.6 % Corporate Governance & Internal Control The Company and its Board of Directors believes that to succeed on a sustainable basis, it must maintain high standards of corporate governance towards its shareholders, employees, consumers and community. To this end, the Board has constituted the Audit Committee and the Executive, Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The Company has always and will remain focused on good corporate governance. Your company has adhered to all the regulations covering corporate governance in Oman and your Board is fully committed to ensure compliance of all the applicable rules and regulations. The Board has taken all possible measures to ensure full compliances with the rules and regulations. To improve the internal audit process, the board has outsourced the internal audit functions to an external audit firm. Omanisation / Training Your company is supporting the national recruitment policy of the government. In line with this, Omani nationals are currently working at various levels of management and more Omanis are being trained and recruited in many areas of the company operations. We continue to develop our staff in order to lay solid foundation for our future growth with great amount of emphasis being done to develop local talent.									
Health Safety and Environment Your company is striving to continuously improve the health and safety awareness for its shop floor employees. All employees are trained and made aware of the safety standards, and they are introduced and trained for various safety awareness programs. The objective and focus are to have a safe working environment with safety regulations. The covid restriction are complied in accordance with Supreme Committee directives. Dividends In the year 2021, capital expenditure has been kept at its minimum to consolidate on the investments done in the earlier years and contain the losses. Hence, the Board of directors is unable to recommend any dividend and no directors remuneration is being proposed for the year. Outlook Going forward in 2022 all the indicators anticipate economical recovery coupled with new opportunities translating this into consumer confidence despite the various challenges. The various measures taken by Oman to diversify the economy continue to bear results with non-oil income sector increase revenues in 2022. The government is focusing on further increasing non-oil revenue and current spending with acceptable levels. In addition, the government is keen on expanding the private sector participation in executing projects as well as managing key facilities and service delivery. As far as your company is concerned, it is continuing to evolve into a much larger group, reinforcing its position as a leader in Oman local market. The underlying fundamentals of the company are very strong, which provides a solid base for strengthening its performance in the coming years. It is expected that the local interest rates in Oman will rise in 2022 due to tightened market liquidity. The company will focus on new strategies striving for operational excellence thereby creating long term value for the stake holders. Acknowledgements I would like to thank my fellow board members and our shareholders, customers, bankers, suppliers and employees for their continued support and commitment. I would also like to thank the CMA & MSX for their support and cooperation. We wish further development, stability, progress and prosperity for our beloved country under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tareq and we wish him good health and longevity. Nasser Bin Mohammed Salim Al Harthi Chairman									
Audited consolidated statement of financial position As of 31st December '2021					Audited consolidated statement of comprehensive income For the year end 31 December '2021				
	Group 2021 RO'000	Parent Company 2021 RO'000	Group 2020 RO'000	Parent Company 2020 RO'000		Group 2021 RO'000	Parent Company 2021 RO'000	Group 2020 RO'000	Parent Company 2020 RO'000
ASSETS					INCOME				
Non-current assets					Revenue from sales of				
Property, plant and equipment	14,013	7,551	14,885	8,015	goods and services	39,803	33,686	40,339	34,111
Right of use assets	1,076	951	1,159	1,041	Rental income	82	94	57	69
Intangible assets	86	34	101	41		39,885	33,780	40,396	34,180
Investments in subsidiaries	-	1,733	-	2,768	Cost of sales	(35,176)	(29,640)	(33,772)	(29,426)
Investments in associates	2,904	2,812	2,791	2,812	Gross profit	4,709	4,140	6,624	4,754
Fair Value through other					EXPENSES				
comprehensive income	14,441	14,441	12,176	12,176	Selling and distribution	4,963	4,111	5,033	4,269
Investment properties	2,090	2,090	2,000	2,000	General and administration	2,197	1,358	2,471	1,482
Biological assets	4,600	4,600	3,684	3,684	Directors' remuneration and meeting	138	88	132	76
Deferred tax asset	382	231	376	231		7,298	5,557	7,636	5,827
Total non-current assets	39,592	34,443	37,173	32,768	Profit / (loss) from operations	(2,589)	(1,417)	(1,011)	(1,073)
Current assets					Dividend income (net)	222	381	161	223
Inventories and biological assets	12,213	9,565	11,726	8,021	Other income	285	221	1,720	1,653
Accounts and other receivables	566	332	481	258	Share of result of associates	112	-	(1)	-
Bank balances and cash	16,301	13,816	16,575	12,412	Impairment of investment in subsidiary	-	(1,194)	-	(302)
Total current assets	55,893	48,259	53,748	45,180	Finance costs (net)	(1,352)	(859)	(1,308)	(845)
Total assets					Profit / (loss) before taxation	(3,322)	(2,868)	(439)	(344)
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					Taxation	(6)	-	14	-
Equity					loss for the year	(3,328)	(2,868)	(425)	(344)
Share capital	8,085	8,085	8,085	8,085	Other comprehensive				
Legal reserve	2,599	2,599	2,599	2,599	income for the year:				
Voluntary reserve	3,712	3,712	3,712	3,712	Potentially reclassified to the				
Revaluation reserve	525	-	525	-	income statement:				
Fair value reserve	6,304	6,304	4,038	4,038	Movement in fair value reserve	(2,266)	(2,266)	(545)	(545)
Retained earnings	3,759	4,623	6,903	7,490	Other comprehensive				
Equity attributable to					income for the year	(2,266)	(2,266)	(545)	(545)
Shareholders of the Parent Company					Total comprehensive loss for the year	(1,062)	(602)	(970)	(889)
Non-controlling interest	96	-	279	-	Net loss attributable to:				
Total equity and non-controlling interest	25,080	25,323	26,141	25,924	Shareholders of the Parent Company	(3,145)	(2,868)	(375)	(344)
LIABILITIES					Non-controlling interest	(183)	-	(50)	-
Non-current liabilities						(3,328)	(2,868)	(425)	(344)
Non-current portion of term loans	908	908	466	466	Total comprehensive loss				
Employees' end of service benefits	914	635	915	648	attributable to:				
Non-current portion of lease liability	708	605	800	698	Shareholders of the Parent Company	(879)	(602)	(920)	(889)
Deferred tax liability	13	-	14	-	Non-controlling interest	(183)	-	(50)	-
Total non-current liabilities	2,543	2,148	2,195	1,812		(1,062)	(602)	(970)	(889)
Current liabilities					Basic earnings per share (RO)	(0.039)	(0.035)	(0.005)	(0.004)
Bank borrowings	17,019	10,523	14,031	7,289					
Current portion of term loans	1,901	1,852	2,347	2,018					
Accounts and other payables	8,929	8,024	8,611	7,738					
Current portion of lease liability	421	389	423	399					
Total current liabilities	28,270	20,788	25,412	17,444					
Total liabilities	30,813	22,938	27,607	19,256					
Total equity and liabilities	55,893	48,259	53,748	45,180					
Net assets per share (RO)	0.309	0.313	0.320	0.321					



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Liverpool advance despite loss to Inter

After Alexis Sanchez was sent off, Liverpool sealed their passage to the last eight

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool are through to the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals, but the English side were given a fright as Inter threatened an upset in the second leg at Anfield on Tuesday. Lautaro Martinez's stunning strike briefly gave Inter hope of a famous comeback, but after Alexis Sanchez was sent off Liverpool sealed their passage to the last eight. The onus was firmly on Inter after their 2-0 defeat in the first leg and, just for a moment midway through the second half, a famous Anfield comeback of another hue looked on the cards. Lautaro Martinez's stunning strike halved the deficit for the ascendant visitors.



UEFA: The onus was firmly on Inter after their 2-0 defeat in the first leg and, just for a moment midway through the second half, a famous Anfield comeback of another hue looked on the cards.

Hope did not spring eternal, though. It barely lasted a minute. A second yellow card for Alexis Sanchez left Inter down to ten, an uphill task became a mountain-

ous one. Jurgen Klopp brought on his wise old heads in midfield and Liverpool played the game out with a degree of comfort. The Reds, denied by the wood-

work either side of half-time through Joel Matip and Mohamed Salah, and again through Salah in the closing stages, are through to the quarter-finals. **ANI**

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Lewandowski's hat-trick inspires Munich 7-1 rout against Salzburg

MUNICH : Bayern Munich were at their clinical best as they blew RB Salzburg away in the UEFA Champions League round of 16-second leg on Tuesday, Robert Lewandowski scoring the first three of their seven goals. If Bayern were somewhat subdued during their 1-1 draw in Austria in the first leg, they were anything but in this Munich return at Allianz Arena. Lewandowski, not for the first time, spearheaded the goal glut for Julian Nagelsmann's men, converting two penalties after being felled by Maximilian

Wober twice then blocking a clearance from goalkeeper Philipp Kohn and tapping in to seal a quickfire hat-trick inside 23 minutes. Serge Gnabry all but rubber-stamped Bayern's place in the last eight with a fourth goal before half-time but there was no let-up after the break. Thomas Muller gleefully helped himself to two goals, either side of Maurits Kjaergaard's excellent consolation, with Leroy Sane thumping in number seven late on - it was a record seventh time the Bavarian outfit had hit seven in a game in the competition. **ANI**

ICC RANKINGS

Jadeja becomes number one ranked all-rounder in Tests

DUBAI: Ravindra Jadeja's performance at India's recent Test home win against Sri Lanka in Mohali has catapulted him to the no. 1 position in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings. His unbeaten 175 lifted him up to 17 places from 54th to 37th with the bat and he added nine wickets to move up to 17th with the ball. His all-round contribution was enough for him to regain the top all-rounder spot from Jason Holder, who had held it since February 2021. Jadeja's only previous time on top was in August 2017, when he spent a week at number one. The Rawalpindi Test between host Pakistan and Australia was

a batting feast, and Imam-ul-Haq celebrated by striking a century in each innings to move to a career-best 63rd with 477 points. His teammate Azhar Ali struck 185 and moved up ten places to 12 whilst Abdullah Shafique added a second-innings century to gain 27 places to 67. Australia's Marcus Labuschagne missed out on a century, being dismissed for 90, but that was enough to gain a point up to 936 and 12th position on his own in the list of highest-ever batting ratings. Usman Khawaja also fell in the 90s but continued his renaissance, moving up six places to 24 with the bat, his highest position for three years. In bowlers, Nauman Ali of

Pakistan impressed with figures of 6-107 in Australia's first innings and saw him gain 19 places to 51. In T20I cricket, whilst the top 12 batters are unchanged, at joint thirteenth position is Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai, who's unbeaten 59 in the second match against Bangladesh at Mirpur ensured a shared series win. For the hosts, Liton Das starred in the first match with 60, which helped him to gain 26 places to 49th over the course of the series. With the ball, Nasum Ahmed has made his first appearance in the top 10 bowlers, thanks to his 'Player of the Match' performance of 4-10 in the first match. **ANI**



EXTENSION OF HELP

Andy Murray vows to donate prize money to help children in Ukraine



LONDON: Former World number one tennis player Andy Murray on Wednesday said that he has decided to donate his earnings from prize money for the rest of the year 2022 to help provide urgent medical supplies and early childhood development kits for children in Ukraine. The whole child population of Ukraine, 7.5 million children, is now at risk as the conflict against Russia continues to escalate. With explosions in major cities across the country and thousands of families being forced to flee their homes, UNICEF has called for an immediate ceasefire. "Over 7.5m children are at risk with the escalating conflict in Ukraine, so I'm working with UNICEF UK to help provide urgent medical supplies and early childhood development kits," Andy Murray wrote on Twitter. "It's vital education continues, so UNICEF is working to enable access to learning for displaced children, as well as supporting the rehabilitation of damaged schools,

together with replacement equipment and furniture." "I'm going to be donating my earnings from my prize money for the rest of the year, but anyone in the UK can support UNICEF's humanitarian response by donating to our appeal by following this link - https://unicef.uk/am_ukraine Children in Ukraine need peace - now," Murray added. Andy Murray has also been awarded a wild card for the Miami event. The Brit, who was confirmed as a wild card in Indian Wells earlier this week, is a familiar face in Miami having trained frequently in the city throughout his career. He is a two-time champion at the tournament, having triumphed in 2009 (d. Djokovic) and 2013 (d. Ferrer). Murray reached the final of the Sydney Tennis Classic in January but has exited his past four tournaments in the second round and will seek to go deep in both tournaments as he hunts a return to the Top 50 of the ATP Rankings. **ANI**

OMAN CRICKET

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket is pleased to announce that the long-awaited inaugural edition of the D10 league in partnership with ITW ProdG, will commence on March 12, 2022. All the matches will be played on Turf 1 of the Oman Cricket Academy Ground with a round-robin format employed for the entire league stage. Speaking on the launch, Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of Oman Cricket said, "ITW and Oman Cricket had a phenomenal run with the D20 league. The tournament far exceeded our expectations and now we feel very excited for the forthcoming D10 edition which I'm sure will surpass expectations even further - both from the players' perspective and from the team owners' perspective. We at Oman Crick-



et are thrilled to experiment with various new forms of local leagues and I wish everyone all the very best." The D10 tournament will be contested by the same 8 teams that took part in the D20 tournament last December - namely Qurum Thunders, Amerat Royals, Azaiba XI, Bousher Busters, Khuwair Warriors, Ghubrah Giants, Darsait Titans and the winners Ruwi Rangers. The point of major difference as the name suggests, will be the format, with each innings consisting of 10 overs instead of 20. All the 35 games of the D10 league will be shown live on FanCode - the premier destination for sports fans in India. In addition, it will also be carried by Sports Eye (a regional cricket broadcasting portal) and other premium platforms globally.

BCB

Shakib rested from cricket till April 30

DHAKA: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday announced that all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been rested from all forms of international cricket till April 30. Shakib will now be missing Bangladesh's upcoming Test and ODI tour of South Africa, which is scheduled to be played between March 12 to April 8. According to ESPNcricinfo, the BCB has not named a replacement for Shakib and, for now, the ODI squad will travel to South Africa without him. Earlier, BCB president Nazmul Hasan slammed Shakib after the all-rounder expressed his willingness to take a break from international cricket and not tour South Africa. **ANI**

TENNIS

Novak Djokovic part of Indian Wells draw but participation status still unclear

CALIFORNIA: World number two Novak Djokovic is part of the Indian Wells draw, the organisers confirmed but his participation status at the Masters 1000 tournament still remains unclear. Second seed Novak Djokovic was drawn to face 2017 ATP Finals runner-up David Goffin or Australian Jordan Thompson in the second round. The Serbian began his season in Dubai, where he lost in the quarter-finals against Czech lefty Jiri Vesely. "Novak Djokovic is



on the tournament entry list, and therefore is placed into the draw today. We are currently in communication with his team; however, it has not been determined if he will participate in the event by getting CDC approval to enter the country," Indian Wells in a statement said. Daniil Medvedev is competing as the No. 1 player in the ATP Rankings for the first time at the Indian Wells, but that did not help his draw on Tuesday afternoon. The top seed could play Ra-

fael Nadal in a blockbuster semi-final in the California desert, with fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in his quarter. If Medvedev and Nadal make it to the last four, they will clash for the third time in less than two months. The legendary lefty has won both of their meetings this year, rallying from two sets down for a record-breaking 21st Grand Slam title at the Australian Open before defeating Medvedev again at the semi-final of the Mexican Open in straight sets. **ANI**



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,258.16 points, up by 0.83 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48 per cent at 493.50 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 6.58 per cent, was the top gainer while, SMN Power Holding, down 4.55 per cent, was the top loser.

DISCUSSION

Opaz promotes use of artificial intelligence techniques



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) recently held discussion sessions targeting amateur individuals and companies specialised in the use of unmanned aircraft, drones, to introduce them to the Artificial Intelligence Zone in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), covering 18 sq.km. These sessions are streamlined with Opaz objectives to benefit from the artificial intelligence

techniques in the work of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, searching for local companies working in this field, as well as providing an opportunity for Omani youth to develop their skills and abilities in the use of drones. Organising these sessions came to identify the key interests and experiences of the participants in the various uses of drones, in addition to presenting their proposed initiatives that could be implemented in the Artificial Intelligence Zone. Likewise, the

participants touched on the most important challenges and issues they face, mainly when obtaining permits and following up on the relevant procedures to use these aircraft in different fields. Therefore, the major difficulties and the possible ways of overcoming them, in cooperation with other concerned authorities, were discussed during the sessions too. In this regard, Issa bin Hamood Al Sumri, Secretary of the Steering Committee for Supervising the Artificial Intelligence Zone,

pointed out, "These sessions came in line with Opaz vision to enhance the role of modern technology and applying the latest standards of technical developments and artificial intelligence in developing businesses in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. During the sessions, the competencies of companies and individuals working in this field were highlighted, as well as they proposed the different experiments that can be applied in the zone along with the future business opportunities."

Mining concession agreements signed

The 12 exploration-to-mining concession pacts are a starting point for the exploration and evaluation of the current and new mineral resources



EIGHT SITES: The agreements cover eight sites mostly located in North and South Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah, Al Buraimi, Al Dakhiliyah and North and South Al Sharqiyah. - ONA

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals, and Minerals Development Oman (MDO), an affiliate of Oman Investment Authority, signed 12 exploration-to-mining concession agreements. The agreements were signed by Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, and Dr Badar Saud Al Kharusi, Chairman of Minerals Development Oman (MDO). A representative from Oman Investment Authority attended the signing ceremony. This step comes as the ministry adopted a new strategy to develop the minerals sector through concession agreements including legal, technical, and financial terms to be signed between the ministry and investors as an investment management method to lead the mechanism of managing the utilised minerals identified in concession areas. These agreements are a starting point for the exploration and evaluation of the current and new mineral resources. MDO plans will commence by launching an ambitious program of Airborne Geophysical Survey will be followed by geochemical studies, aiming at identifying the potential of several minerals in these areas. Moreover, these concessions will

enable mining and exploitation of resources especially copper in the Wilayat of Yanqul and industrial minerals in Wilayat of Shaleem. The total size of the concession areas included in the agreements is around 21,480 square kilometres/km². They include a number of potential minerals, mainly strategic minerals (metallic) such as Copper, Gold, and Chromium. The agreements cover eight sites mostly located in North and South Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah, Al Buraimi, Al Dakhiliyah and North and South Al Sharqiyah. All are exploration-to-mining concession areas, one site located in the Wilayat of Yanqul with an area size of 20km² is a copper concession area that reached an advanced exploration phase to be ready for mining. The industrial minerals (non-metallic) included in the agreements are Dolomite, Silica, Gypsum, and limestone in the fourth other areas located in the governorate of Muscat and Dhofar, three of them concession areas that reached advance exploration phase to be ready for mining located in Shaleem with a total area size of 1,489km² including ores like Dolomite, Limestone, and Gypsum. Al Rumhi stated that the ministry is working towards the development and management of

the minerals sector effectively and professionally which goes in line with the sector's aspirations as one of the economic diversification sectors. The ministry has adopted a new methodology to develop this sector through establishing mining concession agreements of large areas similar to the practice in the oil and gas sector. Those areas will be offered to local and international companies specialised in exploration and minerals extraction as per an exploration and mining concession agreement. The agreements are linked with the creation of in-country value in mineral ores in the Sultanate of Oman, and the establishment of downstream mining and manufacturing industries, in addition to creating more job opportunities. Dr Al Kharusi stated, "By signing these agreements, we mark a significant milestone for MDO's future. MDO has promising aspirations to invest in exploration activities across Oman targeting several strategic commodities and we hope that the promising results of these exploration activities will be a solid cornerstone to attract strategic investors and ultimately promote the entire Omani mining sector, in collaboration with our esteemed partner Ministry of Energy and Minerals. - ONA

Invitation of the AGM of Omantel for the financial year ended 31/12/2021

The Board of Directors of Oman Telecommunications Company SAOG (Omantel) have the pleasure of inviting the honorable shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on Sunday, 27th March 2022 at 5:00 pm at the company's Head Office at Madinat AL Irfan and via electronic portal of Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCD) (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not met, the second Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 3th April 2022 at same time and place. The meeting is to discuss the following agenda:

Item	Subject
1.	To study and approve the Directors Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
2.	To study and approve the company's Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
3.	To study the Auditors Report and approve the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss account for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
4.	To study and approve the Board proposal to distribute cash dividends of (55 Bzs.) per share.
5.	To ratify the sitting fees paid to board of directors and its subcommittees during the financial year ended 31/12/2021, and to determine the sitting fees for the financial year 2022 as recorded in annexure No.1.
6.	To study and approve the Board remuneration of OMR 150,000 for the Board of Directors for the financial year ending 31/12/2021.
7.	To notify the shareholders with the related party transactions entered into the ordinary course of business during the financial year 2021 as explained in the note (27) on the financial statements, attached in annexure No.2.
8.	To notify the AGM with the donation during the financial year ended 31st December 2021 to the affected by the Cyclone Shaheen with total amount of OMR 500,000 (Riyal Omani Five Hundreds thousands).
9.	To notify the shareholders with the donations made as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) during the financial year ended 31st December 2021 as explained in annexure No. 3.
10.	To study and approve the proposal to allocate an amount of OMR 500,000 (Rial Omani) for the purpose of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the year 2022.
11.	Approve the criteria for the performance evaluation of the Board of Directors, as per annexure No. 4.
12.	To appoint independent office to assess the board's performance for the financial year ending 31/12/2022 and approve their fees.
13.	To appoint the auditors for the financial year ending 31/12/2022 and approve their fees.

As per the Article of Association of the company and the rules to use of the new electronic means, to inform you with the following:

a. Only natural person can authorize any person (except board members) to attend the meeting and vote on his/her behalf through the electronic portal. The natural person must have an investor number at Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCD).

b. The voting on any of the agenda items shall start (3) days prior the meeting and finish at the day of the meeting. Any changes to the holding shares (plus/minus) the voting shall be canceled and need to revoke on the day of the meeting.

For any queries, may call Mr. Faris Mohammed Al-Maamari on Office: 24244579 or email: Faris.Maamari@omantel.om

Chairman

External Auditors

Legal Advisor

INFORMATIVE

CMA hosts workshop on anti-money laundering

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) organised a workshop titled 'Highlights on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing Terrorism' for insurance brokers targeting the employees acting as compliance officers of insurance brokers. The workshop acquainted the participants with the applications related to insurance brokers and the role of the Financial Action Task Force as well as the decisions of the CMA on the implementation of the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing Terrorism Law. The workshop discussed the level of risks focusing on the risks of life insurance and the due diligence measures beside keeping records of information and immediate reporting.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 6.58 per cent, was the top gainer while, SMN Power Holding, down 4.55 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,258.16 points, up by 0.83 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48 per cent at 493.50 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 6.58 per cent, was the top gainer while, SMN Power Holding, down 4.55 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 OMR77 million, with more than 34 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 16 advanced, 11 declined and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR287,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR208,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR79,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6842.92 points, up by 1.32 per cent. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, HSBC Bank Oman, National Bank Oman, Al Anwar Investment, and Sohar International Bank were up by

6.58 per cent, 2.8 per cent, 2.58 per cent, 2.33 per cent, and 1.75 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Muscat Finance, United Finance, National Finance, and Ominvest were down by 2.13 per cent, 1.59 per cent, 1.18 per cent, 0.85 per cent, and 0.61 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5944.77 points, up by 0.64 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries, and Oman Flour Mills were up by 3.66 per cent, 2 per cent, 1.39 per cent, 1.32 per cent and 0 per cent respectively. The price of Raysut Cement was down by 0.54 per cent.

Services Index was down by 0.75 per cent before closing at 1627.3 points. Prices of Ooredoo, National Gas, Al Jazeera Preference Shares, Oman Telecom, and Renaissance Services were up by 0 per cent, 0 per cent, 0 per cent, 0 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Shell Oman Marketing, OIFC, Al Jazeera Services, and Al Maha Marketing were down by 4.55 per cent, 4.35 per cent, 1.94 per cent, 1.38 per cent, and 0.58 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,262.39	4,224.06	4,258.16	4,223.04	35.11	0.83	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,849.94	6,758.39	6,842.92	6,753.50	89.42	1.32	
Industry Index	5,944.77	5,913.28	5,944.77	5,906.68	38.09	0.64	
Services Index	1,642.33	1,627.30	1,627.30	1,639.63	-12.33	-0.75	
MSX Shariah Index	493.81	493.10	493.50	493.10	0.40	0.08	
MSX TR INDEX	5,130.83	5,084.70	5,125.74	5,083.48	42.27	0.83	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
27,873,484	5,627,175	721	22,249,394,353	16	12	19	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	4,205,813	679,598	56	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.162	0.152	0.010	6.579	0.165	0.150	0.165	0.100	47,293,498
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	7,465	7,604	6	1.010	1.030	1.010	1.020	0.984	0.036	3.659	1.030	1.030	1.030	0.100	91,494,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,538,091	206,724	105	0.087	0.089	0.087	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.336	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	17,600,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	247,417	101,038	56	0.404	0.418	0.402	0.408	0.400	0.008	2.000	0.410	0.408	0.410	0.100	50,958,368
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	654,967	75,908	9	0.116	0.116	0.114	0.116	0.114	0.002	1.754	0.114	0.114	0.116	0.100	346,847,226
OM0000002230	AHLI BANK	59,000	7,483	3	0.126	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.125	0.002	1.800	0.127	0.123	0.127	0.100	247,606,498
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,864,510	2,138,888	41	0.550	0.554	0.548	0.550	0.548	0.002	0.365	0.550	0.550	0.552	0.100	1,865,961,136
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	150	57	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.100	38,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	278,200	237,022	10	0.848	0.852	0.848	0.852	0.852	0.000	0.000	0.848	0.848	0.860	0.100	639,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	280,580	123,353	16	0.440	0.440	0.438	0.440	0.440	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.438	0.450	0.100	194,020,400
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	137,979	47,465	8	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	0.344	0.340	0.354	0.100	223,924,815
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	484,273	242,137	8	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.490	0.500	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	42,000	7,881	5	0.183	0.183	0.182	0.183	0.184	-0.001	-0.543	0.183	0.182	0.183	0.100	36,600,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA MARKTING	14,440	9,877	5	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.688	-0.004	-0.581	0.684	0.680	0.684	0.100	47,196,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	38,599	12,583	4	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.328	-0.002	-0.610	0.326	0.326	0.328	0.100	217,887,129
OM0000002236	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	42,653	12,209	4	0.288	0.288	0.284	0.286	0.290	-0.004	-1.379	0.284	0.280	0.289	0.100	17,504,422
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	348,613	21,630	21	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.387	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	19,043,072
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	20,000	3,040	1	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.155	-0.003	-1.935	0.152	0.150	0.155	0.100	36,024,000
Total	18	13,065,350	3,924,257	357												

Parallel Market

OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	500,000	54,983	6	0.108	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.107	0.003	2.904	0.110	0.108	0.109	0.100	220,034,407
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,908,000	578,792	38	0.195	0.200	0.195	0.199	0.194	0.005	2.577	0.200	0.201	0.205	0.100	323,563,325
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	200,872	14,664	18	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.074	0.070	0.074	0.100	14,818,011
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	75,000	5,765	2	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.316	0.077	0.076	0.078	0.100	9,625,000
OM0000003281	TAGGER FINANCE	607,000	59,224	13	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.086	0.090	0.100	22,589,510
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	454,400	44,328	19	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	17,150,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	3,913,507	390,492	51	0.099	0.101	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	159,796	18,696	3	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	350,573,118
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	343,105	38,962	22	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.115	0.100	14,820,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	14,800	2,368	4	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	4,800,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	17,400	1,462	3	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.080	0.084	0.100	2,820,002
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	25,000	1,805	3	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	8,775,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	953,605	72,869	35	0.076	0.078	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	322,385	30,295	9	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	7,653,599
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	30,000	2,430	3	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.089	0.100	77,320,328
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	120,714	5,796	10	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	413,176	19,832	22	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	34,291,504
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	1,180,164	55,893	46	0.048	0.049	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	68,742,269
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATION	9,588	1,074	2	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.112	0.120	0.100	17,421,645
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	20,350	6,736	6	0.332	0.332	0.328	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.328	0.300	0.332	0.100	23,369,480
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	2,000	186	3	0.096	0.096	0.090	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.100	18,900,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RET. FUND	20,000	1,580	1	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.075	0.079	0.100	37,223,724
OM0000003648	NATURAL FINANCE	22,795	2,867	2	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.122	0.100	63,323,963
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,075,570	174,278	25	0.084	0.085	0.083	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.083	0.082	0.084	0.100	29,328,131
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	17,000	2,437	2	0.145	0.145	0.141	0.143	0.145	-0.002	-1.379	0.141	0.137	0.147	0.100	10,799,646
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	8,987	413	2	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	0.046	0.044	0.046	0.100	3,220,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK.	79,565	70,017	2	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.920	-0.040	-4.348	0.880	0.884	0.886	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000004246	SHIN POWER HOLDING	15,455	6,471	11	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.044	-0.002	-4.545	0.042	0.042	0.044	0.100	8,394,696
Total	28	14,708,134	1,664,517	363												

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO's suite of solutions offer seamless digital payments

MUSCAT: Continuing to deliver best-in-class digital solutions, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has equipped its customers with more ways than ever to manage their payments, wherever and whenever they need to make a transaction.

Whether shopping, paying bills or transferring money abroad, the bank offers a variety of user-friendly options, from payments by QR code to mobile wallets, mobile apps to the newly introduced multi-purpose banking kiosks. Meanwhile, NBO seeks ever more innovative ways to enhance Oman's payments sector, while catering to the growing demands



for a speedy, seamless, and secure banking experience.

Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail and Digital Banking Officer at NBO

said, "In a world where convenience, time savings and instant access reign paramount, digital is rapidly becoming the preferred

GENERAL MANAGERS

Anantara welcomes two newly appointed GMs to Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Anantara announced the appointment of new general managers at its two Oman resorts - Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara and Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort - as they continue to lead the way in leisure hospitality in the country and the surrounding region.

Andrea Orrú - General Manager Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara: After starting his career as a luxury hotel Food & Beverage Director in the United Kingdom, Andrea Orrú has been part of the team at Minor Hotels, Anantara's parent company, since 2013. Andrea brings a master's degree in hospitality management from Cornell University and a wealth of experience in hotel operations across food and beverage and hotel management in countries including Thailand, Maldives, China and South Korea. He moves to Oman from his most recent position as General Manager at Anantara Rasananda Koh Phangan Resort in Thailand.

Andrea's passion for food has never waned and he plans to push Al Baleed Resort Salalah's offerings to even greater heights in



2022 and beyond. The resort will welcome Michelin star chefs and once more host the Salalah Food Festival to showcase the highlights of local and sustainable produce. The only branded resort in southern Oman with private pool villas, Al Baleed Resort Salalah sits beside 250 metres of pristine sandy beach where it offers guests a new level of luxury with three exquisite restaurants and an impressive Anantara Spa.

"I couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to begin working at such an incredible resort as Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara. Not only am I looking forward to welcoming new and loyal guests to the unrivalled



luxury and beauty of the resort, but I am eager to begin working with the team to deliver the next steps towards an even better experience for every visitor. I firmly believe in the importance of buying local and supporting the producers and the environment which is home to our fantastic resort. I want to offer our guests the very best in taste, nutrition, experience, and active life. We will be seeking to offer local, organic products in our outlets and spa whenever possible and to bring activity programmes such



STUDY SUGGESTS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CAN HELP IN PROTECTING BRAIN AS YOU AGE



New research from the University of Georgia has shown that physical activity can help protect your cognitive abilities as you age and it doesn't have to be an intense exercise to make an impact. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Sport Sciences for Health'. "This finding isn't saying, 'If you're older, you need to go out there and start running marathons,'" said Marissa Gogniat, lead author of the study and a recent doctoral graduate in psychology from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. She added, "This is saying if you get more steps, if you're moving around your environment a little bit more, that can be helpful to your brain health and keep you more independent as you age."

EXERCISE IMPROVES BRAIN FUNCTION
The study followed 51 older adults, tracking their physical activity and fitness measurements. The participants performed tests specifically designed to measure cognitive functioning and underwent MRIs to assess brain functioning. They also wore a device that measured the intensity of the wearer's physical activity, number of steps taken and distance covered. The researchers assessed fitness through a six-minute walking test, during which participants walked as quickly as they could to cover the most distance possible within the time limit. "We've always been told it's good to exercise, but I think this is some evidence that exercise can actually change your brain," Gogniat said. "And that impacts

the way you're able to function in your daily life." Brain networks improve with physical activity. The brain is made up of a bunch of distinct networks. Those networks are in constant communication, sending information to each other. But different parts of the brain are active at different times. The network that is active when the body is at rest, for example, flips off when a person starts trying to complete a task. At that time, another network kicks on. While one of these networks is active, the other should be shut off. If it's not, that's a sign that a person's brain isn't functioning as well as it should be. These networks are the key to being able to perform basic tasks in daily life, such as remembering

important information and exhibiting self-control. But as people age, these tasks often become more difficult. This study was the first to examine how these networks interact with physical activity and fitness to impact how the brain functions. "This paper is exciting because it gives us some evidence that when people whose brain networks aren't functioning optimally engage in physical activity, we see improvement in their executive function and their independence," Gogniat said. "We're not saying you need to radically change your life. She continued, "Maybe just take the stairs on the way to work. Stand up and walk around a little bit more. That's where you get the most bang for your buck, not crazy, high-intensity exercise." -ANI

THE WORLD IN PICTURES

Guizhou makes efforts to integrate agriculture with tourism

An Aerial photo shows the scenery of cole flower fields in Panzhou, southwest China's Guizhou Province. In the process of consolidating poverty alleviation achievements and promoting rural revitalisation, the province has actively guided farmers to change farming methods and develop suitable agriculture industry in mountainous areas. **Xinhua**



Zimbabwean female boxing referee defies odds in male-dominated sport
Diana Makumbe (left) referees a boxing match at a tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe. **Xinhua**



Daily life in Hong Kong amid COVID-19 pandemic
People wearing face masks are seen in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) reported 28,475 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday. **Xinhua**



Syrian women brace against war trauma
Women learn knitting at a workshop organised by the Muhtaref association in the northern city of Aleppo, Syria. **Xinhua**



Sugandha Mishra with Sanket Bhosle at Mirchi Music Awards 2022
Comedian Sugandha Mishra with her husband and comedian Sanket Bhosle pose for a photo at the Mirchi Music Awards 2022, in Mumbai on Tuesday. **ANI Photo**



NASA discovers mysterious hole on Mars
NASA discovered mysterious hole on Mars that could hold clue to life on Red Planet. The hole, shown in representative colour, appears to be an opening to an underground cavern, partly illuminated on the image right. **ANI Photo/NASA**



Super-heavy equipment being installed in Bangladesh's largest fertilizer factory
A carbon dioxide stripper tower is installed at a fertilizer plant under construction in Narsingdi, Bangladesh, on Tuesday. The carbon dioxide stripping tower, the first super-heavy equipment of Bangladesh's Ghorashal-Polash Urea fertilizer project (GPUFP), the country's largest and first ever green fertilizer factory, was installed successfully on Tuesday. **Xinhua**

ROUND-UP

Experience unique luxury in GN8 MPV

Its exterior makes a grand mark with its passionately designed and well-sculpted body

MUSCAT: Created to perform multi-purpose activities with ease, the GN8 delivers a smooth and enjoyable drive on any terrain and under any weather conditions. Its exterior makes a grand mark with its passionately designed and well-sculpted body. Its available range of colours enhances the overall look, making it an instantly recognisable model.

Awarding the GN8 with praise-worthy glares is the 17-inch Aluminium Alloy Wheels, LED Headlights with Height Adjustment, LED Daytime Running Lights, Side Mirrors with Turn Signal Indicators and more.

For the interior, the GN8 bears a very emotional design that is thoughtfully created keeping the comfort of its occupants in mind. A 3-zone Automatic Air Conditioner with Separate Second Row Control Panel ensures the environment is cool and comfortable for everyone. Adding to this feeling is the 6-Way Power Adjustable Driver's Seat, a 4-Way Adjustable Front Passenger's Seat and Second Row Captain's Chairs. Giving occupants a beautiful view of the skies above during the day or the Moon and stars at night is the Power Sunroof with Jam Protection. To allow ease



of alighting the GN8 or getting off, there is a thoughtful addition of Sliding Doors on both sides.

An 8-Inch Colour LCD Screen adds to the overall style quotient in the interior. Also available are a 7-Inch Colour LCD Meter Cluster with Trip Computer, Audio System with 6 Speakers and Speed Based Volume Adjustment.

Powering the GN8 is a 198 HP 2.0L Turbocharged Engine that produces 320 Nm of Torque at 4000 RPM. This is paired with a 6-speed Automatic Transmission. Packing a punch of stability on every journey is the Front McPherson Independent Suspension and Rear Multi-link Beam Independent Suspension.

As in the case of any GAC Motor vehicle, safety is a top priority and an area that receives unparalleled

attention. The GN8 is equipped with a range of advanced active and passive safety features.

They include Dual Front Airbags, Front Side Airbags, Electronic Stability Program, Anti-lock Braking System, Electric Brake force Distribution, Traction Control System, Hydraulic Brake Assist, Hill-Start Hold Control, Hill Descent Control, Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, Anti-Rollover System, Impact Sensing Door Unlock and more.

GAC is devoted to the production and sales of world-class vehicles, engines, auto parts and car accessories as well as R&D of automobile engineering technology. GAC R&D Center has established a rigorous and well-organised automobile development management system with the vehicle design and

development control programme as its core components, major system standardisation development process as an extension, and supported by standardization of management process in each stage of vehicle development.

It has passed the examination of ISO: 9001 Quality Management Systems for certification review and approval. GAC R&D Center has worked with world-famous partners many times in thorough and complete chassis performance optimisation. A joint effort was also made in testing and tuning in different road conditions and/or under various temperatures on major proving grounds, home and abroad. In Oman, GAC Motor vehicles are distributed by New World Autos and backed by Saud Bahwan Group.

SUMMER SCHEDULE



Qatar Airways to launch flights to Santorini in June

DOHA: Qatar Airways will launch flights to Santorini, Greece, from June 7, joining Athens and Mykonos to become the third destination to be served in Greece by the national carrier of the State of Qatar.

The service will be operated by Airbus A320 featuring 12 seats in Business Class and 132 seats in Economy Class.

The airline will also restart its seasonal flights to Mykonos, Greece, in the same week, with four weekly flights, in addition, Athens will go to a double daily service, offering greater choice for business and leisure passengers alike.

With the addition of three weekly flights to Santorini, passengers can now enjoy seamless connectivity to over 140 destinations across the airline's extensive global network via the best airport in the world, Hamad International Airport, connecting with popular destinations

across the Middle East, Asia and Australia. Enhanced connectivity means customers can leave Australia on Friday night and arrive in Santorini by Saturday afternoon.

Santorini, famous for its distinctive blue and white architecture and known as Thira, is one of the jewels of the Aegean Sea and it's popular with visitors looking for wonderful cuisine and hospitality set against the backdrop of some of the most famous views in the world.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are pleased to add Santorini to our global network in 2022, with this exciting new destination joining Athens and Mykonos to become our third gateway in this beautiful country. We are committed to offering our passengers as many seamless one-stop connection choices as possible. This expansion will further solidify our relationship with Greece."

MORTGAGE-FREE AUTO FINANCE



Ahli Islamic makes auto finance even more convenient

MUSCAT: Ahli Islamic has been building on the success of its innovative product offerings and has announced the launch of a new Sharia-compliant auto finance facility under its Ahli Islamic umbrella.

Ahli Islamic's new offer allows customers to opt for auto finance without having to mortgage the vehicle, therefore giving customers the flexibility to sell or transfer Mulkiya of the vehicle as per their convenience. By opting for mortgage-free auto finance, customers reserve the liberty to use the vehicle at their discretion.

"At Ahli Islamic, we believe in making finances hassle-free and convenient for customers. While our auto financing product has always been well-received in the market, we wanted to enhance the convenience for our customers by putting more power in their hands. By removing the mortgage requirement, we give our customers the freedom to manage the sale of their vehicle without any restriction, thereby giving them more control over how they choose to handle their

assets," said Yousuf Al Rawahi – DGM, Head of Ahli Islamic.

The mortgage-free auto finance is offered exclusively to those customers who transfer their salaries to Ahli Islamic and who fall under Ahli Islamic's approved employer list at the public sector and the private sector as well as expatriate employees. Auto finance is offered for a maximum period of 10 years.

Under Ahli Islamic mortgage-free auto finance customers are assured of Sharia-compliant auto financing facilities that allow them to procure their desired car instantly. Based on the product, customers need to submit an application for auto finance for their desired vehicle which the bank purchases from a third party on a spot payment basis. The bank then sells it to the customer through Murabaha sale contract that is on a cost-plus profit basis where the customers can repay the amount in comfortable instalments. With the new auto finance being free of mortgage, customers will find it easier to honour the instalments even if they need to sell the car.

COLLABORATION

Hisense partners with Four Seasons to launch smartphone category in Oman

MUSCAT: Hisense, one of the largest consumer electronic brands globally, has launched its smartphone category in the Sultanate of Oman. The company has partnered with Four Season United, a modern age technology distributor of mobile devices, smartphones, tablets and accessories in the region.

To leverage its strengths in developing smart technology and innovative products, smartphones have been an extension of Hisenses' highly competitive product offerings. This has led to market penetration and consumer acceptance in various regions across the Middle East. Hisense has been on a trajectory route to expand and has recognised the high potential and excellent opportunity in Oman. Through this regional expansion, the brand is making a stronger impact in the mid-tier segment of the mobile category with its array of features to enhance the consumer experience.

Four Seasons United, a technology distributor, established in 2018, has grown from strength to strength due to its inherent understanding of distribution in emerging markets like Oman, UAE, and other GCC countries. Tamer, Managing Director of Four Seasons United said, "Our main focus is to support the B2B and B2C customers through quality customer service across the Sultanate of Oman. We are very excited about bringing the latest technological innovation from Hisense to the Sultanate of Oman."

Hisense mobile is a combina-



tion of innovation and technology that strikes a perfect balance between quality and meeting the requirements of today's consumer demands. The smartphone mobile is themed 'Ready for Life' as it complements the readiness of life to become your companion capturing all the moments of life. In terms of configuration, Hisense provides a handset that improves your overall mobile experience.

Masterful Craftsmanship: The top-end model is Hisense, H50 marks the introduction of craftsmanship inspired by the movement of light, giving the handset a sensational touch of a 3D gradient flexible curve design, with complex ever-changing colours in different viewing angles.

It indulges the end-user with an infinite view with its 6.81" Full HD+ Infinity Display that indulges your eyes in an all-immersive viewing experience.

Whereas, the Hisense E50 have

a 6.55" display easier to optimise the content and interactive experience, it also comes with a unique 3D textured design feature to create a striking visual appearance.

Hisense mobiles come with a biometrical facial recognition algorithm and an integrated side-mounted fingerprint sensor that allows you to instantly and securely unlock your phone.

Camera for life's every occasion

The Hisense Infinity H50 sports an enhanced 108MP (12000x9024 pixels) zoom-in camera, one of the world's highest megapixel smartphone camera resolutions, enabling users to capture minute details. Its 'super night shot' brings forth the night's most breath-taking views never imagined before. The MORPHO HDR enhances the picture quality by correcting the colour and saturated dark sports, making the pictures more

vivid. The stabilisation mechanics makes the images sharper than ever with technology that compensates for camera shakes through image synthesis, especially useful for night portraits and telephotography. From 120-degree wide-angle capability to 3cm micro shot Hisense H50 provides unblemished images.

On the other hand, the E50 carries a powerful multi-mode 13-megapixel triple camera and an 8-megapixel front camera, designed for selfie perfection and the ability to align with your skin tone for balanced images.

Advanced power-saving battery

Both the Hisense mobiles H50 and E50 display impeccably advanced power-saving system that battery life by intelligently optimising power, 5000mAh and 5100mAh respectively.

More storage, less lagging

The Hisense H50 and E50 series offer a smooth experience with less lagging, allowing users to switch between apps with ease. It takes advantage of large internal and expandable memory for powerful and longer usage.

Providing a superior mobile experience for users in the region, Hisense encourages its customers to be 'Ready for Life' by providing them with the best connectivity, exposure rates, incredible display, plus a top-notch camera to assist with creating lifelike moments, and much more.

MANCHESTER
مانشستر

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

حان الوقت لنلتقي مجددا
TIME TO MEET AGAIN

TURKISH AIRLINES

BARCELONA
برشلونة

ROUND-UP

A'Safwah Dairy offers healthy, flavoured milk that kids love

Recognising the importance of incorporating healthy beverages into students' diets, A'Safwah offers its range of flavoured milk in convenient 125ml & 200ml packs, thus making it the perfect companion for breakfast, and a refreshing choice during snack time at school

MUSCAT: A'Safwah, Oman's oldest and most popular dairy company, celebrated with students as they returned to school to continue their second semester. Recognising the importance of incorporating healthy beverages into students' diets, A'Safwah offers its range of flavoured milk in convenient 125ml & 200ml packs, thus making it the perfect companion for breakfast, and a refreshing choice during snack time at school. A'Safwah Dairy has remained committed to diversifying its product portfolio to encourage both adults and children to adopt healthy eating habits. As students return to school, A'Safwah urges mothers to add flavoured milk to their kids' daily meals to boost their physical health and give them



the energy to learn and play. A'Safwah's flavoured milk comes in three delicious flavours - strawberry, chocolate and banana, which are popular options for adults and children. The easy-to-carry single-serve packs -125ml/ & 200ml packs make it's a convenient on-the-go choice, whether it is in school or between

activities. With a keen focus on health, A'Safwah's flavoured milk provides children with the necessary nutrients and helps them stay fresh, active and strong.

Addressing the start of a new term in school, a spokesperson from A'Safwah explained the company's strategic role in motivating students to improve their performance by practising a healthy lifestyle. "We understand the critical roles mothers play in encouraging children to follow healthy eating habits and A'Safwah has been their trusted brand for years. We have, therefore, introduced our 125 ml packs that are space-saving, easy to pack and carry, and also competitively priced," he said.

A'Safwah's popular mascot, Safwan, has also been instrumental in adding another appeal for school-going children. His fun, energetic and superhero-like qualities encourage children to adopt healthy dietary habits and choose A'Safwah whether it is before going to school, during school breaks, or even after they return home in

the afternoon.

A loyal customer of A'Safwah said, "As a mother, it is my responsibility to ensure that my child is following the right diet. My son's favourite A'Safwah flavours are banana milk and strawberry milk. He consumes about seven packs a week which is one pack per day." She expressed her happiness at the company's continued efforts in keeping pace with the needs, tastes and lifestyles of customers.

A'Safwah has chosen to blend milk with flavours that are mostly preferred amongst kids. In addition, its fun packaging and young and inspiring Omani mascot, Safwan, has played a key role in encouraging children to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Natural, fruit-flavoured and dark chocolate milk has been scientifically proven to be a significant source of calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium and vitamin A. Studies have shown that children who drink flavoured milk are healthier than those who do not consume milk at all.

GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXHIBITION

Ghedex Advisory Board meeting discusses prospects for study in Oman



MUSCAT: In preparation for the Global Higher Education Exhibition (Ghedex) on March 27-29, 2022 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center, Ghedex group members held their first advisory board meeting on March 7 to discuss higher education prospects in Oman and the objectives of the coming exhibition.

At the beginning of the meeting, Jawaher Al Marhoobi, Project Assistant at Ghedex Group of Events, gave the advisory board members a brief introduction to explain the exhibition and its different events. Ghedex2 022 is supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Oman Accreditation Authority, Oman Society for Oil and Gas, Oman Society for Education Technologies and many others.

Amr Abdullah Baabood, CEO of ARB/OITE coordinated the meeting as he discussed the opportunities for Omani institutions that can be highlighted and achieved at the Quality in Higher Education Conference, Excellence in Higher Education Awards, Study in Oman Pavilion, and Opal Star Training Pavilion. He then allowed the board members to share their advice and inputs on the Ghedex exhibition and higher education.

Dr Hussain Al Salmi - Acting Rector at GU'Tech - said: "One of the main objectives of Oman Vision 2040 is to have at least 4 universities among the top 300

universities of the world by 2040. Therefore, quality in higher education should be the main focus for Oman to reach the level attained by the top universities."

Ahmed Al Sulaimani, learning and development consultant at InnerCore Global, mentioned, "The fees for education and the lifestyle in Oman are very high, which make international students hesitant when it comes to choosing Oman as their study destination". However, he added, "The Arabic language needs to be promoted to the world. Universities and colleges need to have courses to teach Arabic to non-speakers of the language as it is very important to attract international students."

On the other hand, Nasser Al Mahrooqi - Petroleum Data and Analytics Manager- highlighted that Oman is well known for being a safe country and has very welcoming people. These two features among others could be reasons for making many international students interested in Oman, but enhancing the quality of higher education in Oman and upgrading its position internationally would be the real reason for attracting and retaining those students.

Khalid Al Siyabi- Quality Mark Manager- mentioned that OPAL Star Certification for over 50 institutes is a great achievement by the Oman Society for Petroleum Services and this will be highlighted at the exhibition by arranging a pavilion for the certified institutes.

OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE COMPANY

Khedmah offers its smart solutions in South Al Dakhiliyah

MUSCAT: Oman Investment & Finance Company (Khedmah) boasts of a robust network of 68 branches across Oman along with its digital platforms.

Through these channels, the company seeks to meet clients' needs and exceed their expectations. Over the recent period, Khedmah has constantly worked toward fulfilling the payments needs of all segments of the community by expanding its network and providing smart solutions.

In the South Al Dakhiliyah region, Khedmah delivers its unique services through 10 branches. These branches are located in

Bahla, Adam, Manah, Al Ghafat, Al Hamra, Barkat Al Mouz, Bisiya, and two branches in Nizwa in Firq and Daris.

Through these branches and other digital platforms, customers can easily pay their electricity, water and telephone bills, recharge their phones, and also pay their electricity prepaid meter bills. In addition, customers can make payments to the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI) and recharge any entertainment subscription.

Salim bin Salam Al Jadidi, Assistant Regional Manager of the Al Dakhliya Region for OIFC said:

"Throughout my professional career in Khedmah which lasted more than 30 years, I witnessed a strategic transformation in the operations, services provided to clients and expansion of platforms particularly the digital ones. These milestones are a result of the company's sterling efforts to keep abreast with the latest developments in the market by conducting detailed studies on branch locations and customers' satisfaction levels. Khedmah branches have a qualified Omani workforce trained to address clients' needs as per the highest standards in the customer service field."



CROSSOVER CATEGORY

Nissan wins Oman's Most Trusted Brand award

MUSCAT: Nissan has been conferred with Oman's Most Trusted Brand 2021 in the crossover category at a recently held ceremony held at Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Nissan, considered a premium and trusted name in the market, is the only brand to have won recognition five times in the automobile category. Oman's Most Trusted Brand Awards is a confirmation of the public trust in a brand and the respected honour is presented to the most trusted brands in the country.

The award is based on the results of a month-long extensive survey that was open to the general public for voting. This year, the survey attracted more than 700,000 votes for 45 categories.

Nissan's crossover range which includes Kicks, X-Trail and Pathfinder stand out for their superior performance, fuel efficiency, great mileage, a wide range of innovation, reliability and versatility.

Stating that the award underlines the trust and confidence consumers have in the brand, a senior official of Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), said: "We are delighted and honoured to be chosen as Oman's most trusted brand. Being counted among Oman's Most Trusted Brands is a compliment and we thank our customers for this. Nissan Oman will remain committed to guaranteeing top customer satisfaction and high-level service for our customers.



Over the years, Nissan has won the confidence and hearts of millions of customers for its quality, reliability, performance, design, technical innovation and safety elements."

Powered by next-generation technologies, the Nissan brand provides the best of the world in terms of efficiency and performance when it comes to its crossovers. Proudly wearing the Nissan badge, all the crossovers are living proof of Nissan's commitment to providing fuel-efficient cars.

The 2021 Nissan Kicks launched recently comes with refreshed style and technology upgrades designed to meet the growing needs of urban customers in the region. Placing a large focus on enhancing connectivity, innovation and personalization, the all-new Nissan Kicks 2022 allows drivers to

further express their style as they cut through the city with precise handling and available advanced driver-assist features. The 2022 Nissan KICKS has been refreshed with updates to provide even more features, technology, customized style and value that buyers seek in a compact crossover. The exterior sees an aesthetic upgrade with the integration of Nissan's Double V-motion grille, new front and rear bumpers and an array of bold new colours, including new two-tone combinations. The updated interior features a new centre console, new seating and trim materials, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility and BOSE headrest speakers.

Nissan Kicks also includes a number of Nissan Intelligent Mobility (NIM) technology upgrades such as Intelligent Around View®

Monitor, as well as Forward Collision Warning, Automatic Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Warning and Rear Cross Traffic Alert. All of these class-leading features are complemented by upgraded chassis control to provide superior ride comfort and control.

Built for real family adventures, Nissan X-Trail is a customer-centric SUV with the latest technologies, yet still has the traditional benefits of a crossover. Its versatility makes it the ideal car for group activities too. Nissan X-Trail delivers an "Excellent" GSO rated mileage of 15.1km/litre. This mileage is obtained under laboratory test conditions conducted by GSO for the 2.5L SV variant.

Nissan X-Trail offers muscular styling, solid capabilities, next-level technologies, comfort and flexibility. Nissan X-Trail has earned a stamp of approval across the globe. With its strengthened qualities and advanced technologies, the Nissan X-Trail is taking care of the diversified requirements of customers in Oman.

Nissan Pathfinder, a seven-seat vehicle offers enhanced driving dynamics such as controlled ride and handling, less vibrations on turns and easier manoeuvring. Akin to how customers prefer it, Nissan Pathfinder offers adventure capability, bright exterior look, enhanced safety and innovative technology. It extends real power, valuable driving dynamics and great driver assistance features.

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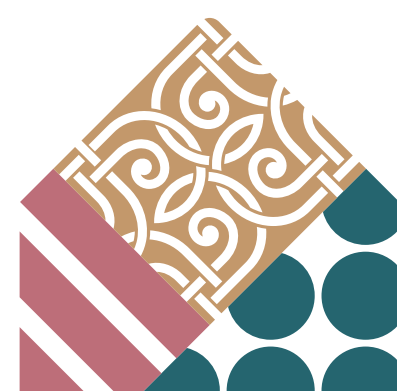
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Grand Prize	10,000	1
Weekly Draw For 8 Weeks		
1st Prize	5,000	8
2nd Prize	750	8
3rd Prize	500	24
4th Prize	200	80
5th Prize	100	160

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