

**SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES
TOP BRITISH DEFENCE ADVISER**

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison yesterday Maj. Gen. Jai Martin Simpson, Senior Defence Adviser of the UK for the Middle East Affairs. **>A5**



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**GUTERRES THANKS HM THE SULTAN
FOR SUPPORTING STABILITY IN YEMEN**

Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) expressed his utmost thanks for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the Omani government in supporting the efforts of spreading security and stability in the Republic of Yemen, as well as His Majesty's efforts in extending the truce. **>A4**



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**SAYYID SHIHAB
RECEIVES GCC
SECRETARY
GENERAL**

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Wednesday Dr. Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, Secretary General of the GCC. The two sides exchanged views on matters related to supporting the march of the GCC. They also discussed several matters of common interest. — ONA



**Sayyid Fahd
meets President of
Federation of GCC
Chambers**

A4

TRAVEL

People told to arrive early at airports to beat summer holiday rush

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People who are flying out of Oman for their summer holidays have been advised by travel agents and airline bosses to show up at airports well in advance of their flight, so that they can avoid long queues and crowding.

"Many people are going to see their families back home after nearly three years, because they were unable to fly due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said a travel agent in Oman.

"After staying in the country because of global restrictions, demand for travel has soared this year. "The airports are anyway crowded during the summer holidays, so we ask people to leave for the airport with plenty of time to spare," he added. Many airlines operating flights to and from Oman expanded their coverage to the country, owing to current and expected increase in demand for seats.

OIA TO EXIT FROM SIX INVESTMENT PROJECTS



Exit policy to create space for private sector and help achieve economic diversification, besides reducing dependence on oil

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) will exit from six investments in the fields of energy, manufacturing, tourism and logistics as part of its strategy

to achieve economic diversification, decrease dependence on oil and enable the government's efforts to make private sector a leader in the national economy and enhance its role in driving national development, all of

which are key objectives under Oman Vision 2040.

The exit strategy will begin with preparing three of its assets for initial public offerings: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), a manufacturing project directly owned by OIA, and two OQ projects. Additionally, OIA will partially and fully exit two Asyad Group projects and fully exit several Omran hotels and resorts.

"Since its inception, OIA has taken it upon itself to empower and enable the private sector and avoid competing with it to the best of its ability," said Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthi, OIA's act-

ing chairman for operations. "On that note, OIA conducted workshops and programmes to devise an exit plan within a five-year timeframe between 2021 and 2025 to exit more than 30 assets."

He added: "Exiting is a gradual international practice, which is beneficial to multiple parties and leads to the main objective which is handing over economic ropes to the private sector."

Through this exit plan, OIA aims to generate revenues for the state's general budget, utilise the acquired revenues in financing capital expenditure and operational expenses. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

**OMAN
Oman, Indonesia ink
pact on air transport**

1 The government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), signed an air transport agreement with the government of the Republic of Indonesia. The agreement aims to regulate operational and technical aspects to boost aviation movement. **>A5**

**WORLD
EU launches legal
action against UK**

2 European Commission launched new legal action against Britain, accusing London of threatening peace in Northern Ireland by trying to overhaul their post-Brexit trade deal. "There is no legal or political justification whatsoever for unilaterally changing an international agreement," Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic said. **>A6**

**MARKET
Sohar storage space
expansion pact inked**

3 Sohar Port and Freezone has signed an agreement with C. Steinweg Oman (CSO) which will see the general cargo terminal operator expand its storage area by 27 hectares (270,000 m2), to anticipate further growth, amongst others to facilitate the growing demand for minerals. **>B1**

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Ministry outlines plans to make Oman a global green hydrogen hub

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals is in the process of appointing a think tank to promote Oman as a hub for production and export of green hydrogen, a senior ministry official said.

"It will assess and study the existing legislations related to the sector, investment and its adequacy in a bid to boost opportunities in the sector. It will also determine the need for further legislation, and if needed, will make special laws to make Oman a global clean hydrogen hub," Eng. Abdulaziz



Said Al Shedhani, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the ministry, said.

He further said the government

is seeking to attract foreign direct investments (FDI) in the green hydrogen sector, adding that there is a good demand for investments.

The ministry is working to unify efforts with other parties concerned for investments, appropriate policies, legislations and regulatory framework for this vital sector, Al Shedhani added.

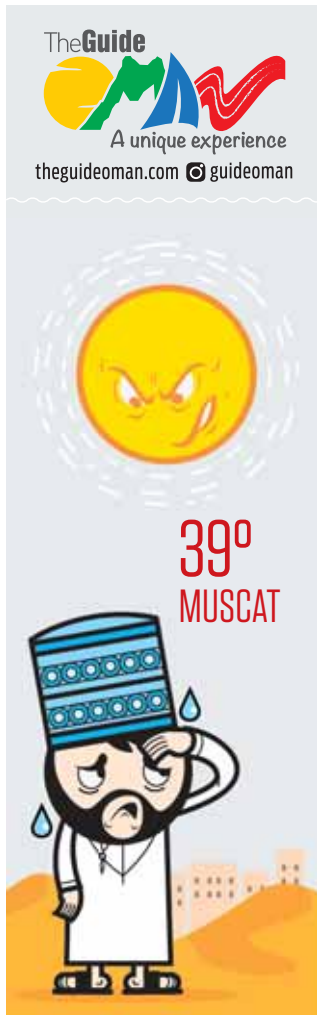
Key resources

Oman seeks to be a major player in the production of green hydrogen, thanks to the presence of key resources for its production, including solar and wind energy and adequate lands.

"With Oman's extensive experience in energy production and export, the country is now position-

ing itself (in the sector) due to its strategic location and centrality to markets, global trade routes and its relations worldwide. All these will contribute immensely to make the Sultanate of Oman an important hub in the production and export of green hydrogen," he said.

Realising that partnership is necessary to achieve this goal, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in August 2021, established a national alliance for green hydrogen (branded as Hy-Fly) to place Oman on the map for production of green hydrogen. **>A4**







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TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:12pm
Asr.....	3:30pm
Maghrib.....	6:59pm
Isha.....	8:21pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:52am

Dhofar Governorate

EA seizes weapons used for hunting Arabian Gazelles

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority has seized the weapons used for hunting two Arabian Gazelles in the Dhofar Governorate.

According to the Environment Authority, the Najd Unit of the Directorate General of Environment in the Governorate of Dhofar, in coordination with the Royal Oman Police, seized the weapons used for hunting two

Arabian Gazelles. The authority calls on everyone not to get exposed to the wildlife to avoid legal accountability, and to cooperate in reporting such incidents via this number: 80071999.

GROWTH THROUGH TOURISM

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tenders:

Tender No.	37/2022	41/2022
Tender Title	Housekeeping and hospitality support service for OMRAN Group and subsidiaries offices	Formation of Legal Panel for OMRAN Group
Tender Submission Date	7.7.2022	30.6.2022
Tender Process Details	Please visit: www.omran.om/tenders/	



omran.om/tenders/

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group)
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INTERNATIONAL LUXURY FRAGRANCE FAIR

The house of OMANLUXURY represents the Sultanate at Esxence exhibition



This summer, the Italian city of Milan is hosting several international fairs specialized in various fields, perhaps the most prominent of them are Milan's Fashion Design Week and Esxence Exhibition in its twelfth edition. This edition marks the second participation of the Omani luxury fragrance OMANLUXURY. The brand will bear the name of the Sultanate in this international forum in which will include various other luxury brands from across the globe.

The previous edition of Esxence Exhibition marked a successful start due to the huge attention and awareness that OMANLUXURY received. In this exhibition, the majority of visitors are categorized in different segments that includes investors, distributors, suppliers and retailers as well as publishing houses, perfume evaluators and enthusiastic consumers. According to the data shared by the event organizers, the number of pre-registered visitors attending this event has

reached around 5000 people. OMANLUXURY aims to present itself, the brand essence, the inspiration and background through an enchanting fragrance experience brought from Oman and also to discuss ways of cooperation and expansion to new markets. On the international level, the brand's market presence exceeds twenty countries, including the Gulf region, East Asia, Africa, European countries and Eastern Europe with more than one hundred and eighty point of sales.

Apollo Hospital, Ruwi Becomes The First NABH- International Accredited Hospital in The Sultanate of Oman.



Apollo Hospital Muscat has received the coveted NABH-International Accreditation, a first in the Sultanate of Oman. The NABH- International is one of international accreditations accepted by MoH Oman and is acknowledged for patient safety, clinical quality and best practices in healthcare delivery. Apollo Muscat has been serving the Sultanate for over a decade and a half and has several clinical milestones to its credit. NABH- International is part of the Quality Council of India (QCI) set up by the government of India which functions as an autonomous body to establish and operate accreditation for healthcare organizations. The board was designed to create a benchmark of the healthcare industry and address quality needs of the consumers. The process of NABH- International accreditation covers all aspects of hospital management like clinical excellence, clinical outcomes, patient safety, fire safety, disaster handling, infection control practices, equipment maintenance, customer feedback, checking credentials of the staff and doctors, employee

safety & satisfaction, etc. which ensures that the hospital quality is achieved and maintained. NABH Accreditation ensures commitment to create a culture of quality, patient safety, efficiency and accountability towards patient care with utmost clinical outcomes says Dr. Waleed Al Zadjali, Medical Director of Apollo Hospital Muscat. "This accreditation reiterates our commitment to offer the best of healthcare maintaining utmost safety for our patients, stated Ms.K.P Shobha, COO of Apollo Muscat. Congratulating the team, Mr.VT Saileswaran, Managing Director of Apollo Muscat remarked that this is a testimony to our constant endeavor to provide world class patient care with the highest standards to remain patient centric. Affordable and quality healthcare is the need of the hour, and I am delighted that my team is setting benchmarks in Oman's private healthcare space. I am also happy to state that our new hospital in a bigger format, the Apollo Super Specialty Hospital, Al Hail is operational with an absolutely patient centric approach across 25+ clinical specialties.



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MEETING

Sayyid Fahd receives President of Federation of GCC Chambers

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received on Wednesday Ajlan bin Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, President of the Federation of GCC Chambers (FGCCC) and Dr. Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Mashari, FGCCC Secretary General.

The meeting comes within the context of the 58th meeting of the FGCCC being hosted by the Sultanate of Oman.

HH Sayyid Fahd reviewed experience of the private sector in the Sultanate of Oman spanning over half a century through providing conducive milieu, as well as the GCC experience and the progress made in many fields to serve future of successive generations.

He expressed appreciation of the Sultanate of Oman for the benign efforts exerted by the FGCCC to push the march of joint economic action and enhance the private sector's role in establishing projects and supporting GCC investments.

Means of tackling global economic crises related challenges and their repercussions on all countries were also reviewed during the meeting.

On their turn, the FGCCC President, Secretary General and members expressed their thanks for Oman's host of the meeting, as well as the good preparations that contributed to reaching many positive outcomes. They also valued Oman's constant support to the GCC march. They also hailed various achievements made at all levels in Oman.

The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Bussaidi, Foreign Minister, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Eng. Ridha bin Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). — **ONA**



UN Chief lauds Oman for peace efforts in Yemen



MEETING: Present at the session were Dr. Mohammed Awad Al Hassan, Oman's Permanent Representative to the UN and Hans Grundberg, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Yemen. — **ONA**

Grundberg expressed his optimism for the gradual return of normal life in Yemen in line with reopening Sana'a International Airport and resuming air transport between Yemen and other countries

NEW YORK: Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) expressed his utmost thanks for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the Omani government in supporting the efforts of spreading security and stability in the Republic of

Yemen, as well as His Majesty's efforts in extending the truce.

This was stated during an official consultations session held at the headquarters of Oman's permanent delegation in New York.

Present at the session were Dr. Mohammed Awad Al Has-

san, Oman's Permanent Representative to the UN and Hans Grundberg, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy to Yemen.

Grundberg expressed his optimism for the gradual return of normal life in Yemen in line with reopening Sana'a International Airport and resuming air transport between Yemen and other countries.

Comprehensive agreement
He also said that the UN and the international community are looking forward to reaching a comprehensive agreement for ceasefire and ending battles in Yemen to allow the Yemeni people to practice a normal life in safer and more stable conditions. — **ONA**

GREEN ENERGY

< FROM A1 Work on many projects ongoing

The alliance includes 13 major institutions across public and private sectors that will support and facilitate local production, transportation, utilisation and export of hydrogen in line with the energy diversification plans under Oman Vision 2040.

On 13 March, 2022, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued instructions, while presiding over the Council of Ministers' meeting, for accelerating the procedures for regulation of green hydrogen sector and developing the necessary legal frameworks and policies for the growth of this sector, allocation of technical sites, conduct of studies for the same and establishing a directorate concerned with clean energy and hydrogen energy within the organisational structure of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, as well as the establishment of a company to develop this sector.

Hyport Duqm project
The Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals said there are several existing projects in this field which are in various stages of development.

Among the important projects in the Sultanate of Oman at present is the Hyport Duqm project to produce green hydrogen.

It is one of the strategic projects being developed in partnership between the OQ group and the Belgian DEME Group.

The Hyport Duqm project is

planned at the site allocated for alternative energy within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) in an area of about 150 square kilometres where a wind power plant and a solar power plant will be established with a joint capacity of 1.3GW, in expandable phases.

The Hyport Duqm project authorities have completed the installation and operation of four wind masts for meteorology and two solar meteorological stations on site.

The step aims to ensure the promising and distinct potentials of Duqm throughout the year in the field of solar and wind energy generation, and then start establishing a plant to produce green hydrogen and green ammonia.

The project comes as part of Oman's strategy to develop Al Wusta Governorate in general and the Sezad in particular, in addition to contributing to achieving renewable energy aspirations and objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The project will play a major role in augmenting the pace of projects and investments in Sezad and encourage several institutions to switch over to environment friendly energy.

In the first phase of the project, a green hydrogen production plant with a water electrolysis technology with a capacity of 500 megawatts will be established in Duqm zone.

This plant will generate 330,000 tonnes of green ammonia annu-

ally. The project, expected to be operational by 2027, will meet the global demand of green hydrogen.

During the following phases of the project, the value chain will be developed and expanded so that the Duqm zone will become a hub for green hydrogen production in the Sultanate of Oman and the region.

Ammonia production plant
Oman Investment Authority (OIA), ACWA Power Saudi Arabia and Air Products also signed an agreement for the joint development of the Oman Hydrogen Project to establish a plant for the production of ammonia using green hydrogen in the Sultanate of Oman.

The parties agreed to establish the joint investment project at Salalah Free Zone and provide it with the latest technologies recognised in this field and integration of innovative renewable energy from solar, wind, storage and hydrogen production by using electrolysis process, nitrogen production through air separation and green ammonia production.

An OQ Group official said the Sultanate of Oman has the potential and natural capabilities of solar and wind energy to be one of the most important countries in the world to attract green hydrogen projects and lead green industries, in addition to the presence of specialised Omani cadres, local companies and modern technologies capable of localising these projects.

CULTURAL COOPERATION

Corner for Omani titles launched at Saint Petersburg University

SAINT PETERSBURG: The National Museum launched a specialised corner at Saint Petersburg State University in the Russian Federation for a collection of Omani publications highlighting different fields.

The move comes within the framework of cultural cooperation between the National Museum and Saint Petersburg State University, represented by the Institute of Oriental Studies.

The corner aims to empower students within the field of Omani studies, and provide them with knowledge on the cultural and intellectual aspects of the Sultanate of Oman, thus contributing to extending bridges between the two countries.

Saint Petersburg State University is a Russian public uni-



versity headquartered in Saint Petersburg. It is considered one of the oldest and largest universities in the Russian Federation. It consists of twenty-four specialised colleges, thirteen research institutes, the Classical Academy School, and the Department of Physical Education and Sports. In 2010, the university faculty consisted of 6755 members.

The Institute of Oriental Studies is supervised by Professor Dr. Mikhail Piotrovskiy, Director General of the Hermitage Museum and member of the National Museums' Board of Trustees in the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**

ASSEMBLAGE ART

Over 25 artworks displayed at Bait Al Zubair's exhibition



MUSCAT: An exhibition of Assemblage Art was opened under the auspices of Her Highness Sayyid Alia bint Thuwaini Al Said, Chairperson of the Omani Women Association at Bait Al Zubair in Muscat on Tuesday.

The exhibition displays over 25 artworks for twenty-six artists from the Arab and other countries, besides a group of Omani artists.

Assemblage art is a form of abstract artwork that is more challenging and demanding, which is the reason for organising the exhibition under the theme "Assemblage Artwork", said Indian artist Dr. Shalini Kumar, supervising the exhibition.

She added that all artists taking part in the exhibition would love this "outside the box" thinking and the assemblage art and creation of new items that represent



abstract art.

The exhibition, which comes within the keenness of Bait Al Zubair for enriching the cul-

tural scene, would continue to 30 June and would be open for the public from 9am to 5pm on a daily basis except Friday. — **ONA**

INVESTMENT

< FROM A1 Firms must present exit plan

It also aims to invest in promising sectors after handing over current investments to the private sector, recycle capital from mature assets to investments that are still in their early stages, create partnerships with private investors who include local and international investors and expand Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) through initial and secondary public offerings.

The plan focuses on exiting investments in sectors contributing to economic diversification,

like manufacturing, mining, tourism and logistics. Each company presents its exit plan for the next five years. After getting approval from OIA, the company presents a detailed plan which includes exit procedures, main planned stages and any advisory appointments to complete the exit. Companies then execute the plan in collaboration with a team from OIA.

OIA's Rawabet project, launched to maintain a link between OIA and its companies, came up with

several policies, including the 'Exit' policy. This policy aims to create a framework adhering to values of transparency, fairness and utmost integrity. The policy seeks to guide companies in developing and implementing exit policies. The board of directors of each OIA company presents an initial 5-year exit plan to OIA for its approval, then updates the plan annually.

With inputs from Oman News Agency



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MEETING

Sayyid Shihab receives top British Defence Adviser

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison yesterday Maj.Gen Joi Martin Simpson, Senior Defence Adviser of the UK for the Middle East Affairs.

The two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries and means of enhancing them. They also discussed several matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the UK to Oman and the Defence Attache at the British embassy in Muscat. -ONA



ON AIR TRANSPORT



Oman and Indonesia sign pact

MUSCAT: The government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), signed an air transport agreement with the government of the Republic of Indonesia.

The agreement aims to regulate operational and technical aspects to boost aviation movement between the airports of the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, Chairman of the CAA and Mohammed Arzan Johan, Ambassador of Indonesia

to Oman. The agreement includes 22 items and an annex on the air routes between the two countries.

The items also cover economic provisions, in addition to provisions of organisational and operational cooperation to allow the specified air carriers from the two countries to operate 7 flights for passengers and cargo to any airport in Oman and Indonesia.

Those air carriers can strike cooperation agreements for mutual code-sharing.

Meanwhile, the CAA in coop-

eration with government units concerned and establishments from the aviation sector in Oman, is keen to increase the number of air transport agreements in the upcoming period.

Those agreements will enable economic and social activities with the countries worldwide as this will contribute to boosting the activity of the aviation sector by increasing operations and attracting international airline companies.

- ONA

ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN

Senior British official received

MUSCAT: Air Commodore Zahrán Nasser Ambosaidi, Acting Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), received at the RAFO Command on Wednesday Maj.Gen Joi Martin Simpson, Senior Defence Adviser of the United Kingdom (UK) for the Middle East Affairs. The two sides exchanged cordial talks and discussed several matters of common interest. - ONA



AL MURTAFA'A GARRISON



Top RNO official receives British Senior Defence Adviser

MUSCAT: Commodore Tarik Issa Al Ra'eesi, Acting Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) received at the RNO Command in Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Wednesday Maj. Gen Joi Martin Simpson, Senior Defence Adviser of the United Kingdom (UK) for the Middle East Affairs.

Matters of mutual interest

The two sides exchanged views on various matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by the Defence Attache at the British embassy in Muscat. - ONA



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TENDERS

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	43/2021/ OCC (Recall)	CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR EPC OF 132 KV GRID STATION AT OCC	7th July, 2022 5 PM	12th July 2022 2359 Hours

1. All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board participate and get the specifications and conditions of the tender from the website; <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

2. Tenders Bond to be applied as per Esnad system procedure on the given website before the specified time of Submission. Tender Bond will be of not less than (1%) of the Total Tender Value of the highest offer (incase have multiple offers), valid for (90) days from the offers submission date and addressed to Chairman of the Tender Committee. Please note that without Tender Bond will not complete the submission of tender process as per Esnad procedure.

3. The tender clarification and queries will be directly on the on tender itself on Esnad system.

4. OCC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid, and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reason.

For Clarifications on e-Tendering, you may contact via
Telephone : 24402200
Email Id: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC)
invites reputable consultancy for carrying out the following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference No	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/080	Supervising & Executing Shutdown and Energising Activities for Distribution Network Extension and Improvement Projects
Tender Fee	RO. 525.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) each Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The Tenderer should have successfully performed similar works in the recent past in the Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Tenderer shall have valid Type-1, registration with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP). If the bidder is not having valid DCRP registration with Type 1 certificate, then the bid shall not be considered and will be rejected.
Last date for the issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 30.06.2022
Site Visit	-
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 05.07.2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 10.07.2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 17.07.2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company

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الأمانة العامة للاحتفالات الوطنية

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Secretariat General for National Celebration announces to the following Tenders for 52 National day :

Tender no	Tender name	Grade	Last date of submission	Tender fee (OR)
1/2022	Supply of Flags	3	30/6/2022	25
2/2022	Fireworks (Muscat and Musandam)	2	30/6/2022	25
3/2022	Fireworks (Salalah)	2	30/6/2022	25

Those who are registered with Tender Board qualified to carryout the project perfectly, may collect the tender documents from the Office of Secretariat General for National Celebration at Al-Khuwair , during the working hours, on working days from Thursday 15 of June 2022.

Tenderer should submit their documents stating Grade . Registration Certificates and relevant papers, issued by the concerned authorities when collecting Tender Documents

Tender should be submitted in a red sealed wax envelope , addressed to H.M. Secretariat General for National Celebration. Tenderer should enclose approved Bank Guarantee or certified cheque for value of 1% of tender sum valid for 90 days and to be addressed to Secretariat General for National Celebration Al-Khuwair. For any information contact to (24601271).

The Committee is not bound to accept the lowest offer or any offer.



OMAN/WORLD



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K-POP BAND

Korean pop band BTS going on 'hiatus' to launch solo careers

SEOUL: The K-pop band BTS, one of the world's most popular acts, announced a 'hiatus' on Tuesday as the group's members seek to launch solo careers.

The group's seven members have been credited with generating billions for South Korea's economy. They dropped the news during their streamed annual "FESTA" dinner that marks the K-pop act's anniversary.

Hybe, the label behind the global sensation, however, denied that the band was taking a break.

As the bandmates spoke in Korean during the dinner, the word "hiatus" appeared in the subtitles below.

BTS member RM, 27, said, "I've always thought that BTS was different than other groups."

After the group's last few singles, RM said he "didn't know what

kind of group we were anymore." He then added, "But the problem with K-pop and the whole idol system is that they don't give you time to mature."

The news, sure to devastate devoted fans, known as the Army, comes just after "Proof," a three-disc anthology album that included a new single, "Yet To Come (The Most Beautiful Moment)," was released.

RM also said members of the Grammy-nominated group were "exhausted."

Another member of the group, Jimin, 26, said as the group matures, band members are "slowly trying to figure things out now" and that "we're starting to think about what kind of artists we each want to be remembered by our fans." Jimin added, "We're trying to find our identity." **ow**



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Omran Group celebrates the official opening of The Art Space 'Makan Studios'

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to encourage Omani entrepreneurs and SMEs specialised in the field of arts management, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) celebrated the official opening of The Art Space 'Makan Studios' at InterContinental Muscat Hotel. This comes within the "Creatourism" programme, one of the Group's initiatives to promote art, culture and heritage in its various development projects and hotels.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of HH Sayyida Meyyan bint Shihab Al Said and witnessed the presence of a number of their Highnesses, Omran Group's Chairman and CEO and number of creative artists.

On the occasion of the opening, HH Sayyida Meyyan bint Shihab Al Said, said, "We commend all the efforts made by Omran Group and its role in launching various ambitious initiatives and programmes, which allow creative Omani youth the opportunity to contribute to the tourism sector promotion by highlighting the



cultural heritage of the community and embodying it in various creative works."

"Such initiatives contribute to empowering national competencies by providing a stimulating and encouraging environment to participate in enriching the artistic and creative scene as part of an effort to enhance the creative aspects in various tourist destinations in the Sultanate," she added.

The Omran Group's 'Creatourism' programme aims to promote a variety of activities that bring

creative value to the group's projects and destinations. This can be accomplished by empowering arts management entrepreneurs and utilizing their skills and capabilities to support tourism experiences by operating shops and supervising exhibition grounds, as well as establishing artistic and cultural activities and exhibitions in various tourist facilities.

The Group had previously introduced the programme's first initiative, a competition to manage and operate the InterContinental



Muscat art space. The 'Makan Studios' won the first place and was given the responsibility of managing and operating the art space.

Hassan Meer, Branding Art & Culture Expert at Omran Group, said, "The Group's efforts to boost tourism experiences and provide them with various specific programmes and initiatives have resulted in our ceremony. This is accomplished by engaging the services of entrepreneurs and experts in the sectors of creative and cultural arts to take advantage of the

tourism sector's prospects."

He further added, "The 'Creatourism' programme has attracted local creative talents to enrich Oman's tourism sector. The opening of 'Makan Studios' reflects the programme's success in investing in creative youth energies and opening up new horizons for the tourism sector through innovative foundations focused on Omani culture, heritage, and authentic arts."

Futoon Al Mahrouqi, Co-founder of Makan Studios, stated, "The team has focused on activating the

InterContinental Muscat Hotel art space and making it an art venue for tourists, hotel guests and creative arts professionals in Oman. We focused on highlighting a range of innovative works inspired by its icons and artistic elements from local and cultural heritage, as well as a range of other works of art that give visitors the opportunity to enjoy and learn closely about various creative arts."

The Omran Group is committed to the creation of a variety of programs and activities targeted at recognizing and nurturing promising local talent. The Group strives to create a dynamic environment for national competencies, offering them numerous opportunities to turn their innovative ideas into useful elements. These further contribute to the revival of cultural heritage in the Group's numerous development projects and hotels, as well as demonstrating the Group's commitment to implementing its sustainability framework, which is based on four main pillars: economy, society, environment, and cultural heritage.

FLIGHTS GROUNDED

LAW

Swiss airspace reopens after computer glitch grounds flights

GENEVA: Flights at Geneva airport in Switzerland have resumed after a technical glitch with the air navigation system was fixed according to service provider, Skyguide.

The company said in a statement: "The technical malfunction at Skyguide has been resolved. The airspace closure was lifted at 8.30 am.

Swiss airspace is now open again and air traffic over Switzerland and operations at the national airports of Geneva and Zurich are resuming."

Although the issue was resolved, Zurich airport said flight operations would be at 50% capacity until 9:30 am, and 75% after that.

While the airspace was closed, international flights into Switzerland had to be rerouted to German cities like Frankfurt and Munich, causing headaches for travelers.

Air traffic has 'gradually resumed' — Geneva airport

In a tweet Geneva Airport reported a gradual resumption of flights but did say some had to be cancelled.

"Good news! Air traffic has gradually resumed since 8:30 a.m. Several flights are cancelled. Travelers are asked to check with their com-



pany if their flight is maintained," the airport said in a tweet.

Earlier on Wednesday, Swiss authorities made the decision to close the country's airspace due to technical disruptions experienced by the air navigation system.

Geneva airport said in a tweet: "Due to a major computer failure affecting Skyguide, no landings or take-offs can take place this morning until 8 am."

This was later revised to 11 am, although a spokesperson for the company told dpa news agency that the airspace closure would

remain in effect until the issue had been resolved, which the service provider states has now happened.

Skyguide 'regrets this incident'

The air navigation service provider said in a statement: "Skyguide regrets this incident and its consequences for its customers and partners, as well as for the passengers at the two national airports. Skyguide is doing everything in its power to handle the flights efficiently and to keep delays to a minimum." **ow**

EU launches legal action against UK over Northern Ireland breach

LONDON: The European Commission launched new legal action against Britain on Wednesday, accusing London of threatening peace in Northern Ireland by trying to overhaul their post-Brexit trade deal.

"There is no legal or political justification whatsoever for unilaterally changing an international agreement," Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic said.

"More precisely to break an agreement that protects peace and stability in Northern Ireland," he said. "Let there be no doubt. There is no legal nor political justification whatsoever for unilaterally changing an international agreement."

Sefcovic added that "opening the door to unilaterally changing an international agreement is a breach of international law, as well. So let's call a spade a spade. This is illegal."

A new bill proposed by the UK government would remove customs checks on some goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, overriding parts of the trade treaty the Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed with the EU less than two years ago.

The EU believes that this unilateral decision is violating international



BREXIT: The EU believes that this unilateral decision violates international law.

The so-called Northern Ireland Protocol is the part of the Brexit deal which keeps Northern Ireland in the EU's single market for goods. The bloc will now restart the infringement procedure it first launched against Britain last year when the UK unilaterally extended a grace period that applies to trade on the island of Ireland.

That action had been put on hold in September 2021 as both parties tried to find joint solution. In addition, the EU will kick off

further action against Johnson's government for a perceived failure to carry out necessary controls under the EU rules, and to provide trade statistics data as required under the protocol.

The border between Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, and the Republic of Ireland, which is in the EU, was a major sticking point in Brexit negotiations as lawmakers sought to preserve a status quo that had helped end decades of civil conflict. **ow**

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WORLD

US TRIP

Pakistan envoy Masood Khan, Biden talk over ‘meet and greet’ at White House

ISLAMABAD: Appointed during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf’s (PTI) tenure, Islamabad’s ambassador in Washington, Masood Khan met US President Joe Biden on his visit to the White House for a ‘meet and greet ceremony’ on Tuesday as a part of the traditional ceremony where new envoys present their credentials to the head of state conforming to their appointment, Dawn reported.

According to a press release issued by the Pakistan Embassy in the US, Khan visited the White House for a “meet and greet” and an official photograph with the US president, an established tradition for newly appointed envoys. “During the ceremony, the US President and the ambassador had a brief conversation on building a strong basis for moving the US-

Pakistan ties forward,” the statement said. On his arrival in Washington earlier this week, Khan received a letter from the chief of protocol at the US State Department, endorsing his appointment as Pakistan’s ‘working ambassador’ in Washington. According to Dawn, Khan was sent to Washington on March 25, when the PTI government was still

in power, but after former prime minister Imran Khan’s ouster on April 11, there was speculation that the change in Islamabad would also impact diplomatic appointments. However, in a statement, Pakistan’s envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram, explained that incumbent ambassadors continue to represent the country in foreign

capitals unless specifically asked by the new government to return home and neither Ambassador Khan nor Ambassador Akram was asked to do so, the Pakistani media outlet added. The US government follows a tradition whereby after the appointment of new ambassadors to Washington, a ceremony is held at the White House where new envoys present their credentials

to the head of state conforming to their appointment. Islamabad’s ambassador received a letter from the US president’s office on April 19, formally confirming his appointment. Meanwhile, the statement issued said that forty-six other ambassadors were also present there for the official photograph with the President, which was taken one by one. **ANI**

DEADLY ATTACK

Soldiers find 79 bodies after deadly insurgent attack in Burkina Faso



SEYTENGA: The government of Burkina Faso revealed on Tuesday that soldiers had recovered the bodies of 79 victims killed in an attack in the northern province of Seno over the weekend. No group has claimed responsibility for the armed assault on the town of Seytenga, but the West African country has been fighting an Islamist insurgency — with connections to Al-Qaeda and the so-called IS — for years. Survivors of the attack who managed to flee to a nearby city said that they had been left defenseless after government soldiers left the area. Burkina Faso has been ruled by the military since a coup ousted President Roch Marc Christian Kabore in January over allegations that he had not done enough to put down the insurgency. The attacks first began last Thursday when an unidentified group killed 11 gendarmes in an attack on a military police post near Seytenga.

Burkina Faso has been ruled by the military since a coup ousted President Roch Marc Christian Kabore in January over allegations that he had not done enough to put down the insurgency

The security forces then reportedly retreated to the regional capital of Dori, abandoning the security post and leaving no protection for when the attackers came. The armed group “went from shop to shop, sometimes torching them,” one man told a news agency. “They opened fire on anyone who tried to run away. They stayed in the town all night.”

“They looted homes — they killed anyone they found, men, children. There are so many dead. It’s just awful,” a woman survivor said. The government said that over 3,000 people, most of them children, arrived in Dori on Monday after fleeing the attack. A project coordinator for Medecins Sans Frontieres in Dori said the number had risen to more than 6,800 by Tuesday. The government has announced a three-day period of mourning to remember the victims of the attack, the deadliest in the country this year. An attack in the northeastern village of Solhan in June last year left at least 132 people dead. Anger over that attack eventually led to the overthrow of the elected government. Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who replaced President Kabore as Burkina Faso’s new strongman leader, has previously stated that security is his top priority. **bw**

UPCOMING SUMMIT

In Madrid, Allies will take decisions to keep NATO strong, says Stoltenberg

THE HAGUE: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday said that Allies will take decisions to “keep NATO strong in a more competitive world” in the upcoming summit in Madrid. The Madrid summit is scheduled to take place from June 28-30 and will include discussions on areas including NATO force posture and support for Ukraine. “Excellent meeting with Belgium, Denmark, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Romania in The Hague to prepare for a historic #NATOSummit. In Madrid, Allies will take decisions to keep NATO strong in a more competitive world. Thanks to @MinPres for hosting, to @Statsmin for co-hosting, and to all for the productive discussions,” tweeted Jens Stoltenberg. Meanwhile, Finland and Sweden may join the upcoming NATO summit in Madrid as non-member invitees despite Turkey’s stance to deny them entry into the alliance, US Ambassador to NATO Julianne Smith said on Tuesday. “Our goal here is to try and see if we might have Sweden and Finland sitting at the table in Ma-

drid as invitees,” Sputnik quoted Smith as saying. “Many of us had hopes that we would see these two countries join us in Madrid as invitees at the table with the other leaders. We don’t know if that will come to pass.” The United States is working behind closed doors to address the concerns Turkey has raised about Finland and Sweden’s possible accession to the alliance, Smith said. On June 12, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the decisions by Finland and Sweden to apply for NATO membership are historic. “You have long been our closest partners. You have strong democracies, with capable militaries. And your membership in NATO will increase our shared security,” Stoltenberg said in a joint presser with the President of Finland, Sauli Niinisto. “Finland’s and Sweden’s membership in NATO would further strengthen the Nordic region of our Alliance. And now, Allies are considering the next steps on your path to NATO,” he added. The NATO Defense Ministers meeting is scheduled to take place from June 15-16 in Brussels. **ANI**

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Hungary rout England to their worst home defeat since 1928

An impressive Hungary recorded their first away win against England since 1953 by 4-0

WOLVERHAMPTON: Two Roland Sallai goals and one apiece from Zsolt Nagy and Daniel Gazdag gave Hungary a memorable victory in England and first place in their UEFA Nations League group on Tuesday.

An impressive Hungary recorded their first away win against England since 1953 by 4-0 and their second victory over the Three Lions in this UEFA Nations League campaign - to go top of Group A3. This is also England's worst home defeat since 1928. Gareth Southgate had sought more energy from his team by making nine changes to his starting XI, and indeed, Eng-



land started brightly with confident, free-flowing football - Reece James and Bukayo Saka looking particularly dangerous on the left.

However, against the run of play, it was Hungary who took the lead as some slack England defending from a corner allowed Roland Sallai to volley past Aaron Ramsdale from close range.

Southgate had praised his squad's mentality before the match, and England's response to falling behind was to take control,

Willi Orban inadvertently forcing a crucial block from Denes Dibusz and Jude Bellingham going close soon after.

England started the second half with more attacking intent, but Molineux was stunned into silence in the 70th minute when Sallai latched on to Martin Adam's perfectly-timed through ball to double Hungary's advantage.

Harry Kane struck the woodwork minutes later as the hosts refused to concede defeat, but

Zsolt Nagy and Daniel Gazdag struck late breakaway goals either side of John Stones' 82nd-minute dismissal to crown a memorable evening for the visitors.

Bottom of the section, England have now failed to score from open play for a fourth consecutive game, while Hungary go top of Group A3, above Germany and Italy, ahead of the final two group stage matches in September.

This was Hungary's second victory in 12 away games against Eng-

land and the first since a famous 6-3 victory in 1953, England's first home defeat against non-British or Irish opposition.

Depay's winner lifts Netherlands against Wales

Memphis Depay struck a last-gasp winner as the Netherlands beat Wales in stoppage time for the second time in a week in the UEFA Nations League.

The Netherlands made it a perfect ten against Wales as a last-gasp Memphis Depay goal secured a 3-2 victory - just seconds after Gareth Bale had seemingly earned the visitors an unlikely point in Rotterdam on Tuesday. The home side started on the front foot and were rewarded when Vincent Janssen teed up Noa Lang, who sent the defence one way and then the other before firing in.

Cody Gakpo got the Netherlands' second six minutes later, rolling in after his initial shot had been blocked, but Wales' own rising star Brennan Johnson swiftly halved the arrears when he converted Harry Wilson's pass.

The home side continued to be in the ascendancy after the break but Wales were always a threat, not least when Johnson burst

through only to be denied by Jasper Cillessen. Wayne Hennessey kept out Janssen's effort at the other end and as the home side kept missing their chances, they looked to have been made to pay when Gareth Bale converted from the spot after Tyrell Malacia was adjudged to have fouled Connor Roberts.

But, virtually from the restart, the Netherlands won it as Depay, who missed from the spot late on against Poland on Saturday, pounced to score his 42nd international goal.

Matthijs de Ligt, Netherlands defender, speaking to UEFA.com said: "Unbelievable. Obviously, in the last game against Poland, we missed the chance to score the winning goal, and to now do it in the dying seconds is something amazing."

While, Ben Davies, Wales defender said: "I'm very proud of the boys. We're competing with the best teams in Europe. We stayed in the game and we fought hard, and I'm just disappointed that we didn't see it over the line and take a point."

Only Greece (nine) have a longer current unbeaten run in the UEFA Nations League than the Netherlands' eight games. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

Can India go to the World Cup without the big boys?

Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

In the IPL, the form of Indian two premier batsman Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli was below par and both have taken breaks to be fresh for the big challenge in England.

Also KL Rahul got injured and was ruled out of the series. In their absence, both Ishan Kishan and Ruturaj Gaikwad have grabbed the opportunity with both hands. Ishan Kishan the pocket Dynamo has had scores of 76, 34 and 54 at a strike rate of more than 150.

Ruturaj Gaikwad too had two decent outings scoring 57 and 24 at a strike rate of 155 plus.

Both the batsmen have laid the foundation in giving starts of 57 and 97 in the two games out of the three where India scored 211 in the first game and 179 in the second game. Both play seam and spin bowling very well and the right hand and left hand combinations have clicked well as openers for Team India.

Now what does the team management do when the big boys like captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul are back. Mind you, Rohit Sharma did not score a single half century in the IPL for the first time in his career and looked woefully out of form. India's other premier batsman Virat Kohli scored three ducks



and was not at his fluent best and his strike rate was below 120. Both are slow starters and take their time in getting off the blocks and have a similar style of getting in before they go for the big shots.

They have the experience of playing big games but would India go for experience or two fearless openers. And don't forget one is the captain so will India take the bold step of leaving them out. India won its first World Cup in South Africa when MS Dhoni took a young Indian side and won them that trophy.

MS Dhoni became a overnight hero and rest is history. India has not won a T20 world cup with the big boys in their last six attempts after that first win in 2007. Can India management take the bold step of leaving the two big boys out and play with a young fearless team who do not carry an excess baggage and can express themselves in the shortest format. Looks a long shot, but like the T20 format, no risk no gain.

ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND

Nottingham Test between England and NZ is second-highest scoring match

NOTTINGHAM: The second Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge, Nottingham is the second-highest scoring Test played on the English soil, as a total of 1,675 runs were scored in the match.

It is still 49-runs short of becoming the highest-scoring Test match ever, as the fourth Test between England and Australia in 1948 Ashes saw both teams scoring a combined total of 1,723 runs, a record which has not been unbeaten.

That match was played at Headingley and Australia had won it by seven wickets. Out of these 1,675 runs scored throughout the match, 838 runs were scored by England while New Zealand had scored 837. England registered a five-wicket win in the match, chasing down the target of 299 runs set on the final day of the match and clinching the series 2-0 with one more match to go.

Coming to the match, Jonny Bairstow and captain Ben Stokes shined for England with the bat, helping their side win the second Test against New Zealand by five wickets and clinch the three-match series.

It was a see-saw contest between the Kiwis and England. While mammoth 500-plus scores during the first innings of both sides suggested that the match could head to a draw, New Zealand ended up setting a challenging target of 299, which England chased down with five wickets and more than 20 overs to spare.

With this, England has started off the Stokes-McCullum era with a series win.



Chasing 299, England was not off a good start as they lost opener Zak Crawley for a duck a the score of 12. A 41-run stand between Ollie Pope and Alex Lees followed but the former gave away his wicket to pacer Matt Henry for 18, after he was caught by wicketkeeper Tom Blundell. Root, the hero of previous innings fell for just 3. Lees and Bairstow tried to build a stand before the former fell for 44, sinking England to 93/4 after he was dismissed by Southee.

From then on, Bairstow and captain Ben Stokes took the control of the game. They smashed Kiwi bowlers left and right. Bairstow was on another level altogether, completing his century in 77 balls, and achieving the fastest hundred in the fourth innings of the game.

The 179-run stand between the duo was broken by pacer Trent Boult, who dismissed Bairstow for an entertaining 136 off 92 consisting of 14 fours and seven sixes after he was caught by Blundell. However, Stokes carried on and won the game for his side, scoring 75 off 70 with 10 fours and four sixes. Wicketkeeper-batter Ben Foakes stayed unbeaten at 12.

Trent Boult was the pick of the bowlers for Kiwis, taking 3/94. Southee and Henry got a wicket each.

England won the toss and elected to field first. In the first innings of the match, New Zealand ended at 553/10. Daryl Mitchell (190) and Tom Blundell (106) were the top scorers for New Zealand in the innings. James Anderson was the

top bowler for England with 3/62 in 27 overs.

In the second innings, England was bowled out for 539. Joe Root (176) and Ollie Pope (145) and Ben Foakes (56) were the stars for their side. Trent Boult (5/106) and Michael Bracewell (3/62) were the best bowlers for the Kiwis.

In the third innings, New Zealand was bundled out for 284 in the fourth innings. Will Young (56), Devon Conway (52) and Daryl Mitchell (62*) contributed well for the Kiwis with the bat. This set England a target of 299 runs to capture the series.

Stuart Broad (3/70) and James Anderson (2/20) were the stars for England with the ball in the third innings. Matty Potts also took 2/32 with his medium pace. **ANI**

FIFA WORLD CUP

Costa Rica edge New Zealand to book final FIFA World Cup spot

DOHA: Forty years on from their first FIFA World Cup appearance, a courageous New Zealand side has been denied by Costa Rica to take the final place at FIFA World Cup 2022, going down 1-0 at Ahmed bin Ali Stadium.

All Whites head coach Danny Hay named nine of the starting XI who took on Peru in last week's warm-up game, with Nando Pijnaker coming in for Tommy Smith in the back three and Clayton Lewis in the place of Marko Stamanic, while Callum McCowatt and Marco Rojas ruled out of the matchday squad due to illness. The All Whites went behind early, after Joel Campbell ghosted in between Pijnaker and Clayton Lewis to latch onto the ball and guide it past Oli Sail and into the



far corner to give the FIFA world 31-ranked Costa Rica side the lead in the third minute.

While not the start the Kiwis were after, this sparked the All Whites into applying sustained

attacking pressure, and they went on to dominate the rest of the first half. Grieve came closes to equalising on the 11th minute after Chris Wood cushioned down a long ball to the oncoming Grieve, whose volley from just inside the penalty area after a well-timed late run narrowly flashed wide of Keylor Navas's goal.

The New Zealanders continued to apply pressure on the Costa Rica defence, as Wood again cushioned a header down three minutes later in the 18 yard box, this time for teenage midfielder Matthew Garbett, who shot over the bar. In the 37th minute Chris Wood was bundled to the ground, but his penalty appeal was denied. Two minutes later he had the ball in the back of the net following a

flowing move from the side. Defender Pijnaker played in Garbett who whipped the ball into the box and Wood, surrounded by four Costa Rican defenders, slammed the ball home from the edge of the six yard box slams the ball home. VAR however, judged Matt Garbett to have downed Oscar Duarte during a 50-50 challenge as he received the ball, and the goal did not stand.

Despite dominating the first half, the All Whites headed into the changing rooms at half time 1-0 down.

The second half saw the introduction of Costa Rica star and 36-year-old captain Bryan Ruiz, and Costa Rica began to pick up some attacking momentum they lacked in the first half. **ANI**

ICC RANKINGS

Bumrah rises to third, Root becomes number one batter

DUBAI: Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has risen to the third spot in the latest ICC Men's Test Bowler rankings. There was some reshuffling in the latest bowling rankings with towering Kiwi quick Kyle Jamieson dropping three places to sixth after he injured his back against England. That allowed India speedster Jasprit Bumrah (third), Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi (fourth) and South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada (fifth) to all rise a spot, while a pair of Jamieson's New Zealand teammates swapped positions inside the top 10. Experienced left-armner Trent Boult jumped four places to ninth on the bowling rankings, but that saw compatriot Tim Southee demoted five spots to 13th.

England batter Joe Root claimed the top spot in the latest ICC Men's Test Batter Rankings, ending the

reign of Aussie batter Marnus Labuschagne at the top.

Labuschagne climbed to the top in December last year after knocks of 103 and 51 against England in Adelaide, but Root's recent amazing form has helped him knock Labuschagne from the top.

Root has already scored four centuries in this calendar year and became just the second Englishman to score more than 10,000 runs in Test cricket.

The Englishman now has a total of 897 rating points, five points more than Labuschagne in second place. Labuschagne may get the chance to regain top billing when Australia take on Sri Lanka in a two-match World Test Championship series away from home later this month, but Root has a busy period of Test cricket ahead of him too. **ANI**



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,112.95 points, down by 0.2 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 1.74 per cent at 451.02 points. Al Sharqia Investment, up 4.49 per cent, was the top gainer while, Takaful Oman, down 9.8 per cent, was the top loser.



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Agreement inked to expand additional storage space by 27 hectares in Sohar

The agreement represents a further investment in Sohar Port and Freezone by the C. Steinweg Group and strengthens Sohar Port's position as the leading export facility for minerals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone has signed an agreement with C. Steinweg Oman (CSO) which will see the general cargo terminal operator expand its storage area by 27 hectares (270,000 m2), to anticipate further growth, amongst



STRATEGIC: The signing ceremony was held at Sohar Port and Freezone and attended by C. Steinweg Group CEO, Ulf Boll; C. Steinweg - Handelsveem BV CEO, Peter Pesselse; C. Steinweg Middle East & India, Managing Director Christophe van Loon and CSO CEO Hendrik van Mierop, as well as Sohar Port CEO, Mark Geilenkirchen and senior management. - Supplied picture

others to facilitate the growing demand for minerals.

The expansion agreement represents a further investment in Sohar Port and Freezone by the C. Steinweg Group and further strengthens

Sohar's position as the leading export facility for minerals.

The signing ceremony was held at Sohar Port and Freezone and attended by C. Steinweg Group CEO, Ulf Boll; C. Steinweg - Han-

delsveem BV CEO, Peter Pesselse; C. Steinweg Middle East & India, Managing Director Christophe van Loon and CSO CEO Hendrik van Mierop, as well as Sohar Port CEO, Mark Geilenkirchen and

senior management. The new storage facilities are expected to be completed in four months and fully operational in Q4 2022.

Growing demand

Mark Geilenkirchen, CEO of Sohar Port and Freezone, said, "This agreement adds to our capacity to meet the growing demand for minerals across the region and solidifies Sohar's position as a major global cargo terminal. In 2021, Sohar exported more than 37 million tonnes of dry bulk cargo. With demand continuing to soar, C. Steinweg Oman and Sohar will be in a prime position to serve the needs of the market, as well as Oman's ongoing diversification and the development of mega projects across the region.

"The continuous expansion of Sohar Port and Freezone has created new opportunities for more throughput within the 27-hectare site, along with more employment and additional investment in the complex as we progress towards becoming the leading industrial hub in the region."

Hendrik van Mierop, CEO of C.

Steinweg Oman, added, "Adding 27 hectares of additional storage space to our facility at Sohar Port and Freezone shows the growth potential of Oman while serving more and more markets around the world. Situated between key markets in the East and the West, Sohar offers a unique strategic advantage which is of global significance to the entire C. Steinweg Group. We are very pleased to expand our premises within Sohar Port and build on the success we have enjoyed since handling the very first vessel to visit Sohar Port in 2004. At C. Steinweg Oman, we have continuously focused on increasing our efficiency, by investing in equipment, training our people and improving processes.

"This has always resulted in cost-effective logistics solutions for our clients. Since our start, we have grown alongside Sohar Port and Freezone, expanding in berth capacity, storage space and handling equipment. Adding this additional storage capacity, allows us to facilitate further growth for the clients, as well as for our company, for Sohar Port and Oman in general."

SANDY VALLEY PARK



Robotics Park project office opens in Al Rusayl Industrial City

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The project office of 'Sandy Valley Robotics Park' was opened on Wednesday at Al Rusayl Industrial City under the auspices of Eng. Mohsin bin Zahran Al Hinai, CEO of Al Rusayl Industrial City Company, and in the presence of Dr Tibor Szatmari, Ambassador of Hungary to the Sultanate of Oman.

Earlier this month, Al Rusayl Industrial City had signed an agreement with Sandy Valley Robotics to implement the Robotics Park in the industrial city on an area touching 3.2 million sqm. Designed to act as the first and largest robotics park in the Middle East, the project will be implemented in several phases with an initial project cost of about \$2 billion. The Robotics Park, which will generate around 15,000 job opportunities, will comprise workshops for manufacturing robots of all kinds including medical, commercial and industrial types.

The park will also feature a Research and Development Centre for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, robotics-themed shopping stores, a training institute in the fields of robotics and AI technologies, in addition to a five-star hotel and an amusement park. The Robotics Park will open its doors to youth inventions, robotics entrepreneurs, and future technologies of robotics and artificial intelligence.

CMA'S STATISTICAL YEARBOOK

Insurance sector contributes 1.45% to Oman's GDP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The contribution of the insurance sector to the GDP amounted to 1.45 per cent, resulted from a 3 per cent increase in the gross direct premiums of the insurance sector to reach OMR479.857 million at the end of the year 2021 compared to OMR465.895 million at the end of the year 2020, according to the 18th edition of the Statistical Yearbook of Insurance Sector Indicators for the year 2021 issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA).

Audited statements

The audited financial statements and indicators for the year 2021

showed mixed results compared to the indicators of past years.

The data also indicates that health insurance premiums accounted for 34 per cent of the gross direct written premiums, while the motor insurance, both comprehensive and third party, represented 21 per cent of the total gross premiums.

Takaful premiums

As for Takaful, gross direct premiums amounted to OMR70.779 million at the end of the year 2021, compared to OMR64.847 million at the end of 2020, whereas the growth rate increased by about 9.1 per cent and the Takaful constituted 15 per cent of the gross

direct premiums in the sector in general and 13 per cent of the total compensations paid during the same period. Premiums collected by insurance brokers amounted to 49 per cent of the gross insurance premiums.

The yearbook, which mirrors all quantitative and qualitative indicators and statistical and financial data, such as insurance premiums, paid claims, number of issued policies, retention ratios and losses for various insurance activities and geographical distribution of branches and agents all over the Sultanate, in addition to the financial indicators of insurance companies and their operational performance during the year.



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MSX index ends lower

Al Sharqia Investment, up 4.49 per cent, was the top gainer while, Takaful Oman, down 9.8 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,112.95 points, down by 0.2 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 1.74 per cent at 451.02 points. Al Sharqia Investment, up 4.49 per cent, was the top gainer while, Takaful Oman, down 9.8 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Cables Industry were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 269 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.68 million, with more than 8.73 million shares changing hands. Out of 37 traded securities, 4 advanced, 21 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR137,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR107,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR31,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,570.76 points, down 0.09 per cent. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Oman & Emirates Investment and Bank Dhofar were up by 4.49 per cent, 1.15 per cent and 0.87 per cent respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, United Finance, National Finance, Oman Qatar Insurance and Al Anwar Investment were down by 9.8 per cent, 9.18 per cent, 2.59 per cent, 2 per cent and 1.18 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,815.58 points, down 1.71 per cent. Gulf Mushroom Products was the only gainer up by 0.71 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy, Raysut Cement, Dhofar Cattle Feed and Oman Fisheries were down by 9.66 per cent, 6.96 per cent, 4.4 per cent, 3.61 per cent and 2.61 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.55 per cent before closing at 1,582.51 points. There were no gainers for the day. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Phoenix Power, OIFC, National Gas and Al Jazeera Services were down by 2.04 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.43 per cent, 1.35 per cent and 1.12 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,125.48	4,112.35	4,112.95	4,121.21	-8.26	-0.20	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,596.94	6,567.87	6,570.76	6,576.61	-5.86	-0.09	
Industry Index	5,915.41	5,815.58	5,815.58	5,916.86	-101.29	-1.71	
Services Index	1,592.08	1,582.17	1,582.51	1,591.22	-8.71	-0.55	
MSX Shariah Index	459.27	451.02	451.02	459.00	-7.98	-1.74	
MSX TR INDEX	5,198.89	5,182.34	5,183.10	5,193.51	-10.41	-0.20	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,897.12	6,866.73	6,874.22	6,875.88	-1.66	-0.02	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,646.17	1,635.93	1,636.29	1,645.29	-9.01	-0.55	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,139.21	6,035.59	6,035.59	6,140.71	-105.12	-1.71	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,732,799	2,684,767	269	22,352,103,726	4	21	12	37

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	43,500	3,631	5	0.088	0.093	0.088	0.093	0.089	0.004	4.494	0.093	0.088	0.093	0.100	8,370,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,077,048	222,880	13	0.206	0.207	0.206	0.207	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.206	0.220	0.100	336,570,896
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	265,000	230,012	7	0.860	0.868	0.860	0.868	0.868	0.000	0.000	0.868	0.860	0.900	0.100	651,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	361,326	154,644	6	0.428	0.428	0.426	0.426	0.426	0.000	0.000	0.426	0.422	0.426	0.100	100,710,660
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	143,479	14,778	10	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.105	0.100	307,976,416
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	8,383	2,694	6	0.322	0.322	0.318	0.318	0.320	-0.002	-0.625	0.318	0.318	0.338	0.100	207,000,265
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	17,543	5,354	7	0.316	0.316	0.304	0.304	0.306	-0.002	-0.654	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.100	203,183,090
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,320	2,712	6	0.266	0.266	0.265	0.266	0.269	-0.003	-1.115	0.266	0.265	0.266	0.100	16,280,337
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	346,985	183,443	62	0.534	0.534	0.538	0.538	0.534	-0.006	-1.124	0.538	0.538	0.528	0.100	1,981,685,834
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	389,174	98,417	6	0.252	0.254	0.247	0.247	0.250	-0.003	-1.200	0.247	0.246	0.248	0.100	81,725,559
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	8,625	1,196	6	0.140	0.140	0.138	0.138	0.140	-0.002	-1.429	0.138	0.138	0.142	0.100	32,706,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	1,498,613	1,288,807	3	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.952	-0.092	-9.664	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.100	77,142,000
Total	12	4,189,876	2,208,768	137												

Parallel Market																
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	29,500	2,572	6	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	10,725,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	350,000	40,590	6	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.113	0.115	0.100	347,576,787
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	39,831	11,157	25	0.280	0.282	0.280	0.282	0.280	0.002	0.714	0.282	0.282	0.288	0.100	11,732,686
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	350,000	39,550	4	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.110	0.114	0.100	226,035,345
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	121,585	8,268	6	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	20,885,950
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,818,555	172,741	11	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.093	0.095	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,475,272	138,576	23	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.095	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	8,000	1,000	5	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS	60,000	19,330	1	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.000	0.000	0.322	0.300	0.322	0.100	85,330,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	2,277	235	4	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.104	0.105	0.100	20,907,604
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	51,201	4,352	5	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	17,000	2,468	2	0.144	0.146	0.144	0.146	0.148	-0.002	-1.351	0.146	0.146	0.150	0.100	12,410,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	50,000	2,500	2	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.051	-0.001	-1.961	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000005979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	10,000	1,975	2	0.199	0.199	0.196	0.196	0.200	-0.004	-2.000	0.196	0.195	0.196	0.100	19,600,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	14,076	676	3	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	42,539	3,701	8	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.089	-0.002	-2.247	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	2,920,716
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	8,180	924	1	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.116	-0.003	-2.586	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	61,150,041
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	2,000	224	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.115	-0.003	-2.609	0.112	0.112	0.115	0.100	20,392,781
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	2,370	190	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.083	-0.003	-3.614	0.080	0.075	0.080	0.100	6,468,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	2,100	321	3	0.159	0.159	0.152	0.152	0.159	-0.007	-4.403	0.152	0.153	0.159	0.100	30,400,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	147	16	1	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.115	-0.008	-6.957	0.107	0.107	0.114	0.100	8,710,094
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	35,000	3,135	3	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.098	-0.009	-9.184	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	31,073,853
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	53,500	2,485	6	0.050	0.050	0.046	0.046	0.051	-0.005	-9.804	0.046	0.046	0.050	0.100	11,500,000
Total	23	4,543,133	456,973	129												

INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS

IIA Oman holds Chief Audit Executive Forum in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Oman Chapter sponsored by CBFS, held its 2nd Chief Audit Executive (CAE) Forum Meeting recently at Hormuz Hotel Muscat.

The meeting was held under the theme of 'Internal Audit as Agent of Change'. More than 50 CAEs and Deputy CAEs participated in the meeting representing various organizations and industries. United Arab Emirates (UAE) IIA President Abdulqadir Obeid Ali was the keynote speaker and the Chief Guest for the session.

The forum took place during May which is globally celebrated by the IIA as the month of Internal Audit Awareness.

Muneer Al Mughairi, President IIA Oman welcomed the chief guest and Chief Audits. He shared

IIA Oman's key achievements and initiatives in 2021 and 2022. He highlighted the role of IIA in nurturing local talent for meeting market demand and appreciated the role of the Capital Market Authority (CMA) in developing governance processes in the country which enhances investors' confidence. He also recognised the need for further involvement of Internal Auditors with IIA through enrollment in Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) classes, keeping the membership up to date and attending continued professional education sessions that are offered by IIA.

The CAEs discussed the positive role internal audit performs in the face of fast-paced technology changes and the importance of understanding the business operating environment and risk context to enable internal auditors to become change agents and trusted

advisors for the organisation.

A panel discussion was conducted where CAEs shared their experiences on the challenges faced during the pandemic and the lasting impact on internal audit and other functions within the organisations.

IIA Board Members, Dr Ali Rehman, Abbas Ali, and Shujaat Ali facilitated group discussions on multiple topics where participants shared their internal audit leading practices.

The CAEs termed the forum a great opportunity for networking and sharing ideas. All the CAEs thanked IIA Oman for arranging the CAE forum.

Muneer Al Mughairi expressed that the board of directors will work closely with all other professional chapters in Oman to enhance development opportunities for the members.

COMPETITIVENESS YEARBOOK

Saudi Arabia ranks second globally in cybersecurity index of WCY

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranked second globally in the cybersecurity index within the World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) for 2022 published by the Switzerland-based International Institute for Management Development (IMD), which is considered one of the most comprehensive reports in the world that seeks to analyse and rank the capabilities of countries to create an empowering and stimulus environment for competitiveness, maintaining and developing it.

The National Cybersecurity Authority noted that this achievement is the result of support and empowerment efforts of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, for the cybersecurity sector, which gave it a strong boost on the way towards global entrepreneurship in light of the Saudi Vision 2030, and a representation of the excellence of the "Saudi model in cybersecurity" at the global level and its continuation of realising qualitative leaps on international digital indexes, where it is considered a leading role model internationally.

The authority noted that the cybersecurity system in Saudi Arabia seeks to enhance the competitiveness of the public sector, seize promising opportunities and keep pace with renewable changes at a manner that reflects the national ambitions in this field, pointing out that the prestigious global status in the cybersecurity index is the result of perseverance to reach unique outcomes, such as establishing the National Cybersecurity Academy, implementing advanced cyber exercises at the national level, providing initiatives that seek to enhance the competitiveness of the sector locally, and establishing promising start-ups in the cybersecurity sector according to the best international practices.

The authority also referred to the exerted efforts in building and sustaining the cybersecurity sector and developing its products that contributed to realising this global achievement through initiatives that aim at enhancing the competitiveness of national personnel specialised in cybersecurity, represented by issuing the Saudi Cybersecurity Higher Education Framework to develop high-quality academic programmes in the cybersecurity field. -SPA



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OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC signs three pacts with Gulf Electricity Interconnection Authority

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) signed three agreements with the Gulf Electricity Interconnection Authority, at the authority's headquarters in Saudi Arabia in Dammam, in the presence of the stakeholders and representatives of both parties. OETC was represented by the CEO, Eng. Saleh bin Nasser Al-Rumhi, and a number of managers of the company's departments.

The first agreement stipulated the exclusive right to use the electrical interconnection assets. The agreement deals with the mechanisms of owning, operating and maintaining the 220 kV electrical interconnection assets in the Sultanate of Oman on behalf of the GCC Interconnection Authority. As for the second agreement, it provided for the provision of operating and maintenance services for the electrical link, whereby OETC will manage the link entirely, and the authority has the exclusive right to use the assets of the electrical link in case of emergency and the exchange of other energy. The third agreement provided for the operation of the electrical link between the two parties.

Regarding these agreements, Eng. Saleh bin Nasser Al-Rumhi pointed out the importance of these agreements. Since November 2014, the Sultanate of Oman has officially signed the general



agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council and has become a member of the Gulf Electricity Interconnection System, after being connected to the electricity transmission network of the GCC-CIA network, which is considered part of the Gulf Electricity Interconnection System. Al-Rumhi also valued the role played by the GCC-CIA Electricity Interconnection by increasing the reliability and security of networks and providing high financial savings through trade exchange, and by sharing spare capacity.

It is worth noting that OETC is

the company responsible for the transmission and control of electricity in the northern Sultanate's network and also in the Governorate of Dhofar, where electricity is transferred from production stations to distributed load centers in all governorates of the Sultanate. The transmission network operates at a voltage of 132 kV and above to cover most governorates of the Sultanate, whether in the north or in the south. Also, OETC manages the interconnection lines between the Sultanate and the Gulf interconnection network with a voltage of 220 kV.



SIMPLE TIPS FOR MINDFUL EATING

“Simply incorporating more foods that are crafted with integrity and align with your values into your day-to-day eating can go a long way toward helping you feel your best,” says Kara Lydon, a registered dietitian nutritionist based in the US. As an intuitive eating counsellor, Lydon advises people to stop looking at food as “good” or “bad” and instead, listen to their bodies and eat what feels best in the moment. With those principles in mind, here are a few simple choices you can make to nourish your body and enjoy your food.

Mindful eating doesn't have to be restrictive and you don't have to give up your favourite foods.



Snack Smart

Snacking can keep you satiated between meals and help you regulate your blood sugar and energy levels. It can also be an opportunity to take in essential vitamins and nutrients. Common processed snack foods are often loaded with sodium, added sugars and trans fats. Try these wholesome alternatives: Greek yoghurt with raw honey, hummus with carrot and celery sticks, apple slices with peanut butter, edamame, egg and cheese bites, nuts or fruit salad.



Choose Grass-Fed Dairy

In conversations about healthy eating, dairy products sometimes unfairly get a bad rap. But dairy actually has essential nutrients that can be incorporated into a well-rounded daily diet. Lydon says that it's helpful to be intentional with your choices. The next time you visit the dairy aisle, take a closer look at the labels and search for the term “grass-fed.” “Grass-fed cows produce dairy with significantly higher concentrations of beta-carotene and certain fatty acids, including conjugated linoleic acids and a more optimal omega-3/omega-6 ratio,” says Lydon. “These nutrients play key roles in disease prevention, mood regulation, cognitive function and more.”

Grass-fed dairy not only tastes better and is healthier for you versus grain-fed dairy, it's often more humanely produced. Check out brands committed to farming practices that are good for people, animals and the planet.



Grass-fed cows produce dairy with significantly higher concentrations of beta-carotene and certain fatty acids, including conjugated linoleic acids and a more optimal omega-3/omega-6 ratio,” says Lydon

Grow at Home

If you have the space, consider starting a small garden in your yard or even indoors on your kitchen counter. Growing your own food is sustainable and can help you connect more deeply to what you feed your family. What's more, being able to harvest produce at its peak means more nutritional value and flavor per bite. If you're feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of growing plants from seeds, start by

buying a few pots of herbs, such as basil, chives and mint. These can be found at many grocery stores. They're relatively easy to maintain, and can instantly add zest to salads, soups and other meals. Better eating should never feel like a sacrifice or leave you feeling hungry. The good news is that wholesome, healthier-for-you choices that nourish the body and soul abound today.- Statepoint





ROUND-UP



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Oman Avenues Mall to welcome visitors to Sultanate’s first IKEA megastore

The two-storey 25,000 sqm outlet will include cutting-edge customer experience technology and will offer inspirational unique home furnishing ideas

MUSCAT: IKEA, the Swedish furniture giant and home furnishing retailer will open its doors to the first flagship store at Oman Avenues Mall on June 19. The two-storey 25,000 sqm outlet will include cutting-edge customer experience technology and will offer inspirational unique home furnishing ideas. Oman Avenues Mall embarked



on an all-encompassing transformational journey to stay relevant in light of the changing retail landscape, which included macro-scale infrastructure augmentation. Easily accessible through Sultan Qaboos Street, the new development will be connected to major population centres via dedicated flyovers, bridges and the recently expanded roads. Al Taher Group, the developers of Oman Avenues Mall are on the brink of completing all complementary work for the launch of IKEA. Also, the mall introduced 550 parking bays on the roof level directly connecting the parking

lots to the cinemas, the food court and the family entertainment centre on the second level as well as an additional 500 parking bays to the lower ground level. Ensuring a seamless and hassle-free shopping experience for visitors, parking information will be made available through smart directional signs. An exclusive parking area for loyal and premium customers with special access to the mall through private lift access shall also be established in the near future. “With innovation, design and value behind every component mapped out, we can affirm that

we are positioned to take on large-scale projects to meet the demands and serve the community. As we are nearing the launch date of IKEA Oman, the road infrastructural works are progressing towards completion,” said Eng. Saud Mohammed Al Khalili, Development Director, Al Taher Group. “By adding IKEA to its retail portfolio, Oman Avenues Mall will further enhance its offerings whilst simultaneously creating an inviting atmosphere,” he added. Harnessing technology and digitalisation, the mall developers have also fitted smart navigation stands, interactive digital screens,

wall projectors to assist in room planning and product selection and much more. Shoppers will be assisted by digital signage and in-store technology to locate the most suitable furniture, visualise room layouts and schedule deliveries in the shortest time. Delivering a smarter and more personalised shopping experience, the mall has focused on digitising customer service as well as elevating innovation and sustainability. “We are ecstatic to be hosting the country’s very first IKEA megastore at Oman Avenues Mall. After analysing people’s demands, we realised the gap in the market and worked on delivering the best solution to future-proof the mall by hosting a globally renowned brand like IKEA. The trust retailers have in us is a testimony of our dedication and perseverance to continue offering our services,” said Ashraf Ali M A, Executive Director of Lulu group international. “We are fully prepared and waiting to open doors to our first guests and deliver the experience we have promised. Our approach is to ensure that visitors get what they are looking for and far more

from their very first interaction at the mall,” he added. The new IKEA will have over 9000 articles covering Living Room, Bedroom, Kitchen, Bathroom and other home décor selections. Furthermore, the country’s first store will also be available virtually through a comprehensive, user-friendly website, enabling customers to browse their latest catalogued products in their homes’ comfort and opt for home delivery, thereby, enjoying an array of self-service, which ultimately increases customer convenience. The premises also include a 400-seater restaurant serving IKEA’s world-famous delicacies. Oman Avenues Mall, the Sultanate’s premier destination for shopping, dining and leisure experiences, is on track with its transformation journey. With a four-phase makeover plan afoot, the mall is driving positive changes to become bigger and better. Already offering a unique ambience and guest experience, the mall is gearing up for hosting leading global brands across segments, to provide a complete and aesthetic experience to customers.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Al Hashar Pharmacy organises marathon badminton tournament

MUSCAT: Al Hashar Pharmacy organised a two-day marathon badminton tournament as part of its Golden Jubilee celebration. It brought together all its esteemed stakeholders on one platform, to have fun and celebrate sports. The first day of the tournament was exclusively organised for Oman’s medical fraternity, who have been incredible warriors during these difficult times. The marathon was Al Hashar Pharmacy’s way of expressing gratitude to the medical profession for its valuable contribution to the well-being of the people of Oman. More than 40 Medical Practitioners from across Oman participated in men’s doubles & ladies’ doubles tournament categories, displaying their passion and fervour for the game. After 17 rounds of focused play, Dr Rajesh Selvakumar and Dr Pradeep Singh reached the finals and won the men’s double, and Dr Kripa Marla and Dr Manisha Shree won the

women’s double. The runners-up in the men’s double were Dr Abhilash Vijayan Nair & Dr Nishad Mohammad Basheer and in the women’s category were Dr Nidhi Singh & Dr Shima Razavidashti. The day finally culminated on a positive note with excitement and cheer for the winners, and all the enthusiastic players had a memorable day at the tournament. The players thanked Al Hashar team for organizing such a unique event which not only refreshed their minds and body but also invigorated their sporting spirit to the core. The second day added further zeal, vigour and an amazing display of camaraderie, and bonhomie amongst colleagues, teammates and coworkers of Al Hashar Pharmacy and Capital Pharmacy. Vinoth Swaminathan and Melbin Baby bagged the first prize in Men’s double and Mohd. Yoonus and Anup Bhattwere announced as the runner-up team.

INSPIRING VEHICLE

Make each moment fun with Toyota Land Cruiser pick-up

MUSCAT: Toyota Land Cruiser pick-up is a thoroughly exciting and inspiring vehicle that has proven itself on almost every terrain each and every time. From going beyond being a thrilling workhorse to taking people places and loading them with high levels of confidence, the Land Cruiser pick-up rises above all challenges to constantly outdo expectations. The Toyota Land Cruiser Pick-up’s large wheels and stable footprint ensure that it stays in control at all times, while its efficient engine delivers low running costs. It is a vehicle that has been created to surmount tough terrain, take on severe challenges and deliver unfailing reliability especially when conditions are harsh. A heady blend of rugged functionality, dynamic handling and all-out reliability, the Toyota Land Cruiser Pick-up is truly built to last. The Toyota Land Cruiser Pick-up is packed with many features that include an Advanced 7” Navigation System with DVD Player featuring AUX, USB and Bluetooth, Stylish Radiator Grille in addition to Daytime Running Lights (DRL) and side protection moulding with chrome inserts. The Land Cruiser Pick-up is also adorned with Classy Silver Garnish on AC Vents, Keyless Entry System, Fog Lamps, Power Windows, Woodgrain Panelling, Wood Finish Steering Wheel,



Chrome Outer Mirrors with Turn Signals, Front Bumper Guard and much more. The Pick-up’s Spacious Cabin is not only inviting, it is also equipped with Supportive & Comfortable Seats - with Ample Legroom & Headroom. This feature allows the driver to drive comfortably with maximum control. A Rugged and Practical Deck ensures that the pick-up can transport heavy loads with ease and stability. Land Cruiser pick-up is a Part-

time 4WD with easy switching between 4WD and 2WD mode – it is powered by a mighty 4.0L, V6, VVT-i Engine generating 228 HP. The Land Cruiser Pick-up handles brilliantly, responds quickly and is sensitive to the driver’s demands. There are many proven safety features in the Pick-up. Its Crushable Body absorbs and Disperses Impact Energy, helping to maintain the High Integrity Cabin. Carefully designed Ergonomic Features such as the Location of

Switches, Steering System and exceptionally good Front and Rear Visibility complement this. The Land Cruiser Pick-up offers reassuring levels of protection thanks to many Safety Features such as Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Active Traction Control (ATRC), Hill Assist Control (HAC), Brake Assist (BA), Electrical Winch, Rear Differential Lock, Driver + Front Passenger Airbags, Rear View Camera, etc.

HOME INTERIOR

Danube Home has perfect tiling solution for every home

DUBAI: Danube Home, the leading one-stop retail solution for all home interior and improvement needs in the region, has the most incredible range of wall and floor tiles in a range of stunning designs to suit every home. The high-quality, durable tiles are available in a range of sizes and materials. From solid colours to beautiful textured finishes, the stellar tiles collection is manufactured and sourced from Italy, Spain, India, Turkey, Egypt and Oman. Danube Home is also home to Milano Islabz, the largest manmade tile that offers a seamless, groove-free finish for a luxurious look. Danube Home conducts pre-dispatch quality checks at the factory and master warehouse levels to ensure a great product that meets customer expectations. As a brand known for often going above and beyond - Danube Home offers free exchange for non-installed tiles within 3 months, and free replacement in case of any defects. The brand also offers free



interior design assistance for wall and floor tiling at all outlets. Danube Home also understands the tediousness of designing and bringing one’s home to life and offers customers the option to hold their desired tiles for up to 3 months. What’s more, is that the brand even offers free installation supervision in case of delicate or large format tiles which require expert guidance. The stylish and modern tiles

come in a range of designs to suit the needs of every home. Whether it is floor and wall tiles, outdoor tiles, or tiles that look like wood, Danube Home’s tile collection has something for every home. Customers also have the added benefit of repurchasing the designs they love for over a year from the original launch. The new tile range from Danube Home is available at all Danube Home stores in Oman.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ABQ Azzan Bin Qais moves to new campus

MUSCAT: ABQ Education Group’s longest established school, ABQ Azzan Bin Qais International School is moving to a new campus in Muscat for the start of the 2022/23 academic year. Celebrating its 32-year existence this year, the school has built a remarkable reputation over the years for academic excellence, extraordinary achievements in and outside the classroom, unique student development programmes, passionate staff and dynamic graduates. ABQ Azzan Bin Qais International School has just announced that the entire school will move to the spacious campus in Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos utilised until recently by ABA Oman International School. ABQ Education Group Chief Executive Office, Humayun Kabir says, “The new ABQ Azzan Bin Qais International School campus is 100% in line with our vision to be the K-12 education provider of choice in our communities. The new location allows for a larger student population and enables expanded programme offerings,



whilst maintaining a close sense of belonging and care. However, the larger, more flexible learning spaces better reflect and align with our innovative approach to teaching and learning.” “The new location just off the Muscat Express Way has remarkable facilities, is conveniently situated and will help us provide an even better learning experience to our 1200+ students. ABQ Azzan Bin Qais has been in its current location since 2003 and we look forward to this exciting new phase of growth and expansion,” says Jacques Tredoux, the school’s principal. The land size is more than double the size of the existing campus. Other features school par-

ents can look forward to are the remarkable auditorium that can accommodate close to 500 guests, an amphitheatre for outdoor productions, larger classrooms, two indoor gyms, three tennis courts, washrooms in each KG classroom, and substantially more parking facilities. The Parent-Teacher Association Chairperson, Dr Marwa Al Kalbani says, “The students can look forward to the same excellent education standards, the laughter and engagement with peers, their passionate teachers and the wide variety of development opportunities - but in an even bigger and better learning environment. I am very excited for the students!”



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ROUND-UP



All-new Nissan Altima is built to unlock pure joy of driving

The sixth-generation Nissan Altima continues to include attributes that have always been at the car’s core — reliability, great resale, powertrains, premium interior design, plenty of space for occupants and luggage (436 litres), plus a fuel economy of 17.6 km/litre

MUSCAT: Nissan Altima is one of the year’s best and most significant cars in its category. A spectacularly designed, feature rich sedan that does everything a high-end luxury car can do, but for much less. A winner on many levels, the 2.5 litre engine car is unquestionably luxurious, it enjoys superb build quality and comes with many standard features. The sixth-generation Nissan Altima continues to include attrib-



utes that have always been at the car’s core — reliability, great resale, powertrains, premium interior design, plenty of space for occupants and luggage (436 litres), plus a fuel economy of 17.6 km/litre. With an all-new 4-cylinder Direct Injection engine and 188 horsepower, it is not surprising it produces an impressive 17.6 km/litre while running quicker, quieter, and smoother than previous Altima engines. No wonder it is among today’s front-running family sedans. The stand out attribute of the car is the ProPILOT Assist- offering less stress, more confidence, and an enjoyable driving experience. Using a forward-facing camera,

forward-facing radar, sensors and electronic control module, ProPILOT Assist gives a helping hand in plenty of things—like keeping the driver centered in your lane and maintaining a preset distance from the vehicle ahead. Blending Nissan’s Intelligent Cruise Control and Steering Assist technologies, ProPILOT brings the vehicle to a full stop, holds in place, and brings you back up to your set speed when traffic starts moving again. Making you feel confident, excited, and connected, the available dynamic driving technology Nissan Intelligent Mobility truly helps you embrace the pure joy of being behind the wheel. Featuring an extensive list of

advanced safety features, the large sedan seats five people and comes with a suite of advanced driver-assistance equipment. While the safety features include front side and curtain airbags, around view monitor with moving object detection, automatic parking brake control and rearview camera. Driving Assistance equipment includes Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Cross Traffic Alert (CTA), Driver Attention Alert (DAA), Forward Emergency Brake (FEB), Forward Collision Warning (FCW), Lane Departure Warning (LDW), Lane Departure Prevention (LDP), High Beam Assist (HBA). Forward Emergency Braking and Intelligent Forward Collision Warning

system uses a radar sensor located in the front of the vehicle to detect pedestrians and cars. Like the designers conceptualized, the Altima interior is inclusive for all occupants, with a sense of barrier-free togetherness. Passengers and the driver feel visually connected in a harmonious space that balances form, function and ease of use. Many factors contribute to the new Altima making the driver feel self-assured and in control – from the firm hold of the leather seats to the direct response of the engine and transmission, the reduced eye movement of the intuitive metres and controls, the high-quality materials and fit-and-finish, and the

Intelligent Driving technologies that are always ready when needed. The instrument panel features a standard 7-inch Advanced Drive Assist Display in front of the driver and an 8-inch center color display with multi-touch control with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto in the centre. With 9 speakers strategically placed throughout the cabin, custom-tuned by Bose engineers, the Bose Premium Audio System provides the richness and detail of a live performance. It also boasts AM/ FM, HD (MEX), 2 USB Ports, AUX, Bluetooth, Voice, WIFI and NFC. The Nissan Altima has an enormous front grille with a front bumper that includes massive fog lights, a smooth muscular hood and LED headlights with daytime running lights. The automobile has 19-inch wheels, front vented disk brakes, and rear disk brakes, as well as an electronically adjustable mirror with turning lights and chrome door handles. The tail has rear lights joined by a small chrome piece above the license plate, rear luggage access, a sun-roof, and a standard back bumper with visible exhaust. ORVM electric adjustment, electric folding with turn signal, DRL, remote engine starter, heater with front seat position memory, paddle shift lever, power steering with leather paddle shift lever. The exterior colour palette of the new Altima also takes a big step away from ordinary. Along with the whites, silvers and black, two Altima-specific colours - Scarlet Ember and Sunset Drift - are designed to drape the expressive body with a standout sense of richness and energy.

REFRESHING

Kaldi launches new line of beverages



MUSCAT: With the onset of summer and the increase in temperatures, the demand for cold fresh juices and drinks has increased exponentially. Kaldi has decided to launch its new line of refreshing beverages that contains passion fruit which contains many vitamins, minerals, fibre and essential nutrients that the body needs to grow and build immunity. Kaldi beverages have always been refreshing and fresh, which is why it has decided to introduce the passion fruit collection to the hot and cold drinks

menu. The new collection is unique in that it has an option that would suit all the community. Passion Fruit Mojito: A refreshing drink that combines passion fruit and lemons. Sparkling Passion Fruit Americano: This special drink is a blend of passion fruit, sparkling water and roasted coffee. Mango Passion Cooler: A cold, fresh and refreshing mixture of two summer fruits. All our branches are waiting for you to try the new passion fruit collection.

FINEST CAR



296 GTB: Ferrari’s new mid-rear-engined Berlinetta sports car

MUSCAT: The 296 GTB ushers in an authentic revolution for Ferrari as it introduces a new engine type to flank the marque’s multi-award-winning 8 and 12-cylinder power units: a new 663 cv 120° V6 coupled with an electric motor capable of delivering a further 122 kW (167 cv). This is the first 6-cylinder engine installed on a road car sporting the Prancing Horse badge: it unleashes its massive 830 cv total power output to deliver previously unthinkable performance levels and an innovative, exhilarating and unique soundtrack. The car’s name, which combines its total displacement (2,992 l) and the number of cylinders with the GTB (Gran Turismo Berlinetta) acronym, in the finest Ferrari tradition, was chosen to underscore this new engine’s epoch-changing importance to Maranello: it is not simply the living, beating heart of the 296 GTB but also ushers in a new V6 era that has its roots deep in Ferrari’s unparalleled 70-year-plus experience in motorsports. The very first Ferrari V6 featured a 65° architecture and debuted on the 1957 1500 cc Dino 156 F2 single-seater. This was followed in 1958 by bigger displacement versions on the front-engined sports prototypes - the 196 S and 296 S - and F1 cars, such as the 246 F1 which powered Mike Hawthorn to the F1 Drivers’ Championship title the same year. The very first Ferrari to sport a mid-rear-mounted V6 was the 246 SP in 1961, which won amongst others the Targa Florio

both that same year and in 1962. Also in 1961, Ferrari secured its first Constructors’ title in the Formula 1 World Championship with the 156 F1, which was powered by a 120° V6. Ferrari first installed turbos between an engine’s cylinder banks on the 126 CK in 1981 and subsequently on the 126 C2 in 1982, which became the first turbo-charged car to win the Formula 1 Constructors’ World Championship title. This was followed up with a second title in 1983 with the 126 C3. Lastly, V6 turbo hybrid architecture has been used on all Formula 1 single-seaters since 2014. The 296 GTB’s plug-in hybrid (PHEV) system guarantees it is an incredibly usable car as well as cutting pedal response times to zero and delivering a 25km range in all-electric eDrive mode. The car’s compact dimensions and the introduction of innovative dynamic control systems, as well as meticulously honed aero, ensure that the driver will instantly experience its astonishing agility and responsiveness to commands. Its sporty, sinuous design and extremely compact dimensions also visually underscore its exceptional modernity, brilliantly referencing the likes of the 1963 250 LM, the perfect marriage of simplicity and functionality. As was the case with the SF90 Stradale, for clients who want to exploit the car’s extreme power and performance to the utmost, particularly on the track, the 296 GTB is also available with the Assetto Fiorano package, which includes lightweight features and aero modifications.

MANUFACTURING SUMMIT

OER summit and awards 2022 to focus on challenges facing manufacturing sector

MUSCAT: OER’s Manufacturing Summit and Awards, a flagship event by the Sultanate’s premium business magazine, will be held at Sheraton Oman Hotel on June 27. Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry will be the chief guest at the summit, while Redha Al Saleh, Chairman, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be the guest of honour. Madayn, MIZAH, Credit Oman and Oman Manufacturers Association (OMFA) are the endorsement partners of the Summit, which is being organised by UMS Events. Raysut Cement is the Strategic Partner. OMIFCO, Muscat Thread Mills, Al Jazeera Steel Products Company, Khazaen Economic City, Sohar Aluminium, Dhofar International Development and Investment Holding Co. (DIDIC), Oman Cables Industry, Al Tamman Indisil Ferrochrome, Voltas Oman, Atyab Food Industries, Gulf Mushroom Products Company, Sebacic Oman and Skyline Duqm have signed up as the Associate Partners and MHD Ford Trucks as the Official Commercial Vehicles Partner. Times of Oman and Al Shabiba are the Media Partners, Alam Al-Iktisaad magazine, the Arabic media partner and oerlive.com, the Online Media Partner. SSA International is the Knowledge Partner. The Sultanate’s Vision 2040 plan under the far-sighted leadership of His Majesty Sultan

Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry will be the chief guest at the summit

Haitham bin Tarik envisages Oman to have a modern and technologically advanced manufacturing base, fully utilising the creativity of the Omani population together with the most innovative production techniques and focused on improving the wellbeing of the peoples in the region and the world at large. OER’s Manufacturing Summit 2022 will do a deep dive into the opportunities for the manufacturing sector in Oman, and the challenges impeding its growth and unlocking the potential of the sector. The topic of the summit is ‘Smart Manufacturing: Enhancing competitiveness, innovation and transformation.’ The summit will focus on consumer-driven manu-

facturing, connected services, Smart factories, Industry 4.0 and the digital economy, sustainability, hyper-automation, real-time performance monitoring, lead time compression (order-to-cash), speed up a time to market, supply chain cost and reliability (inventory turns and cash conversion cycles), eliminating profit leaks across the value chain, leveraging data and analytics for superior customer insights, educating and up-skilling in Quality and Lean Manufacturing Practices and improving quality levels to achieve world-class performance. The first panel discussion will deliberate on ‘Manufacturing: Enhancing Competitiveness and Transformation.’ The panel discussion will focus on increasing the competitiveness of Oman’s manufacturing sector, promoting exports, ensuring supply chain reliability, attracting FDI and adopting Industry 4.0 practices. The panellists include Ali Khasoob, CEO, Atyab, AN Venkat, CEO, Al Jazeera Steel Products Company, Cinzia Farise, CEO, Oman Cables Industry, Hilal Khalid Al Maawali, Chairman, Sebacic Oman, Himansu Mohapatra, Group GM – Investment, Muscat Overseas Group and Joey Ghosh, CEO, Raysut Cement Company. The second panel discussion will focus on ‘Manufacturing: A key enabler of Oman Vision 2040.’ The panel discussion will deep dive into unlocking the potential of manufacturing for Oman’s future. The panellists include Abdullah Al

Hadhrami, CEO, Gulf Mushroom Products Co, Agnello Borim, COO, Sohar Aluminium, Fady G. Elasaad, Group CEO, Dhofar Cattle Feed Co among others. The Summit will also have presentations by Eng. Salim bin Suleiman Al Thuli, CEO, Khazaen Economic City, Naveen Narayanan, Managing Director, SSA International, Patrick Kabasci, Executive Director, Digital Operations at INC Invention Center, Germany and Khalid Ansari, CEO, KMA & Partners. Kulbhushan, Business Transformation Leader will make a presentation on ‘Emerging Trends in Manufacturing Operational Excellence.’ The second edition of OER’s Manufacturing Summit will bring in government officials, C-suite executives, consultants and analysts to discuss a cross-section of issues impacting the manufacturing sector in Oman, possible solutions and the way ahead. Manufacturing sector Excellence Awards will be presented during the Summit. The awards will recognise exceptional organisations and individuals in the sector. A workshop on digital and smart manufacturing will also be held alongside the summit. The objective is to create awareness of emerging themes in smart manufacturing and learn diagnostic tools to assess readiness and opportunity areas for Smart Manufacturing. Naveen Narayanan, Managing Director, SSA International and Ganesh Iyer, Vice-Chairman, SSA APAC will conduct the workshop.



ROUND-UP



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MHD introduces new Range Rover Sport

The third-generation model is the most desirable, advanced and dynamically capable yet

MUSCAT: Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), the official retailer of Jaguar Land Rover in Oman, has announced the arrival of the New Range Rover Sport at its showroom. The new Range Rover Sport redefines sporting luxury, effortlessly combining assertive and instinctive on-road performance with trademark Range Rover refinement, progressive design sophistication and connected convenience.

The third-generation model is the most desirable, advanced and dynamically capable yet. Powertrains include six-cylinder extended range Electric Hybrids, a formidable new V8, and a mild hybrid six-cylinder petrol Ingenium engine. The New Range Rover Sport comes in S, SE, HSE, and Autobiography trims, with a First Edition available during the first year of manufacture.

Design in detail

The sophisticated exterior is unmistakably Range Rover Sport with taut surfacing, a dynamic stance, and an instantly recognisable profile, accentuated by stealth-like detailing and muscular proportions. Short overhangs, an assertive front-end, and steeply raked front and rear glass give the Range Rover Sport dramatic proportions. These trademark el-



ements project power and performance on the road.

The sculpted exterior features a stealth-like front grille and Digital LED lighting units that create a DRL signature. The slimmest headlights ever fitted to a Land Rover sit above a sculpted, double-aperture lower bumper with a horizontal body-colour element that creates greater visual width.

Rear design elements include a sculpted tailgate with Range Rover script. Uninterrupted LED light graphics provide a crisp, contemporary look at night that is vivid and consistent from any angle. The longest spoiler ever fitted to a Range Rover accentuates the vehicle's shoulder line.

The exterior's clean lines are accentuated by flush glazing, door handles, a hidden waist rail finisher, and a laser-welded roof. These design-enabling technologies contribute to New Range Rover Sport's 0.29 drag coefficient.

The new Dynamic model's exterior design accentuates the performance SUV's purposeful character. Satin Grey alloy wheels, Satin

Burnished Copper bonnet louvers and side ingots, and Matte Graphite Atlas front grille and Range Rover lettering. The Dynamic has unique front and rear bumpers and body-colour lower cladding.

Engaging on every journey

The New Range Rover Sport introduces more advanced chassis technologies than ever before, providing a comprehensive dynamic toolkit for the most engaging and dynamically capable driving experience.

The inherent stiffness and strength of the flexible mixed-metal architecture (MLA-Flex) – which provides up to 35 per cent higher torsional stiffness than the previous Range Rover Sport – lays the foundations for this technology. It harmoniously works with a suite of systems governed by the Integrated Chassis Control system – all specially tuned for the New Range Rover Sport.

Epitome of sporting luxury and technology

The New Range Rover Sport makes every journey an event. It

can be honed to be as dynamically engaging as the driver desires, while offering enhanced levels of refinement and comfort. This ability to combine dual characters, offering heightened luxury and driver-focused engagement, is made possible by a comprehensive set of technologies and features.

Land Rover's powerful Electrical Vehicle Architecture (EVA 2.0) supports an ecosystem of seamless connected technologies, including Software Over The Air (SOTA). The clever technology provides remote updates for 63 electronic modules, ensuring the New Range Rover Sport remains at the cutting edge of innovation, modern technology and services throughout its life.

Peerless capability

The New Range Rover Sport is the most dynamically capable version of Land Rover's luxury performance SUV ever, and the most competent away from paved roads. Its intelligent All-Wheel Drive (iAWD) integrates with the latest all-terrain innovations and technologies to ensure its breadth of dynamic capability.

The New Range Rover Sport will be exclusively produced at the Solihull Manufacturing Facility in the UK alongside New Range Rover, on a state-of-the-art production line housed in the same building used to produce early Series Land Rovers. The historic location is the spiritual home of Land Rover and its reimagining as a new, ultra-modern centre for Range Rover and Range Rover Sport production epitomises the way the company protects and celebrates its unique heritage.

The New Range Rover Sport is available to order now, at MHD, the exclusive representative of Land Rover in Oman. For a closer look visit the showroom in Azaiba.

Huawei makes statement in mid-range wearables market with new Huawei Watch Fit 2



MUSCAT: Huawei has always maintained its ground with a successful strategy and a lineup of wearables that are stylish, unique, and packed with features that make life easier.

For Huawei, revenue from wearable devices and smart screens increased by more than 30% year on year in 2021 globally.

In the third quarter of 2021, Huawei led the world in shipments of smartwatches and bands. By the end of 2021, Huawei had cumulatively shipped more than 100 million units of wearables. The Huawei Health app that provides users with comprehensive data, science-based exercise advice, and targeted health management services has attracted 83 million monthly active users worldwide. In total, Huawei health and fitness products have served more than 320 million users worldwide.

The newly launched Huawei Watch Fit 2 is yet another step in the right direction. It follows design similar to the Huawei Watch Fit but with more refinements. The new watch has an AMOLED 1.74-inch Huawei FullView Display and a new chessboard launcher that offers a seamless user experience. Users can customise the watch using a wide selection of watch bands and watch faces.

Huawei Watch Fit 2 features a speaker and a microphone and supports Bluetooth calling feature that allows users to accept or reject calls. If users are not available to answer the phone, they can quickly reply in the form of a short message with one tap. The reply can be customised in the Huawei Health App, allowing users to always stay online and not miss anything important. Users can also reply quickly to messages via instant messaging apps from the watch itself.

Wearables usually struggle when it comes to battery life. But Huawei Watch Fit 2 shines with 10 full days of battery life under typical usage scenarios and 7 days under heavy usage on a single charge. On top of that, fast charging technology allows users to use the watch for 24 hours with a 5-minute charge.

Apart from all these, what makes the Huawei Watch Fit 2 a powerful contender in the smart wearables segment is its solid health and fitness tracking features. The smartwatch tracks a range of health data, with Huawei's upgraded Huawei TruSeen 5.0 heart rate monitoring technology accurately measuring users' BPM and blood oxygen saturation (SpO2); and the ability to track sleep patterns.



Mazoon Electricity organises workshop for employees on basics of sign language

MUSCAT: After activating the SignBook app to smoothen the communication process for hearing and speech impaired customers, Mazoon Electricity the leading electricity provider in Oman, organised a workshop for employees on the basics of sign language.

The SignBook app facilitates direct communication between Mazoon Electricity and customers with hearing and speech disabilities through experts in sign language translation. The SignBook app offers a simultaneous interpretation to sign language by visual calls. In addition, to sign language interpretation, it also offers pre-translation of content to sign language through QR codes and barcodes to interpret paper or digital or audio material.

Packed with easy-to-understand signs, the easy-to-navigate app aims to provide greater convenience for hearing and speech impaired people who wish to

operate independently. The customised mobile app is available for download on both iOS and Android platforms.

The online workshop was presented by coach Yahya Al-Barshdi from Altwasol Institute for Training. It is worth mentioning that Mazoon Electricity Company had collaborated with Hayat Information Technology Company, a company that has developed a specialised app SignBook for the benefit of hearing and speech impaired customers, intending to bridge the disability divide through digital technologies.

Mazoon Electricity seeks to provide safe, reliable and sustainable electricity to all its customers in the various governorates of the Sultanate it operates. Since the hearing and speech impaired category is a segment of their customers, the company ensures that all its written materials are translated into audio-to-sign language.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO extends its offer on auto finance

MUSCAT: Giving its customers the chance to drive their dream car today, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has extended its special offer for auto finance. Valid until July 31, customers can buy a new or pre-owned car with rates starting from just 4.75% p.a. on reducing balance.

With easy processing and repayment tenure of up to 10 years, as well as a host of exclusive deals courtesy of its partnerships with dealers across the country, NBO's new car loans are the ideal way to get on the road.

Extended to salary and non-

salary transfer customers, Omani nationals and residents, NBO's car finance is part of the bank's commitment to delivering hassle-free, competitive financial solutions to fit all. Processed quickly and efficiently, the bank also provides customers with a host of benefits including flexible payment terms, additional financing, and much more. Meanwhile, NBO continues to enhance its suite of products and services, which are designed to support its customers to plan and manage their financial lives, while providing them with extra value and a superior customer experience.



DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Green Tech Energy and Water and Solis Depot sign agreement for Huawei fusion solar inverters in Oman



MUSCAT: Green Tech Energy and Water (GTEW), the region's premier provider of renewable energy solutions, and Solis Depot, Huawei value added partner in Oman, signed an official distribution agreement in Q1 of 2022 on June 4 in Muscat.

Under the agreement, signed by Managing Director of GTEW Fabian Mueller and Business Unit Manager of Solis Depot Mohammed Alqadi, GTEW is the authorised distributor of Huawei Fusion Solar products in Oman. GTEW offers the following Huawei Fusion Solar products: 3-phase inverters ranging from 3kw to

100kw and their accessories, as well as residential energy storage systems on a lithium-ion basis.

The event was held at the Crowne Plaza OCEC 5 June and was attended by key stakeholders of the solar energy industry in Oman, including developers and installation companies, as well as top experts from several electricity distribution companies and the Distribution Code Review Panel. The speakers introduced the cutting-edge Huawei Fusion Solar line of Solar PV (Photovoltaic) inverters, and their accessories, both on a residential and commercial/industrial as well as utility-scale.



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20 Pcs Dinner Set



EKG9000A4X

- Gas Cooker
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- Full safety

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MILTON
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- Casserole 3 PC Set
- 2.5/3.5/5.0 Liter

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From 16th to 19th June 2022

RIAL **0.450**
Mango (Pakistan)
per kg



RIAL **0.250**
Potato per kg



SAVE | 21.164%
RIAL ~~1.890~~
RIAL **1.490**

Fresh Tilapia per kg



2 kgs
SAVE | 20.161%
RIAL ~~1.240~~
RIAL **0.990**
Pillsbury Chakki
Fresh Atta 2 kgs



SAVE | 23.017%
RIAL ~~2.585~~
RIAL **1.990**

Lipton
Tea Bag 200's



2 Pcs
SAVE | 38.095%
RIAL ~~1.050~~
RIAL **0.650**
Nabil Glucose
Biscuits
24 x 40 gms



24 Pcs
SAVE | 21.000%
RIAL ~~1.000~~
RIAL **0.790**

Oasis Drinking Water
24 x 500 ml



SAVE | 46.564%
RIAL ~~2.620~~
RIAL **1.400**

Almond 27 / 30, 500 gms



2 Pcs
SAVE | 33.445%
RIAL ~~2.990~~
RIAL **1.990**

Al Fajr Chicken
Burger 2 x 1 kg



SAVE | 25.126%
RIAL ~~1.990~~
RIAL **1.490**

Eastco Peeled Shrimps
Extra Large 500 gms



RIAL **2.690**
Dana Brown \ White Egg
Tray Medium 2 x 30's



RIAL **6.890**
Pampers Active Baby
Diaper / Pants
Assorted per Box



SAVE | 20.717%
RIAL ~~2.510~~
RIAL **1.990**

Always Nights with
Wings 48 Pads



4 Pcs
SAVE | 27.225%
RIAL ~~1.910~~
RIAL **1.390**

Crest Toothpaste
Extreme Mint 4 x 125 ml



2 Pcs
SAVE | 21.245%
RIAL ~~2.730~~
RIAL **2.150**

Clear Shampoo
for Men 2 x 400 ml



1.4 Ltrs
SAVE | 32.234%
RIAL ~~1.365~~
RIAL **0.925**

Bahar Premium Dishwash
Liquid 1.4 Ltrs



5 Kgs
SAVE | 28.616%
RIAL ~~6.290~~
RIAL **4.490**

Ariel Washing Powder
5 kgs Assorted



SAVE | 33.095%
RIAL ~~5.605~~
RIAL **3.750**

Dettol Liquid 2 Ltrs
+ 500 ml



6 Pcs
RIAL **0.980**
Awatif Facial Tissue
6 x 140's



6 Pcs
SAVE | 39.683%
RIAL ~~1.575~~
RIAL **0.950**

Crystal Drops Glass Mug
6 pc Set Assorted



3Pc Set
SAVE | 25.316%
RIAL ~~7.900~~
RIAL **5.900**

Cheflene Plastic Hot Pot
3 pc Set Assorted
(1200/1800/2600) ml



Win Plus
SAVE | 24.623%
RIAL ~~1.990~~
RIAL **1.500**

Win Plus Pen Blue
Needle Point 0.7 mm
25's



SAVE | 27.885%
RIAL ~~10.400~~
RIAL **7.500**

Straight Line Cloth Dryer
Assorted



SMART UHD

RIAL **159.900**

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