

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on the death of Princess Lolwahbint Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant her family patience to bear the loss. **-ONA**

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA), has managed to extinguish a fire that broke out on a wooden ship at Khasab Port. "The fire-fighting and rescue teams in the Musandam Governorate responded to a report of a fire that broke out on a wooden ship at the port of Khasab. The teams, in cooperation with the Governorate Police Command and the Royal Air Force of Oman, were able to control the fire and prevent it from spreading to other ships anchored at the port," the CDAA said in a statement.



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OMAN, US SIGN AGREEMENT

An agreement on the employment of official employees' spouses was signed at the Foreign Ministry on Monday between the governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the US. — OMA

INVITATION TO TENDER



Sohar Aluminium LLC (SA), PO Box 80, PC- 327, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman hereby invites qualified Suppliers/Contractors for the following tender:

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Tender Title : Replacement of Compact Wheel Loader - 4 Ton

Scope : Supplier to do design, supply, installation & commissioning of Compact Wheel Loader - 4 Ton with fork attachment as per SA scope.

Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com

For list of active tenders visit: <https://www.sohar-aluminium.com/en/content/tender-listing>

PRIDE AND PRESTIGE

Every step counts at Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022, pioneers of marathon running in Oman, is set for the biggest participative sporting event this year.

Slated to be flagged off at the leading lifestyle destination, Al Mouj Muscat on November 11 and 12, the event has been a symbol of pride and prestige for the country. The health and fitness impact that this event will have on the city is unrivalled.

Non-profit organisations

The participants of the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon will make their race more meaningful by dedicating it to a cause greater than them, as part of the proceeds from the 5km Run category will be going towards non-profit organisations.

The race is associated with two charities; the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) and the Oman Diabetes Association (ODA). The aim is to make a positive impact on the community by raising awareness of the need to care for the natural environment and community health.

Al Mouj Muscat has been encouraging a healthier and more active lifestyle by providing ample space to exercise within its borders as well as hosting events



to deliver significantly sustainable, social, environmental, and economic impact for the Sultanate of Oman.

It is continually working towards finding viable ways to decrease resource use, emissions, and pollution, as well as measures to protect coastal and maritime biodiversity.

Practical measures are deployed to protect and conserve the environment throughout the design, construction and operational phases of the destination, in line with ESO's objectives.

Natural heritage

"Sport has the power to unite the community towards a collective goal. We are incredibly proud to support just some of the very good causes in operation within the nation and use Oman's most iconic sporting event to raise awareness of the important programs underway to maintain Oman's natural heritage and make a long-term positive contribution to creating opportunities for the wellbeing of the communities across the country," says Sayyid Aymen Al Busaidi, Vice Chairman of Sabco Group.

Registration is still open for the 5km and 10km runs, as well as the half marathon and full marathon.

such as the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon, which is an important step toward helping people's health and well-being of the nation, similar to the ethos of ODA.

Economic impact

Al Mouj Muscat continually seeks

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HOLY MONTH

Qarangasho cheer for children in Oman after a two-year hiatus

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Children in Oman once again celebrated Qarangasho, a sacred event considered an integral part of Ramadan.

A social tradition that takes place in the middle of Ramadan, Qarangasho is celebrated across many wilayats in Oman, as well as other Gulf countries. Both people within and outside Oman also refer to this festival as Gargea'an.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of measures were taken in Oman that limited the people's ability to meet each other or gather in larger numbers or stay outdoors, as was the case in other countries around the world.

Owing to these measures, children were unable to celebrate the beloved custom of Qarangasho.

However, with the severity of the disease declining in March 2022, a number of features of Ramadan have been revived.

Children were eagerly waiting to celebrate Qarangasho this year, making preparations by buying new clothes and going out in groups to other people's homes where adults offer them sweets, nuts and small amounts of money to spread cheer during Ramadan.

The event traditionally takes place on the 14th or 15th day of Ramadan and can occur either after the evening Maghrib prayer, or after the Tarawih or Isha prayers.

Although the gifts and sweets received at the people's homes may vary greatly, the children are happy to get them and happily show and share them with the rest of their family members.

Qarangasho represents many key aspects of Arab traditions: It encourages communication and interaction, enables children to develop good qualities, teaches group dynamics and teamwork and also fosters respect for ancient cultures as this is a festival that has been



passed down through generations since ancient times.

The event is referred to by different names in various parts of Oman. "We call it Qarangasho, which is the common name used to refer to it across Oman," said Mohammed Al Hasani from Muscat.

"Where we come from, it is called Touq," said Fatima Al Balushi from Sohar in North Batinah. "It refers to the sound of knocking at doors to get sweets, gifts and money."

"Locally, we refer to it as Ham-bakar and usually celebrate it after the Tarawih prayers," said Abdul Karim Al Saeedi from Khabourah.

"Children come out of their homes wearing new clothes, chant certain traditional phrases and knock on doors to get sweets and gifts. Families also celebrate the occasion by placing decorations and treats for children," he further added.

In the Wilayat of Saham in North Al Batinah, Omar Al Badi said, "this occasion is referred to

as Eid Hallak, referring to the Eid of the dead. We name it so, because here, every family slaughters chickens and cooks the meat with rice or makes a traditional dish called harees, which is distributed to the needy. To us, this represents a method of charity for the souls who have departed from their families. In some areas of the wilayat, it takes place two days before Eid, following the afternoon prayer, but in other locations, it occurs on the 14th or 15th day of Ramadan."

FOCUS ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

New issue of Scientific Insights published

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) published the 34th issue of Scientific Insights magazine, which explored a number of different reports and articles in the fields of science and innovation.

For the 34th issue, the cover story of Scientific Insights dived into the topic of future jobs and the modern world.

It demonstrated how the pace of the world affected the nature of jobs, and the way people should adjust and prepare for the skills and qualifications of the jobs of the future. The cover story presented different Omani specialists to share their insights on future jobs and provide a deeper understanding of how the Sultanate of Oman should take into consideration and pre-

pare for future jobs, illustrating the advantages and disadvantages, challenges, important statistics and other details in regard to future jobs.

Winning research project

This issue also examined one of the winning research projects of the 8th National Research Award that developed technical solutions for cloud services and created a central electronic system that searches for offers available in various websites of different service providers for those seeking cloud services.

In addition to the centralised cloud services repository study, a research study on mapping road traffic crash hotspots using GIS-based methods in Muscat was also included in this Scientific Insights issue alongside the findings and recommendations of the research project.

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

39,749 REACH

Restaurants, cafes and several other service providers are included in the decision.



Story on businesses obligated to provide e-payment services

A story on places in Oman being obligated to provide e-payment services reached 39,749 people and had 3,029 link clicks on Facebook.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

2,300 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute news wrap-up in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute news wrap-up in Hindi had 2,300 views and reached 14,500 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

485 VIEWS



Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video had 485 views and 26 likes on Instagram.



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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:34 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:11 pm
Asr	3:38 pm
Maghrib	6:34 pm
Isha	7:48 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:23 am





» IFTAR RECIPE



CHICKEN PESTO SOUP

- INGREDIENTS
- 1 pound of skinless and boneless chicken breasts (sliced into one inch pieces)
 - Extra virgin olive oil
 - Pepper (1/4 teaspoon)
 - Minced up garlic (1 1/2 teaspoon)
 - Sea salt (1/2 a teaspoon)
 - Dried oregano (1/2 a teaspoon)
 - Spinach pesto (1/2 a cup)
 - Diced up tomatoes (1 can)
 - Rinsed and drained cannellini beans (1 can)
 - Diced up and roasted bell peppers (1/3 a cup)
 - Chicken broth (2 liters)
 - Chicken seasoning (1 1/2 teaspoons)

- PREPARATION
- To begin you must take a stockpot and prepare it. You place it upon the stove and set the stove temperature to medium heat.
 - Next you warm some olive oil in the pot, add garlic, the sliced chicken breasts, and the seasoning. Then you let it sauté for around 8 minutes, and once the chicken breasts become light brown you add the bell peppers.
 - Once you have the bell peppers in on the mixture you must carefully add the chicken broth to it. Also add the cannellini beans, the diced tomatoes and the spinach pesto.
 - Stir it up for a bit as you add flavour using sea salt, pepper and oregano. Let the mixture simmer for around 20 minutes in medium heat, stir a bit more and then serve.
 - You can also add basil or parmesan cheese as garnish if you wish, it adds a special something to the recipe.
 - This is enough for around 4 servings.-articlecity

» FASTING HEALTH TIP

AVOID FOOD WITH HIGH SALT CONTENT

Heart patients who are fasting should eat their Iftar at regular intervals, and avoid food with high fat and salt content. Patients should also consult their doctors for all serious conditions, in order to arrange medicine dosage and timings.

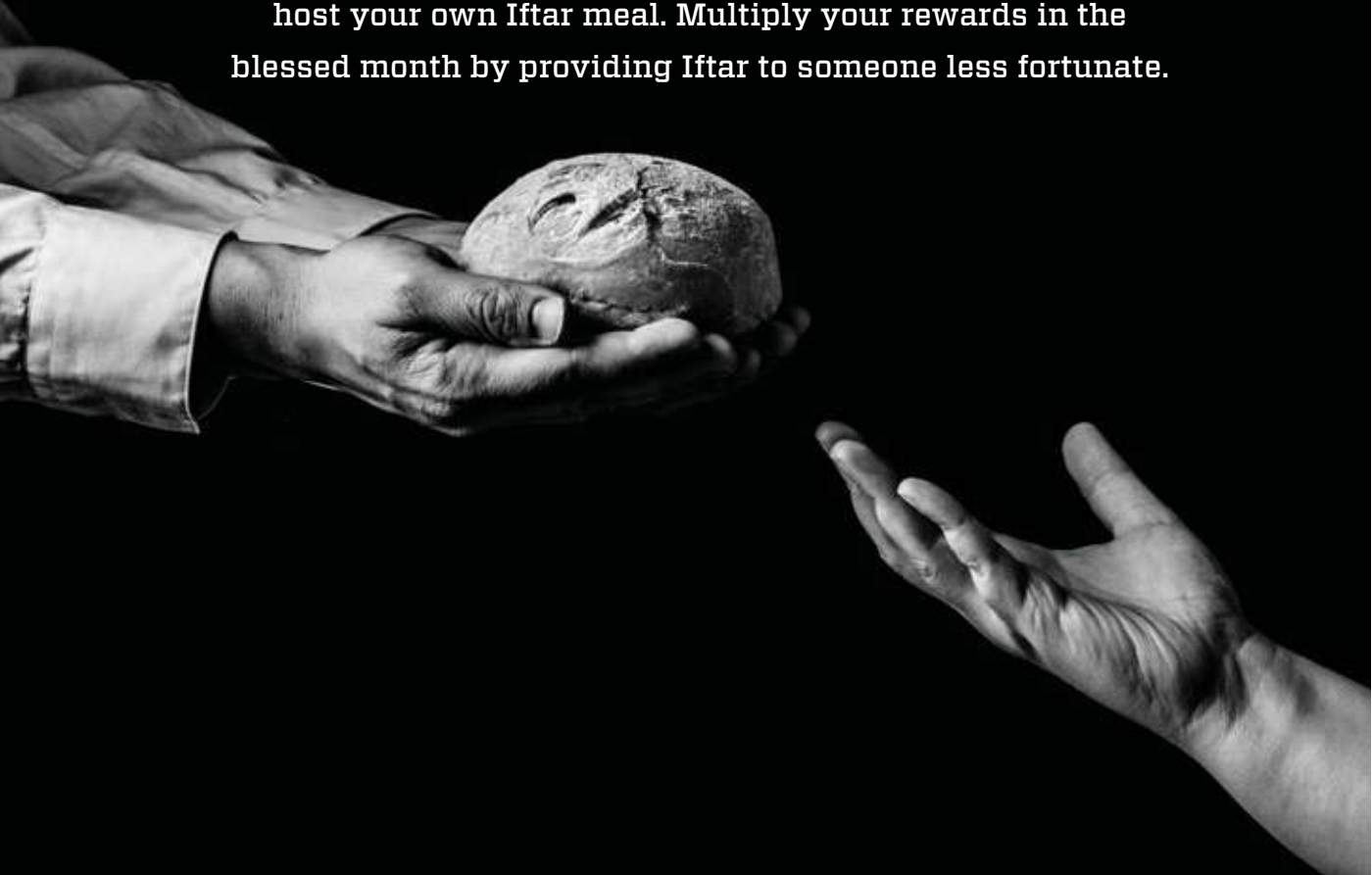


» GOOD DEEDS

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‘Whoever feeds a person breaking his fast will earn the same reward as him, without anything being lessened from the reward of the fasting person.’

If you know a friend who is alone during Ramadan, invite him to join you for Iftar. Ramadan is a time for bringing people together and sharing the blessings of Allah. If you are alone during the Holy Month, find others who are likewise separated from family, and host your own Iftar meal. Multiply your rewards in the blessed month by providing Iftar to someone less fortunate.





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STUDENT OF SQU

Researcher gets intellectual property rights for mobile app



BASED ON GAMIFICATION: The researcher also obtained finance from the Research Council. — ONA

MUSCAT: Huda bint Ali Al Hosni, a Phd student from the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) obtained the Intellectual Property rights from the National Bureau of Intellectual Property at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for its research project in the form of a mobile application called 'Dr. Science'.

The project is based on Gamification. The researcher also obtained a research finance from the Research Council.

The application is formed from a number of Gamification Mechanisms, such as medals, challenges leaderboard and points store. The application comprises a number of sections on implementation of scientific experiments in the classroom and at home.

The application also comprises a section on acquisition of scientific concepts through playing in a serial of challenges simulating the famous Mario game.

The student can enter a number of challenges and adventures without feeling bored and at the same time the student does his / her homework or the projects.

The students bags medals on accomplishment of a number of tasks. — ONA



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IFTAR BOXES DELIVERED



People stand in queues to receive their Iftar boxes from flower delivery company Floward as part of its social responsibility drive during the Holy Month.

— Photos: K Purusothaman



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Sale of Al Kamil Power Plant Equipment

Al Kamil Power Company SAOG (under liquidation) is offering for sale all the Plant equipment as part of winding down its business operations in the Sultanate of Oman, with preference given to buyers interested in purchasing the entire plant either for continuing operations in Oman or dismantling the equipment and transporting it to their own jurisdiction for their own use. To the extent that a buyer for the entire plant cannot be found, the equipment will be sold at the best price offered.

The Plant comprises of three (3) General Electric Frame 9171E gas turbines designed for operation in open cycle configuration, together with related ancillary equipment required for a fully independent operation. Turbines are also designed to run on both natural gas and light distillate fuel oil. Gas is supplied through a pipeline from Oman Gas Network, while light distillate is transported by road tankers to the site.

The entire plant and individual equipment items are being offered for sale on an "as is where is" basis, with bid prices to be submitted to the Company no later than May 23, 2022.

Tender documents which include further detailed information and data about the power assets can be obtained by downloading the Tender Document from the Company's website at:

<http://www.alkamilpower.com/Tenders/Tender.pdf>



The bid price for all or some part of the equipment shall be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Al Kamil Power Company SAOG (under liquidation)
Office No. 53G, Landmark Building, 5th Floor (Located Opposite Al Amine Mosque and next to Fraser Suites Hotel) Bousher, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

View of Three Gas Turbines



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UKRAINE CRISIS

Several killed as five powerful missiles hit Ukraine's Lviv city

KYIV: Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi said that five "powerful" missiles struck the city and that emergency services were responding to the blasts. He said more details would follow.

Sadovyi said seven people were killed and 12 wounded in overnight missile strikes. Regional governor Maksym Kozystkiy said three missiles hit military infrastructure facilities and one struck a car tire replacement facility.

Lviv has been considered a safe haven as it is relatively less affected by the fighting than other parts of Ukraine. Local authorities have also reported explosions in the Ukrainian southern region of Dnipropetrovsk.

Russian, Ukrainian videos suggest 'prisoner swap'

Two alleged British fighters captured in Ukraine appeared on Russian state TV and asked to be



exchanged for pro-Moscow politician and businessman Viktor Medvedchuk, who is being held by Ukrainian authorities.

The two men spoke after being prompted by an unidentified man.

Tens of thousands of international fighters have volunteered with Ukraine's armed forces since the start of Russia's invasion.

Medvedchuk was recaptured by Ukrainian forces last week. He

had been detained on suspicion of treason until February, when Ukrainian authorities said he had escaped.

Also on Monday, Ukraine's security service released a video showing Medvedchuk asking Russian President Vladimir Putin to exchange him for the evacuation of people trapped in Mariupol.

Both Russia and Ukraine have been criticized for publishing im-

ages and videos of prisoners of war as it is considered a violation of the Geneva Convention.

More than 5 million flee Ukraine: UN

More than 4.9 million citizens of Ukraine have fled the country following Russia's invasion, the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) said.

UNHCR said nearly 215,000 nationals of other countries residing in Ukraine have also fled.

Women and children account for 90 percent of those who escaped. Nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children have been forced from their homes.

"Refugees from Ukraine, the vast majority women and children, face increased risks of sexual exploitation, abuse and human trafficking," UNHCR said.

UNHCR estimated that 7.1 people have been internally displaced within Ukraine. **AW**



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

SHOOTING INCIDENT

One man killed, 3 teens injured in Portland

PORTLAND: One man died and three minors were injured as a result of a shooting incident in the US city of Portland, the Portland Police Bureau said.

"On Sunday, April 17, 2022, officers from the East Precinct were dispatched to a report of a shooting in the 500 block of

Southeast 162nd Avenue. When officers arrived they located a male who was deceased and three juvenile males who had also been shot," the police said. The three injured individuals were taken to the nearest hospitals, one of them in a life-threatening condition, the statement added. **ANI**

SILENT ASSAULT

One fifth of humanity could face poverty, hunger resulting from Ukraine crisis: UN chief

NEW YORK: The Ukraine crisis could plunge more than one fifth of humanity, or up to 1.7 billion people, into poverty and hunger, according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"We all see the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine. But beyond its borders, the war has launched a silent assault on the developing world. The crisis could plunge up to 1.7 billion people, more than a fifth of humanity, into poverty and hunger on a scale not seen in decades," Guterres said in an interview with the Czech Seznam Zpravy publication, published on Sunday. Ukraine and Russia account for 30 per cent of world production of wheat and barley, a fifth of all corn and more than half of all sunflower oil, Guterres said, specifying that Russia and Ukraine account for over a third of the wheat imported to the 45 least developed countries.

The UN Secretary-General said that the Ukraine crisis is blocking grain exports and disrupting supply chains, causing prices



to skyrocket. Since the start of 2022, wheat and corn prices have gone up by 30 per cent, Brent crude oil prices have risen by more than 60 per cent, while gas and fertilizer prices have more than doubled.

Guterres called for global reforms that would change the world's financial system "that makes the rich richer, and the poor poorer."

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on

Thursday that the Ukraine conflict will downgrade forecasts for 143 economies this year, which collectively make up 86 per cent of the world's GDP.

The chiefs of the IMF, the World Bank, the World Food Program (WFP), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) issued a joint statement on Wednesday calling for urgent, coordinated action to address food security amid the fallout of the Ukraine crisis, which is adding to the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **ANI**

REOPEN SCHOOLS

Women in Afghanistan call on Taliban to reopen girls' schools

KABUL: A number of women in Kabul have urged the Taliban to reopen schools for girls above grade six, local media reported.

The call was made at a protest held by the Junbish Khodjosh Zanan Afghanistan, TOLOnews reported. "Here a generation is deprived of its basic human rights. A generation of women is deprived of rights to education, work and social activities," said Monsia Mubariz, a women's rights activist, according to TOLO news.

"The closing of girls' schools shows the Taliban's lack of commitment to their promise," said Zakia Zahat, another activist.

This comes as the Ministry of Education said it is optimistic about efforts to reopen schools for girls in grades 7-12. Aziz Ahmad Riyan, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, said that the leadership of the Islamic Emirate has shown the green light for the reopening of girls' schools, TOLOnews reported.

Meanwhile, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mette Knudsen, in a meeting with Chairman of Afghan Senate Fazal Hadi Muslimyar pressed for representative governance, the need for dialogue at all levels, and access to educa-

tion for girls and boys in Afghanistan. Knudsen also held a discussion with Muslimyar over the role of the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

During the meeting with Muslimyar, UNAMA's deputy head discussed representative governance and the need for dialogue at all levels.

Earlier, during a briefing of the Diplomatic Corps on April 6, Knudsen highlighted that the Taliban's decision to ban girls from attending secondary schools has negatively impacted the attitude of the global community towards them. **ANI**

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Ramadan Iftar Program

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WORLD



FRANCE ELECTIONS

Le Pen faces embezzlement claims ahead of election runoff

PARIS: With a week to go before far-right candidate Marine Le Pen squares off against incumbent Emmanuel Macron in the presidential election runoff, the nationalist politician faces a potential embezzlement scandal.

On Sunday, Paris prosecutors told the DPA news agency they were studying the accusations against Le Pen and her party contained in a report from the European Union's anti-fraud office OLAF. Separately, a source in the European Parliament told the AFP news agency that the parliament will try to recover the money owed by Marine le Pen.

OLAF indicates that the nationalist politician embezzled nearly €137,000 (\$148,000) in EU funds when she was a lawmaker in the European Parliament between 2004 and 2017.

The agency alleged that Le Pen and others used the EU funds for national political purposes, personal expenses or services that would benefit commercial companies close to her Rassemblement National (National Rally) party.

The funds were also allegedly used by the former far-right group in the European Parliament, Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF).

The report also names three former lawmakers from Le Pen's party — her father Jean-Marie, her former partner Louis Aliot, and the party's former vice president Bruno Gollnisch.

The three are said to have embezzled a total of €486,000, redirecting it for for national policy purposes or to support service providers that are close to the party.

None are accused of profiting directly. Part of the OLAF reports was published Saturday by Mediapart, the investigative news site.

Le Pen's lawyer Rodolphe Bosselet, who is quoted in the Mediapart report, denied the accusations, raising suspicions over the "timing" of the report.

He said the presidential hopeful reserved the right to take legal action against anyone linked to the party who may have committed misconduct without her knowledge. The attorney added that Le Pen "has not been summoned by any French judicial authority" and slammed the failure to send him or his client the final OLAF report. **dw**

ONGOING PROTESTS

Sri Lanka's President drops 3 relatives in new Cabinet amid protests



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed a new Cabinet on Monday in a move seen as an attempt to pacify ongoing protests that have called for his resignation.

The president removed two of his brothers and a nephew from the Cabinet, but kept his older brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, as prime minister.

The Cabinet resigned en masse on April 3, after protesters targeted the homes of certain ministers.

The political crisis was sparked by rising costs of essential goods which many put down to mishandling by the government — especially the president and his powerful family.

Basil Rajapaksa, the former finance minister and Gotabaya's younger brother, as well as the president's eldest brother Chamal, did not make the cut for the new 21-member Cabinet — which has seven fewer members than the previous one.

Namal Rajapaksa, the eldest son of the prime minister, and thus the nephew of the president,

The political crisis was sparked by rising costs of essential goods which many put down to mishandling by the government — especially the president and his powerful family

Opposition parties have rejected an offer to form a coalition unity government, but do not control enough seats to force a change of power.

Sri Lanka's financial and economic crisis

Sri Lanka is on the brink of bankruptcy and a lack of foreign currency reserves means that importing foreign goods has become very difficult.

Inflation has also reached a record high and the financial problems are compounding economic woes as a lack of imported fuel has led to countrywide blackouts.

The government has been preparing for talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss acquiring a bailout for the country's foreign debt of \$51 billion (€47.25 billion).

The country announced a default on that debt last week and is seeking \$3 to \$4 billion to sort out its balance-of-payments problem and to acquire foreign currency reserves again. **dw**

COVID CASES

India reports 90% jump in daily COVID count, 2,183 new infections in 24 hours

NEW DELHI: After a steady decline in new COVID cases for the past several weeks following the third surge in January-February this year mainly due to the Omicron variant, India's daily COVID infections witnessed a jump of 89.8 per cent on Monday from Sunday's 1,150 cases and reported 2,183 fresh cases in the last 24 hours.

According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the daily case positivity rate also saw a sudden rise from 0.31 per cent (on Sunday) to 0.83 per cent (on Monday). The weekly positivity rate saw an uptick from 0.27 per cent (on Sunday) to 0.32 (on Monday).

However, with the recovery of 1,985 COVID patients in the last 24 hours, the active cases saw a minor decline to 11,542 which account for 0.03 per cent of the total cases.

The total number of recoveries in the country since the onset of the pandemic stands at 4,25,10,773. The recovery rate remained at 98.76 per cent. The death toll due to COVID-19 climbed to 5,21,965.

As many as 2,61,440 COVID samples were tested in the coun-



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Team FC wins Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five qualifiers

Real Madrid take huge step to La Liga title

The players of both teams showed remarkable performances in the final match with FC team coming out victorious in the end

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After exciting qualifiers and football matches in the unique Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five style, the FC team succeeded in "outplaying them" all and winning the five-a-side Omani football championship and has qualified for the world finals hosted by Qatar for the first time.

The tournament of speed, excitement, and suspense returned to Oman to give fans of the most popular game in the Sultanate and the world the chance to showcase their football skills, with two qualifiers and a final in Muscat and Sohar. The local qualifiers were



held in partnership with Red Bull MOBILE, Oman FM, Fitness Destination, and Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar.

Special Omani skills

After amazing matches that reflected the Omani football enthusiasts' distinguished skills, both on an individual and collective level, teams FC and Samba succeeded in making it to the final match of the Oman national final, which was held at Al-Tareef Club Sports Field

on April 15. The players of both teams showed remarkable performances in the final match that fanned the flames of the crowd's enthusiasm before FC team came out victorious in the end.

The Oman qualifiers were held over the course of two stages in Muscat on April 8 and Sohar on April 14, with the best teams qualifying for the national final. Throughout the competitions in Oman this year, dozens of teams consisting of five players com-

peted in matches with no goalkeepers and that last ten minutes or until one team loses all its players. The rule that distinguishes the Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five tournament is that the team that scores a goal gets to choose a player from the other team to eliminate from the match. This made the competitions require speed and urgency to score at the very beginning, while simultaneously maintaining vigilance at the defense level to avoid yield-

ing a goal and giving the opposing team a clear advantage.

All roads lead to Qatar

With victory in the Oman national final, the champion team qualified to represent the Sultanate alongside last year's champion team in the Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five tournament's 'Super Final' in Qatar, where players will have the opportunity to play with Neymar himself and his team. The Oman champions expressed their enthusiasm at representing the Sultanate in the best way in Qatar, striving to score honorable results, and even trying to win to face Neymar himself. The world's largest five-a-side football tournament will witness a final that will be the most elaborate yet. This year's event, hosted by Qatar for the first time, will see an unprecedented addition: all teams that qualified for the final canceled in 2021 due to global health restrictions will come back to participate in the Doha finals.

The teams that have already qualified will be joined by a whole new group of winners from the various local qualifiers around the world, making this tournament the largest ever. Another first this event will witness is the exciting "derby" matches, where two teams from the same country can go head to head.

MADRID: Real Madrid took a massive step towards assuring this season's La Liga title with an excellent second-half fight back to win 3-2 away to Sevilla, giving them a 15-point lead at the top. Sevilla looked to be on the way to a win which would have given them and FC Barcelona a glimmer of hope in their efforts to close the gap, when first Ivan Rakitic's free-kick and then Erik Lamela's finish put them 2-0 ahead at half-time.

Real Madrid improved drastically after the break with Rodrygo pulling a goal back five minutes into the second half.

Carlo Ancelotti's side then took control of the game, but it wasn't until the 82nd minute that they were level when Nacho Fernandez hit a first-time finish after Sevilla failed to deal with a corner.

Karim Benzema then won the game for Real in the second minute of injury-time, after Vinicius and Rodrygo set him up to score from inside the Sevilla area. Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid beat Espanyol 2-1 after a controversial penalty scored by Yannick Carrasco with the last kick of the game, after the referee decided that the ball had hit Espanyol striker Raul de Tomas on his elbow. **ANI**

LE MANS SERIES

Strong fightback planned after superb Ricard qualifying from Ahmad Al Harthy

Times News Service

PARIS: Circuit Paul Ricard front-row qualifier Ahmad Al Harthy didn't have the opportunity to battle as intended for an opening round GTE podium during the European Le Mans Series curtain-raiser on 17 April, when team-mate Sam De Haan was barged into retirement on the very first lap.

Following a sensational performance by Oman Racing's Al Harthy in his maiden ELMS qualifying session on Saturday afternoon at the French track, hopes were justifiably high of a very strong challenge for silverware during race one of the season - the 4 Hours of Le Castellet.

Things began well when the race got underway at 11.00 local time, with British driver De Haan maintaining second position off the start in the black and silver



No.69 Aston Martin Vantage GTE and then taking the GTE race lead.

At the end of lap one, though, a multi-car tangle at the final corner among the LMP3 class contenders resulted in the Oman Racing car receiving hard contact to the front-right. Forcing De Haan off the track with broken steering, retirement was all but instantaneous.

Although managing to rejoin the track, albeit a long way down

the GTE order, the damage meant De Haan had no option but to park the Aston Martin at the side of the track on the start/finish straight and begin the season with a bitterly disappointing retirement through no fault of his own.

"It's really unfortunate what happened in the race", said a disappointed Al Harthy, "After we had taken the lead, an LMP3 car just completely lost control and contact was made on the front-right of our car which broke the

steering arm. From there we had to retire the car. Sam did a great job with the start, he did a great job gaining the lead and everything was going as planned.

"Our strategy was very solid, based on our race runs in testing and practice, and we did learn a lot over the last week at Paul Ricard testing and analysing the car. We have some time to get back and re-prep for Imola now but from what we've seen in qualifying here, the car was really strong and our pace as a team is really strong. I'm really looking forward to all of that materialising in round two."

While the dejection of the outcome to round one of the ELMS season will take time to process, double GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup Pro-Am Champion Al Harthy already has his sights fixed on race two of the season at Imola in Italy which will take place on Sunday, 15th May.



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CRICKET

Qurum Stars win Danube Ramadan cricket tourney

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The final of Forbes Ramadan Cricket Tournament was held on April 17, 2022.

In an exciting final, Qurum Stars defeated Kala Cosco by 3 runs and won the Danube Ramadan Cricket Tournament organised by Al Hail Cricket Team. Qurum Stars captain Vishal Desai won the toss and selected to bat first. Qurum Stars went on to score 56 runs in the stipulated 8 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Waseem top scored with 19 runs and other useful contribution came from Mubin with 16

runs and Imran with 6 runs.

For Kala Cosco, Omar Mahmood took 2 wickets giving away 7 runs. In reply, Kala Cosco could make 53 in 8 overs losing 4 wickets. Eshan was the top scorer with 20 runs while Rubin from Qurum Stars was the pick of the bowlers destroying the Kala Cosco top line.

Rubin ended with 1 wicket for 8 runs and got useful support from Imran 1 wicket for 4 runs and Kamran 1 wickets for 15 runs. Mubin was declared man of the match for his match winning 16 runs, while Waseem Abbas of Kala Cosco was declared man of the tournament.



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2022 reaching \$108.08, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.72 from the price of Thursday, which was \$105.36. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,253.65 points, down by 0.11 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.14 per cent at 483.1 points. Al Madina Investments, up 8.33 per cent, was the top gainer while, Voltamp Energy, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser.

Agreements worth OMR13.4mn inked



USUFRUCT AGREEMENTS: The pacts were signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Sheikh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, Chairman of Blue Waters' Board of Directors. - OMA



The agreements came within the framework of the ministry's efforts in expanding fish farming projects which contribute to increasing local fish products, as well as providing job opportunities for Omani youth

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Blue Waters company signed two land development

(usufruct) agreements worth OMR13.4 million. The first agreement is related to tuna dieting, while the second

agreement is on finfish farming.

The agreements were signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Sheikh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, Chairman of Blue Waters' Board of Directors.

Al Habsi said that the agreements came within the framework of the ministry's efforts in expanding fish farming projects which contribute to increasing local fish products, as well as providing job opportunities for Omani youth. Those projects will also boost the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The usufruct agreement for the tuna dieting project is considered a new initiative on the global

level. It targets international markets that import high-quality tuna. As per this agreement, the production capacity is expected to reach 400 tonnes for the first phase, while the future expansion will increase the production to 2,000 tonnes. The project, worth OMR4.8 million, will be set up on a total area of 193 hectares.

The finfish farming project will expand its capacity from 3,000 tonnes to reach 5,000 tonnes. As per this agreement, the project will be expanded by developing a new marine area in the Wilayat of Quriyat on a total area of 3.75 million square metres to the tune of OMR8.6 million. -OMA

CELEBRATIONS



Mall of Muscat celebrates third anniversary by spreading message of peace and joy

MUSCAT: Oman's most luxurious mall, Mall of Muscat uniquely celebrated its third anniversary by inviting school children to come and release doves as a symbol of peace and joy.

The mall management reinforced its commitment to offering every visitor a unique and memorable shopping experience. The staff and management of the mall were present to participate in this glorious occasion for the mall.

The credit of the sustained success of the mall is attributed to the close collaboration and common vision with the key stakeholders of the mall including the valued tenants. Festivities on the anniversary day included lots of fun activities for the family and a first in Oman Live Mermaid Show in collaboration with Oman Aquarium which is also celebrating its third anniversary.

Marking this great occasion, Mall of Muscat has launched a 2-month long campaign 'Mall of Muscat Festival' comprising Shop, Spin and Win Sales Promotion, Weekend Night Bazaar, Free Kids Activities and enter-

Marking this great occasion, Mall of Muscat has launched a two-month long campaign 'Mall of Muscat Festival'

tainment including Kids Foosball in addition to various offers and discounts across the mall.

Since its launch in 2019, Mall of Muscat has continuously enhanced the shopping experience in Oman to outstanding levels cementing the Mall's position as Oman's most luxurious mall. It encompasses more than 100 world-class retail, lifestyle, dining, entertainment, and leisure experiences in one genuinely great destination with sophistication and elegance.

INDIAN EQUITIES

Sensex slumps 1,172 points; Infosys records worst slump in two years

MUMBAI: The Indian equities markets key indices, Sensex and Nifty, slumped by around 2 per cent on Monday making investors poorer by around Rs 4 lakh crore as IT and banking stocks crashed after the sectoral heavyweights, Infosys and HDFC Bank, announced disappointing financial results.

The 30 stock S&P BSE Sensex tanked 1172.19 points or 2.01 per cent to 57,166.74 points against its previous session's close at 58,338.93 points. After four days of holiday, the Sensex started trading on Monday sharply down at 57,338.58 points and slumped to a low of 56,842.39 points in the intra-day.

This is the fourth consecutive day of slump in the key indices. The Sensex had lost 237.44 points or 0.41 per cent on Wednesday, the last trading day.

The broader Nifty 50 of the National Stock Exchange crashed 302 points or 1.73 per cent to 17,173.65 points against its previous session's close at 17,475.65 points. The Nifty opened sharply down at 17,183.45 points and dipped to a low of 17,067.85 points in the intra-day.

There was heavy selling pressure in IT stocks. Infosys crashed 7.27 per cent to Rs 1621.45. This is the steepest single day fall in Infosys share price in two years.

Tech Mahindra slumped 4.69 per cent to Rs 1344.25. Wipro tanked 3.67 per cent to Rs 538.75. TCS slumped 3.63 per cent to Rs 3528.45. HCL Technologies slumped 1.99 per cent to Rs 1102.75. -ANI

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MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Al Madina Investments, up 8.33 per cent, was the top gainer while, Voltamp Energy, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,253.65 points, down by 0.11 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.14 per cent at 483.1 points.

Al Madina Investments, up 8.33 per cent, was the top gainer while, Voltamp Energy, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman Fisheries were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Al Anwar Ceramics was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 693 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR 2.28 million, with more than 13.66 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 13 advanced, 15 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR92,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR25,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,743.89 points, down 0.27 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman Qatar Insurance, Bank Nizwa, Oman United Insurance, and United Finance were up

by 8.33 per cent, 2.99 per cent, 2.08 per cent, 1.11 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, Global Financial Investments, Ominvest, Oman Arab Bank and Bank Muscat were down by 4.62 per cent, 2.6 per cent, 1.86 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 1.46 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,098.37 points, up 0.32 per cent. Prices of Oman Fisheries, National Aluminum, Jazeera Steel Products, Al Maha Ceramics and Oman Flour Mills were up by 7.92 per cent, 1.18 per cent, 1.05 per cent, 0.77 per cent and 0.59 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy were the only loser down by 9.09 per cent.

Services Index was up by 0.02 per cent before closing at 1,670.07 points. Prices of OIFC and Al Maha Marketing Shares were up by 2.58 per cent and 0.58 per cent respectively.

Prices of Sohar Power, Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, National Gas and Al Jazeera Services were down by 6.82 per cent, 2.0 per cent, 2.0 per cent, 0.71 per cent and 0.35 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES									
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %			
MSX 30 INDEX	4,259.86	4,246.55	4,253.65	4,258.46	-4.81	-0.11			
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,762.40	6,731.50	6,743.89	6,761.87	-17.99	-0.27			
Industry Index	6,102.38	6,071.33	6,098.36	6,079.07	19.29	0.32			
Services Index	1,670.48	1,663.84	1,670.07	1,669.72	0.35	0.02			
MSX Shariah Index	483.69	482.75	483.10	482.40	0.69	0.14			
MSX TR INDEX	5,366.07	5,349.31	5,358.25	5,364.31	-6.06	-0.11			
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,070.12	7,037.81	7,050.76	7,069.57	-18.81	-0.27			
SERVICES TR IDX	1,721.37	1,714.53	1,720.59	1,720.59	0.36	0.02			
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,333.25	6,301.02	6,329.08	6,309.06	20.02	0.32			

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
13,661,860	2,279,881	693	22,347,433,169	13	15	20	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, APRIL 18

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST MD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM00000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	690,445	147,856	46	0.156	0.160	0.156	0.159	0.155	0.004	2.581	0.160	0.159	0.160	0.100	37,683,000
OM00000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	28,408	10,347	7	0.364	0.366	0.364	0.364	0.360	0.004	1.111	0.366	0.364	0.366	0.100	36,400,000
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	20,702	7,950	7	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.380	0.004	1.053	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.100	47,960,817
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	684,500	359,264	37	0.528	0.528	0.522	0.524	0.520	0.004	0.769	0.526	0.520	0.526	0.100	28,820,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	107,600	73,027	12	0.672	0.680	0.672	0.680	0.676	0.004	0.592	0.676	0.676	0.680	0.100	107,100,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA MARKTING	38,894	26,854	12	0.692	0.692	0.684	0.692	0.688	0.004	0.581	0.692	0.684	0.692	0.100	47,748,000
OM00000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,312	224	1	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.169	0.171	0.100	34,200,000
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	395,200	28,916	20	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.072	0.075	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	748,558	177,222	30	0.236	0.238	0.236	0.237	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.237	0.237	0.238	0.100	78,416,832
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	257,985	22,451	31	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.082	0.088	0.100	17,400,000
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	871,140	401,341	41	0.464	0.466	0.458	0.460	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.462	0.444	0.462	0.100	101,200,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,450	3,969	2	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.896	0.896	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.868	0.892	0.100	672,000,000
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	8,850	3,983	3	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.450	0.442	0.458	0.100	106,384,500
OM00000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	987,380	112,081	22	0.113	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.112	0.114	0.100	340,697,101
OM00000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	21,500	6,146	5	0.284	0.286	0.284	0.286	0.287	-0.001	-0.348	0.286	0.286	0.290	0.100	17,504,422
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	16,972	2,376	2	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.141	-0.001	-0.709	0.140	0.139	0.155	0.100	11,900,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	10,000	1,170	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.123	0.100	228,109,924
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	292,541	274,229	21	0.093	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	8,460,000
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	115,775	62,517	25	0.540	0.540	0.538	0.540	0.548	-0.008	-1.460	0.540	0.538	0.540	0.100	202,026,727,207
OM00000001533	OMINVEST	12,872	4,068	3	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.322	-0.006	-1.863	0.316	0.316	0.320	0.100	211,203,475
Total	20	5,555,094	1,479,189	328												
Parallel Market																
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INV	730,281	47,298	46	0.061	0.066	0.061	0.065	0.060	0.005	8.333	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.100	5,261,518
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,213,864	131,817	58	0.101	0.111	0.101	0.109	0.101	0.008	7.821	0.111	0.100	0.111	0.100	13,625,000
OM00000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	232,919	48,234	23	0.206	0.210	0.206	0.207	0.201	0.006	2.985	0.208	0.206	0.216	0.100	20,700,000
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	81,959	86,208	39	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.096	0.002	2.083	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.100	219,221,397
OM00000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD	50,900	4,377	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.178	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	2,887,145
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	935,000	93,147	20	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.098	0.104	0.100	34,914,441
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	128,689	27,002	8	0.209	0.214	0.209	0.210	0.209	0.001	0.478	0.212	0.210	0.214	0.100	341,448,735
OM00000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	165,035	18,134	11	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,000	150	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.100	4,470,000
OM00000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	818,074	92,442	21	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.100	226,035,345
OM00000001081	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	218,500	19,040	15	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	10,603,125
OM0000002581	TAGHER FINANCE	459	46	2	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.093	0.100	0.100	25,866,180
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	604,727	58,404	10	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	19,689,685
OM00000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	100,000	4,150	3	0.040	0.043	0.040	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.041	0.043	0.100	8,384,695
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	31,634	1,370	2	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	33,720,317
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	1,987	238	3	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	19,199,397
OM00000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	300	20	1	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.000	0.064	0.100	14,445,600
OM00000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	125,000	15,500	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.125	-0.001	-0.800	0.124	0.113	0.125	0.100	67,112,576
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	91,500	8,826	14	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	16,800,000
OM00000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	86,381	11,048	6	0.128	0.128	0.125	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.125	0.126	0.130	0.100	213,684,480
OM00000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	58,006	2,831	3	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.050	-0.001	-2.000	0.049	0.049	0.051	0.100	33,069,484
OM0000005980	PHILIPINE POWER	341,586	16,839	14	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.050	-0.001	-2.000	0.050	0.050	0.052	0.100	7,667,418
OM00000003125	GLOBAL INV H	1,138,500	85,388	39	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.077	-0.002	-2.597	0.075	0.074	0.078	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	40,000	7,450	3	0.190	0.190	0.185	0.186	0.195	-0.009	-4.615	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.100	18,600,000
OM00000003711	SOHAR POWER	14,658	601	4	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.044	-0.003	-6.818	0.041	0.041	0.043	0.100	9,061,410
OM0000003861	VOLTAMP ENERGY	79,203	7,929	11	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.110	-0.010	-9.091	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	5,140,275
Total	26	8,090,274	788,788	361												

OMINVEST

NEW REPORT

‘Strategic Management Process’ programme empowers employees

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To enable a qualified workforce and build employee capacities, Ominvest recently held a ‘Strategic Management Process Programme’ that aims to equip trainees with the concepts and tools required to think strategically and translate actions into effective results.

The three-day programme was attended by nominated employees, introducing them to a ‘culture of thinking’ through interactive workshops and various practical and group exercises. The programme is a Chartered Management Institute recognised certification, which provides successful participants with a 12-month CMI membership.

AbdulAziz Al Balushi, Group CEO at Ominvest, said, “Investing in the training and development of our people enables us to remain competitive and build capacity around the latest practices. It also proves our commitment to devel-



oping the skills and expertise of our talents. Providing them with the right tools and skills to elevate performance, productivity and profitability ultimately mean a more impactful contribution to the value we create for all stakeholders.”

Al Balushi added, “We are extremely proud of the team we are building, with plans in place to consistently upskill and develop their capabilities. Our corporate purpose is “Transforming Businesses to Enrich Societies”, and there is no better area to start making a difference than the development and progress of our very

own people. ‘Excellence’ and ‘Collaboration’ are two of the important pillars in Ominvest’s five core corporate values, and we always devise strategies that sharpen our people’s expertise and give them the confidence to excel, while also engaging employees from Ominvest’s group companies.”

The top 10 performers of the recent programme will be invited to take part in an advanced version of the programme, receiving a more in-depth insight into the strategic management cycle, from assessment and analysis to strategy formulation and implementation.

Study finds less than one-third of IPOs in the GCC successful



HIGHLY CREATIVE PEOPLE'S BRAINS APPEAR TO WORK DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHERS

A new study has found that highly creative people appear to work differently than others, with their creativity makes them enjoy the work and they can do it quickly.

The findings of the study were published in the journal, 'Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts'.

Exceptionally creative visual artists and scientists — called "Big C" creative types — volunteered to undergo functional MRI brain imaging, giving researchers in psychiatry, behavioural sciences and psychology a look at how regions of the brain connected and interacted when called upon to perform tasks that put creative thinking to the test.

"Our results showed that highly creative people had unique brain connectivity that

tended to stay off the beaten path," said Ariana Anderson, a professor and statistician at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, the lead author of the study.

Although the concept of creativity has been studied for decades, little is known about its biological bases, and even less is understood about the brain mechanisms of exceptionally creative people, said senior author Robert Bilder, director of the Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity at the Semel Institute.

This uniquely designed study included highly creative people representing two different domains of creativity — visual arts and the sciences — and used an IQ-matched comparison group to identify markers of creativity, not just intelligence. The

researchers analysed how connections were made between brain regions globally and locally.

"Exceptional creativity was associated with more random connectivity at the global scale -- a pattern that is less 'efficient' but would appear helpful in linking distant brain nodes to each other," Bilder said.

"The patterns in more local brain regions varied, depending on whether people were performing tasks. Surprisingly, Big C creatives had more efficient local processing at rest, but less efficient local connectivity when performing a task demanding 'thinking outside the box,'" he added.

Using airline route maps for comparison, the researchers said the Big C creatives' brain activity is akin to skipping flights to connect-

ing hubs to get to a small city.

"In terms of brain connectivity, while everyone else is stuck in a three-hour layover at a major airport, the high creatives take private planes directly to a distant destination," Anderson said.

"This more random connectivity may be less efficient much of the time, but the architecture enables brain activity to 'take a road less travelled' and make novel connections," she added.

Bilder, who has more than 30 years of experience researching brain-behaviour relations, said, "The fact that Big C people had more efficient local brain connectivity, but only under certain conditions, may relate to their expertise. Consistent with some of our prior findings, they may not need to work as hard as other smart people to perform certain creative tasks." - ANI





ROUND-UP



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Bank Muscat supports Fak Kurba initiative for 5th consecutive year

This year's contribution by Bank Muscat will reunite 260 citizens with their families on the joyous occasion of Eid Al Fitr

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat has extended its support to the ninth edition of the 'Fak Kurba' project in line with its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and community service. The Fak Kurba initiative is organised by the Omani Lawyers Association in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development and the Council of Administrative Affairs of the Judiciary.

This year's contribution by Bank Muscat will reunite 260 citizens with their families on the joyous occasion of Eid Al Fitr. The bank has previously supported 826 humanitarian cases in the previous four years. It must be noted that none of these cases relates to payments involving banks or financing institutions in the Sultanate. The Fak Kurba initiative is implemented through voluntary efforts by the Omani Lawyers Association. The initiative has contributed to resolving many cases and succeeded in bringing joy and happiness to many Omani families. The Association has been working tirelessly since 2012 for the success of the project and in partnership with a number of partners, with the project seeing great success over the years. On this occasion, Dr Muhammad Bin Ibrahim Al-Zadjali, the supervisor of Fak Kurba, said, "Bank Muscat is one of the leading institutions that is continuously supporting the initiative. In continuance of the support it provides to the initiative, and to emphasize

its strategy in social responsibility, Bank Muscat has contributed this year to resolve 260 cases. The initiative is based on the support of individuals and institutions that have proven their eagerness to participate in this noble cause over the years, thereby confirming the values of solidarity and cooperation to help those in need and relieve their distress. Dr Muhammad Al-Zadjali confirmed that Bank Muscat is keen to support the initiative. Today, it continues its contribution for the fifth year, and this is what prompts us to invite other institutions in this country to follow the bank's example in providing contributions to achieve the goals of this initiative. For his part, Hamza Abbas Al Ajmi, Deputy General Manager - Credit, Bank Muscat, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Omani Lawyers Association and all others involved with the project. He said: "The Bank is proud to support this unique and noble initiative by the Omani Lawyers Association, which has been one of

the most successful social responsibility initiatives in the Sultanate and has brought joy to many Omani families in their hour of need. The Bank is delighted to support this great humanitarian initiative for the fifth consecutive year. It has helped secure the release of 1,086 citizens for the past 5 years who meet the eligibility norms, and we thank the Oman Lawyers Association for initiating such an important programme that strengthens our community." Hamza Al Ajmi, Deputy General Manager - Credit, Bank Muscat added: "Bank Muscat is proud to be a leading institution in the field of social responsibility in the Sultanate and will continue to take part in initiatives, which serve the community and spreads happiness amongst those facing hardship. The bank will continue to join hands with Civil Society institutions for various social development initiatives such as this which bring joy and happiness to the hearts of those who require assistance, especially during the Blessed Month of Ramadan."



ELECTRIC-POWERED LUXURY ROADSTER

Audi Skysphere concept makes its official Middle East debut in Dubai



DUBAI: Audi has previewed the first member of a new family of concept vehicles in Dubai at a private event for representatives of media from across the region. The Audi skysphere concept is the name of the electric-powered, two-door convertible based on the Audi design of tomorrow. The concept car was the surprise showing during an event which also marked the regional previews of the new Audi A8 and S8 models. With it, the brand is illustrating its vision for the progressive luxury segment of the future, with features that include autonomous driving, a revolutionary interior and a seamless digital ecosystem.

With the Audi Skysphere concept, the brand with the four rings is redefining luxury of the future, with the car changing what we know about mobility and designed to offer its occupants captivating and world-class experiences. "We are delighted to unveil the Skysphere concept in Dubai. This car represents the zenith of human capability and innovation, so we wanted to treat it a little bit differently for its grand unveiling in a venue renowned for its creativity. With the Skysphere, passengers are given the maximum amount of freedom and can choose between two driving modes; a grand touring experience and a sports experience and is the perfect celebra-

tion of progress. Its visit to Dubai symbolizes how we envision the future of mobility and is an ode to a city that has positive and influential that will trickle down across the region," said Carsten Bender, Managing Director of Audi Middle East. With the touch of button, drivers of the Skysphere can either pilot their 4.94-meter-long e-roadster themselves in "Sports" mode with a reduced wheelbase, while the rear-wheel steering ensures that the vehicle remains extremely agile despite its dimensions. They can also choose to be chauffeured around in a 5.19-meter GT in the autonomous "Grand Touring" driving mode while en-

joying the sky and the scenery, maximum legroom, and the services offered by a seamlessly integrated digital ecosystem. Customized infotainment options are also available, such as linking the on-board streaming service to music and video providers used at home. And in a further step, Audi also aims to provide personalized and exclusive options for users of its luxury cars in the future - such as concerts, cultural events, or even sporting events that are only available upon special invitation. In this way, a vehicle like the Audi skysphere concept will become a platform for experiences that expand horizons beyond the mere ride in just a few years.

COMMENTARY

It's time coaches and captains take hard calls



Anis Sajan, Group Vice Chairman, Danube Group

WHEN I saw the squad of Delhi Capitals ahead of their game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, it looked power-packed batting with Prithvi Shaw and David Warner opening the innings followed by Mitchell Marsh, Rishab Pant, Lalit Yadav, Romvell Powell, Axar Patel and Shardul Thakur. Their bowling too looked good in Mustafizur Rahman, Shardul Thakur, Khaleel Ahmed, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. They had won an important toss and put the opposition in early trouble with half the squad back in the hut by the 11th over with the last recognized pair in Dinesh Kartik and Shabbaz Ahmed that is where things went wrong for Delhi Capitals. Rishab Pant dropped the important catch of Dinesh Kartik and it cost them heavily with Bangalore scoring 100 of the last nine overs which was a par score on the Wankhede wicket. Delhi started the reply with David Warner and Prithvi Shaw and looked on

track to achieve the target. But after the fall of Prithvi Shaw, Mitchell Marsh struggled and could not get going. In trying to hit the ball hard, he was not able to get the timing right and the innings got stuck. This was the time for Ricky Ponting the head coach to call back the struggling Mitchell Marsh retired hurt as it was putting pressure on Warner who had to take extra risk to keep the run rate. Mitchell Marsh batted 25 per cent of the overs and scored just 14 runs in his 24 balls. And when he fell the required run rate jumped to 14 per over with just six overs to go and all the batting firepower still in the dugout. Mitchell Marsh was one of the stars of Australia's T20 World Cup win but was playing his first game and was coming back from an injury. Any player would struggle to get going immediately and this was the time for the experienced Ricky Ponting to take a decisive decision and call Mitchell Marsh back which would have done the team no harm as they had enough firepower waiting. When a bowler goes for runs, he is not given his full quota of overs in the interest of the team, similarly, with the batsman not finding his touch, he can be called back. But Ponting and Delhi waited for Mitchell Marsh to come good but unfortunately, he did not and it eventually cost Delhi the game and two crucial points. With this defeat, Delhi is now placed at 8th position after five games with three losses. This is an eye-opener for all teams to take such calls than regret and I am sure with time this would be followed after Ravichandran Ashwin was called back or retired hurt in their earlier game.

EDUTAINMENT EVENT

KR Eshraqa's Stemazone makes learning fun at Qaranqasho event

MUSCAT: As part of its continued effort toward helping the Sultanate build a knowledge economy, Khimji Ramdas (KR) Eshraqa Stemazone recently organised a Qaranqasho-themed edutainment event for children at the Al Araiimi Boulevard. Held over three days, Stemazone representatives welcomed children, as well as their parents and teachers, to the event, which was abuzz with various STEAM activities and workshops. The event was organised to reach more children and introduce them to the spectacular world of Stemazone, especially its online learning management system (LMS) platform "e-stemazone". Stemazone's representatives conducted several interactive workshops for groups of 15 children, every 15 minutes at three learning stations during the event. This included various STEAM-related experiments: Lava Lamp (Science and Technology), Electronics - Buzzer sensors (Coding), Green screen (Technology and Art), and Ice-cream (Science and Engineering). Giveaways and information leaflets were also distributed to the participating children, as well as parents and teachers. Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group said, "In line with Oman's Vision 2040, Stemazone aspires to build a generation of scientific thinkers and problem solvers that excel in their future careers. Through events like Qaranqasho, we aim to provide convenient access to activities and information surrounding Stemazone to Omanis residing in different parts of the Sultanate and encourage them to enrol their kids in the programme. As a community-focused educational initiative, we aim to equip students with the required skills to be future-ready for the job market." Discussing the significance of the event in inspiring the youth



to explore and learn future skills, Mahmood Khalifa Al Saqri, Social Responsibility Manager - Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas Group mentioned, "Qaranqasho is observed on the fourteenth night of the holy month of Ramadan, and was an opportunity for us at Eshraqa Stemazone to engage with the local community and introduce them to our workshops which offer an ideal platform for children to understand the analytics of problem-solving, collaborating, testing ideas, and creating inspirational work." Established by Eshraqa, the Corporate Social Responsibility

arm of Khimji Ramdas, Stemazone is a sustainable educational program that has been conceptualised in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth (MOCSY) to introduce Omani children to the remarkable world of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). Stemazone offers a hybrid learning experience through a center located at the Children's Museum and a state-of-the-art online learning system available at www.stemazoneoman.com. Both experiences offer engaging and interactive sessions

of creativity for kids. The programmes are designed in a manner such that they focus on developing children's skills and knowledge in coding, electronics, 3D design, IoT, smart cities, and design thinking. The sessions also aim at building confidence, teaching public speaking, and imbibing leadership, teamwork, and collaboration skills. Eshraqa works towards nation-building at the grassroots and aspires to contribute to the education sector by building infrastructure that will lead to the enhancement of knowledge, skills, and capabilities.



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ROUND-UP



‘Season of Generosity’ benefits on Ford Taurus

The Ford Taurus has been redesigned with a focus on safety and practicality

MUSCAT: Own a Ford Taurus on ‘Season of Generosity’ benefits and avail with Service 3 Years / 60,000 km and Registration 1 Year. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.) The offer is valid until 18 May.

The Ford Taurus has been redesigned with a focus on safety and practicality. The exterior of the Taurus has a shield-like, clipped trapezoidal five-bar grille positioned prominently and flanked by slender, modern headlamps with signature daytime running lights and LED projector lamp technology. Chrome rings house supplemental LED driving lights.

In silhouette, a powerful hood profile and planted architecture give the Taurus a sense of solidity, sportiness and harmony. Designers elevated the exterior with fine details on the sides, including upswept chrome highlight trim on the doors. Polished 19-inch 10-spoke alloy wheels help to give a bold and premium stance. At the rear of the vehicle, multi-piece LED tail lights to incorporate a distinctive signature appearance.

A bright chrome bar connecting the taillights highlights the vehicle’s width for a sense of understated athleticism. Integrated chrome exhaust tips complete the rear and offer another discreet hint at performance.



The Taurus has the effortless power to match its sporty appearance. The Taurus is powered by a 2.0-litre EcoBoost inline four-cylinder petrol engine that produces 240 horsepower and an impressive 390Nm torque. That represents a 10% increase in torque over the previous Taurus, all while using less fuel. The engine is mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission – a first for Ford sedans in the Middle East – which is operated by a contemporary rotary gear shifter on the centre console.

The sense of balance and harmony continues inside with a clean, modern cabin that makes use of smart design and strong horizontal elements for an airy, spacious feel. Above the passengers, a full panoramic sunroof allows more natural light to enter the cabin and adds to a sense of

elegance and openness.

The spacious feel is justified by an exceptionally roomy cabin, which takes full advantage of the vehicle’s five-metre length and 2.95-metre wheelbase for abundant second-row legroom, and class-leading shoulder and hip room. Making full use of the car’s interior space, designers and engineers placed more than 25 intelligent stowage spaces throughout the cabin.

Cup holders designed to securely hold different-sized bottles are just one thoughtful detail implemented to meet the needs of consumers. Reflecting the importance of second-row passengers, the rear cabin-space has been designed with an emphasis on comfort.

The Taurus features the very latest SYNC3 technology with embedded voice control, embedded

navigation, AppLink and Apple CarPlay. There are USB ports in the centre console so that drivers can hardwire their devices to the Taurus, and Bluetooth connectivity plus wireless charging options available. For rear seat passengers, there are two more USB ports in the centre armrest.

Taurus also comes advanced driver-assist features as standard. Technologies like Blind Spot Information System, which uses radar to alert drivers of approaching vehicles entering their blind spot by flashing an indicator light. Other technologies include pre-collision assist with automatic emergency braking, auto high beams, a lane-keeping system and a rearview camera.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

50TH-ANNIVERSARY



Al Hashar Pharmacy organises Golden Jubilee Cricket Tournament

MUSCAT: As a part of the momentous 50th-anniversary celebration, Al Hashar Pharmacy has organised a ‘Golden Jubilee Cricket Tournament’ on April 1 at Darsait Sahil Oman Ground.

Inaugurating the tournament virtually, the CEO Al Hashar Pharmacy, Suresh Gandhi said “Like in the sports so is in the competitive world! A team that plans well both strategically and tactically, executes with perfection, has a backup plan, keeps team spirit despite odds will always win matches and the tournament. Let the best team win!”

It was nine hours of continuous play, with seven rounds of matches. Ultimately Team “Hashar Strikers” led by Mudassir Rahman was crowned the Champion’s Team. “Sometimes it’s not winning that counts, but holding on the longest and going that extra mile is important”, said the winning Captain.

The runner-up team “Sunrisers” led by Shoaib Hashim was a shining example of sportsmanship spirit. “You can’t win always, just do your best and give it your

all”, said the runners-up Captain.

The team “Lightning Legends” led by Afroz Khan was a dynamic team who were focused on putting their best foot forward. Finally, the team “Blasters” led by Shaju Mathew has presented a tough challenge to other teams.

Sincere thanks to Chief Guest, Shakeel, Country Manager, Tabuk Pharmaceuticals, a representation from one of the sponsoring Principals. The Guest of Honor, Sachin Agrawal, COO of Al Hashar Pharmacy was there as constant support. Sachin added “The cricket tournament has turned out to be a rare recreational activity which brought even the cross-functional team on a single platform striving to achieve a common goal. That is something unique in sports. We need to promote sports as a way to lead a disciplined life and learn how to appreciate competition”, he said.

Apart from the spirit of the game, The Golden Jubilee Cricket Tournament has helped reconnect, and develop a strong group bonding amongst Al Hashar Pharmacy & Principal company staff.

EVENT FOR CHILDREN

Premium Motors celebrates Qaranqasho with children



MUSCAT: Premium Motors, official dealer for the German car brands Audi and Volkswagen in Oman, lined up a host of fun events for customers’ families and children to mark Qaranqasho, a community event traditionally observed in the middle of Ramadan.

Premium Motors marked the day at its showroom with giveaways, face painting, sketch colouring and other entertainment for children who were specially invited to the celebration. Creating memorable moments, the Qaranqasho event witnessed a great turnout.

Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors, said, “Qaranqasho is a delightful tradition

that brings families and communities together during the most blessed time of the year. Our showroom was filled with the joy of children laughing as we celebrated Qaranqasho together. It was an enriching, engaging and entertaining experience for the children and all of us. It was indeed an unforgettable Qaranqasho.”

By hosting this event, Premium Motors intended to nurture local traditions and encourage its customers to enjoy and share precious moments. A cultural highlight in Oman during Ramadan, Qaranqasho is a tradition when children go around singing songs around their neighbourhood and receive sweets and money.

POPULAR PRODUCT

A’Safwah continues to promote healthy lifestyle with its range of fresh juices

MUSCAT: A’Safwah, the market leader in the production and distribution of dairy and beverages in the country, is set to meet the demands of the local market with its wide range of thirst-quenching fresh juices. Delivering both taste and nourishment, A’Safwah’s fresh juices have gained increasing popularity, especially with the onset of summer and the holy month of Ramadan.

While A’Safwah has been at the forefront of advocating the benefits of adopting a healthy lifestyle, there has also been a shift in consumer preference as they have become more conscious about health and wellness. With many consumers wanting to swap carbonated, nutritionally deficient, and sugary beverages with those that offer more wholesome goodness, A’Safwah’s range of fresh juices has become the go-to choice of refreshment.

A’Safwah has been expanding its fresh juice portfolio to cater to the preferences of its varied customer base. Currently, it has all the popular single fruit flavours like apple, guava, lemon, mango, orange, and pineapple and also offers a number of delicious blends like berry mix, kiwi lemon, and mixed fruit, and orange carrot. While all its fresh juices are free of artificial colours or flavours, its apple and orange juices also have no added sugar. A’Safwah has set a new benchmark in taste and elevated the nutritional profile of fresh juices.

Committed to offering unique flavours to its consumers,



A’Safwah also introduced a Tamarind flavour to its line of fresh juices which has been very well-received in the market. Offering a distinct sweet and sour taste, the juice is rich in vitamin C, B-6, calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc, in addition to fibre, that not only helps improve the digestive system but also flushes out toxins. A’Safwah’s fresh tamarind juice has, therefore, been preferred by many during iftar.

With fresh juices offering a guilt-free treat, consumers are also reaching out to the zesty, tangy, and refreshing taste of lemon and kiwi lemon to beat the summer heat and satiate the cravings. While A’Safwah’s fresh lemon juice has been an evergreen

favourite, its kiwi lemon juice combines the sweet yet tangy flavour of kiwis with the subtle sourness of lemons to produce a truly incomparable, unique, and invigorating taste. Loaded with vitamins A and C, calcium, and potassium, these juices are ideal to combat fatigue and boost immunity. Meanwhile, bringing together the best of all the fruits, the mixed fruit juice has also been a popular choice during Ramadan as a wholesome addition to meals as it offers a unique range of nutrients and beneficial compounds.

Made for a variety of occasions, whether an iftar with the family or a quick rejuvenating drink after a long day outdoors, A’Safwah’s fresh juices come in generous 1.5

L bottles. To ensure that making a healthy choice is affordable and convenient, its fresh juices are competitively priced and are readily available in all leading hypermarkets and neighbourhood supermarkets.

Eager to deliver more choices to consumers and add more excitement to their lives, A’Safwah has differentiated its offerings by focusing on fresh, local, and healthy products. The brand remains committed to the highest levels of operational excellence that have defined the company ever since its inception in 1983. It will continue to innovate its portfolio and offer consumers the premium quality of products it has always been revered for.



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Lulu Oman launches Iftar meal box initiative during Ramadan

The group has rolled out this initiative, in association with the N7N Volunteers team who will be engaged in the distribution at different traffic signals like Baushar, Darsait, Markaz al Bahja and at similar locations in major towns like Sohar and Salalah



MUSCAT: During this holy month, Lulu Oman has launched a noble initiative to provide wholesome Iftar meal boxes to commuters on the move, who are delayed from reaching home to break their fast. This initiative aims to embody the spirit of Ramadan through a visible expression of social unity. Con-

tinuing Lulu's core philosophy to support the community, the group has rolled out this initiative, in association with the N7N Volunteers team who will be engaged in the distribution at different traffic signals like Baushar, Darsait, Markaz al Bahja and at similar locations in major towns like Sohar and Salalah.

Speaking on the initiative, Shabeer K. A., Regional Director – Oman, said “In our humble way, this is a reflection of our continued commitment to spreading a culture of charitable work and humanitarian initiatives that create social impact. Also, furthering our vision of giving back to the

community we operate, in gives us great pride.” “We are thankful to the N7N Volunteers' Team for supporting this idea by distributing the Iftar meal boxes for families and commuters who are still on the road and are yet to break their fast,” he added. Mohammed Al Zadjali, Spokes-

person for the N7N Group stated, “It was an honour for the N7N Volunteers team to collaborate with Lulu to achieve this campaign. We always strive to help the community and to be given this opportunity from Lulu felt like the cherry on top! We look forward to doing more such activities and giving back to the community whenever the chance presents itself,” he added. In addition to this, Lulu has tied up with various other charitable organisations in Oman to support their Ramadan activities and provide the Iftar boxes to those who are in need. As part of its multi-pronged corporate social responsibility campaign, Lulu Group has constantly been investing in social initiatives and community development programs that create a tangible positive impact in the lives of people, society, and the environment, in addition to building a cohesive and mutually supportive society.

PROMOTION

Dhofar Auto includes Fiat 500 Dolcevida, Alfa Romeo Stelvio in its Ramadan offers

MUSCAT: Dhofar Automotive, the official distributor of Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler, RAM, Fiat and Alfa Romeo vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced that particular models under renowned Italian brands “Fiat” and “Alfa Romeo” will be included in the recently launched Ramadan offers. The offers include incredible benefits that comprise huge cash gifts and up to 5 years/120,000 km free service on select models, a 5-year warranty, 5-year roadside assistance, free registration and several value additions as well. As part of the offer period, which began this month and continues until 30 May, the Italian brand, Fiat 500 Dolcevida model will be available with a monthly instalment starting from OMR99 in addition to a warranty of 5 years/120,000 km, free registration for the first year, and 5-year roadside assistance. The Alfa Romeo Stelvio is also available with attractive prices starting from OMR 25,980 in addition to 5 years/120,000 km war-



ranty and maintenance, free registration for the first year and 5 years of roadside assistance. Commenting on these incredible new offers, Hatem El-Naggar, General Manager at Dhofar Automotive, said, “The vintage Italian brands Fiat and Alfa Romeo have been distinguished for decades by the superior quality of their designs and the level of craftsmanship that they employ without compromising the performance levels within their respective classes and the advanced technology that meets the aspirations of

sports driving enthusiasts, giving them a real passion for driving. Dhofar Automotive presents these attractive offers on the two highly sought-after models from Fiat and Alfa Romeo. “The Alfa Romeo's sporting characteristics satisfy the needs of our valued customers who are fans of sophistication, luxury and sporty performance that is synonymous with the brand for decades, and the city's most popular Fiat model that is unmistakably Italian in its approach to driving with its capabilities for daily use, the offers

from Dhofar Automotive on these cars are too good to miss. “The offers also come with a generous package of after-sales service that is on par with international standards, providing owners with peace of mind and the pleasure of driving their beautiful Italian cars.” “Taking advantage of this offer is a great opportunity for car enthusiasts, as it is now possible to own a Fiat or Alfa Romeo with easy and affordable instalments plus up to 5 years of free services, along with other valuable benefits and guaranteed cash gifts.” He added. The offers from Dhofar Automotive are only valid on select models. The value of the monthly instalments is calculated based on a 20% down payment for 7 years. Financing is subject to the approval of the bank or the financing company, the prices differ according to the model, equipment and year of manufacturing. Free registration applies for the first year and on private cars only and the five-year roadside assistance on private cars only.

GMC

This Ramadan be a part of one big family

MUSCAT: “In addition to very attractive prices, an abundance of offers invite you to be part of GMC family. Non comprising technology, safety, size and now the offers invite you to own the preferred brand in GCC, popularly known as JIMS in the region,” says Anil Sethi, General Manager of MARH. Explaining more about the offer, Sethi said that the GMC Ramadan offer includes VAT charges, Private registration for the 1st year, Service for 3 years or 60,000 Kms for Terrain, Acadia & Yukon models, 2 years or 30,000 Kms for Sierra range, 5 years or 100,000 Kms whichever is earlier on all Denali variants, 24X7 Road side assistance for 4 years, 5 years / Unlimited mileage through AAA Warranties and fuel card worth OMR100 as gift. In addition to the above, you also have a chance to win an Apple smart watch – Series 7, when you visit our showroom and just register your purchase intentions. With a bold styling, powerful



stance and distinctive accents, the GMC range sets a whole new standard for luxury. The exterior embodies a premium status and its aircraft inspired interior shouts superiority. GMC range mesmerizes more than just the eyes. Behind its captivating looks GMC vehicles are equipped with advanced tech features that significantly improve the driving journey by adding comfort, innovation and practicality that will please the tech-enthusiast in you.

GMC Yukon is now available at a great starting price of 22,786 OMR, including the Ramadan offer mentioned above. Despite the hot summer weather, GMC Sierra gives many off-roaders and campers an enthusiast chance to connect with nature. Available at a starting price of 16,786 OMR including Ramadan offer, thrill seekers will opt to spend less time on the highways and more time on rocky roads, sand and dunes pushing their vehicle to the limit for the

ultimate adventure. With a starting price of OMR 10,786 with Ramadan offer, Terrain is the obvious choice in the segment. Alongside the SLE, the first-ever Terrain AT4 will be made available for sale in Oman this May. Bookings are open. The All-New Terrain AT4 is designed to be bolder, sportier, and more capable than ever, offering the SUV unprecedented capability in its class. True to the name, GMC's AT4 models are built with capability and technology at the heart. The AT4 trim is engineered with GMC's premium and luxurious base, and is further fitted with an aggressive, athletic design that provides the ability to go off-road with authentic capability. The 2022 Terrain AT4 is testament to that. With a starting price of OMR15,786 with Ramadan offer, Terrain AT4 is true value for money.

WORLD'S GREATEST AUTO DISRUPTORS AWARD



Hyundai Motor's Executive Chair Euisun Chung named 'Visionary of the Year'

MUSCAT: Hyundai Motor Group's Executive Chair, Euisun Chung, won the 'Visionary of the Year' award at the inaugural Newsweek World's Greatest Auto Disruptors event. The World's Greatest Auto Disruptors 2022 programme has evolved from Newsweek America's 50 Greatest Disruptors – a list of visionaries, innovators and pioneers – introduced in 2021. The new awards recognize agents of change in the automotive industry who are using technology in ways that will profoundly and positively impact people's lives. One of six awards conferred at the event, 'Visionary of the Year' is given to a leader who is taking significant actions to shape the future of the automotive industry now and over the next 30 years. Newsweek recognised Chung for his significant role in the rise of Hyundai and Kia in the global automotive industry. Under his leadership and bold vision for the future, the Group is redefining what is possible in mobility, and providing greater freedom of movement for humanity through vehicle electrification, robotics and advanced air mobility (AAM). “Today's leading automakers are pushing the boundaries in ways that keep us moving and also capture the imagination. The disruptors on this list deserve to be recognized for pushing the industry forward, as well as for their

leadership in responding to the challenges brought on by the pandemic,” said Nancy Cooper, Global Editor in Chief, Newsweek. Receiving the award, Executive Chair Chung said: “On behalf of everyone at Hyundai Motor Group, I would like to thank Newsweek for these three prestigious awards. They reflect the hard work of all our people and business partners, who are focused on transforming the Group into a smart mobility solutions provider with sustainability at the core of what we do. Their dedication to making disruptive technologies a reality is why I am here to share this honour.” He added: “I have always believed cars are a way to connect people. There's nothing more human than the insatiable desire to explore, imagine and make progress. Mobility quite literally brings people together. And when we work together, human beings are capable of extraordinary things.” “Hyundai Motor Group is committed to making our mobility vision a reality to benefit all humanity. We want to enable more time and more space for everyone to do what truly drives them. Of course, Hyundai Motor Group cannot achieve this alone. I hope that our vision inspires the imaginations of talented people all over the world and that they will join us in solving the greatest challenges facing humanity,” said Chung in finishing his speech.



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