

PREPARATIONS FOR SALALAH KHAREEF SEASON REVIEWED
The Office of the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar held a meeting on Wednesday to determine the readiness of the authorities concerned in the Governorate of Dhofar to receive tourists during the autumn season this year. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sayyid Mohammed Sultan Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar. **>A5**



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HM ISSUES ROYAL DECREE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has issued a Royal Decree No. (29/2022) on the ratification of an agreement of cooperation between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of Iran on maritime transport, signed in Tehran on 8 December 2019, and after presenting the same before the Shura Council. Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version attached to this decree. Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 55 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
First e-locker parcel network launched

1 Asyad Group, represented by Oman Post and Asyad Express has launched an e-locker parcel network across Oman in partnership with a number of other firms. **>A3**

WORLD
Twitter shares Elon Musk deal details

2 Twitter has published its account of the negotiations of the \$44bn deal the company closed with Elon Musk after he declared the acquisition to be "on hold." **>A6**

MARKET
Oil prices stay above \$100 per barrel mark

3 Crude oil prices remained elevated and comfortably above the \$100 per barrel mark during May-2022 even as volatility witnessed a steep spike, according to a new report. **>B1**

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PLAN REVIEW
OCCI works to improve business environment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Organising business visits to and from Oman, providing accurate data and direct communication with investors, enhancing cooperation and economic partnerships, creating alliances between private sectors in Oman and other countries and introducing investors to Omani markets are some of the methods being taken by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) to attract more investments in the Sultanate. Redha bin Juma Al Saleh, the chairman of the OCCI, said the organisation had prepared a study that looked into raising competitiveness levels in Oman in the fields of investment and project development across various economic sectors. Partnering with a specialised consulting firm in this regard, the aim of the study is to encourage companies in Oman to apply the



best global and regional practices which, in turn, will encourage foreign investment.

Knock-on effect

A knock-on effect of this is an increase in national GDP and proper opportunities of work for local manpower. "The initiatives of OCCI were drafted to improve the business environment in the Sultanate by contributing our proposals and visions to support decision-making in this regard," said Al Saleh. **>A5**

19%

Wheat cultivation area in Oman grew by 19 per cent during the agricultural season 2020/2021 compared to the 2019/2020 season

reach 2,649 tonnes compared to the 2019/2020 season. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources said the total area of land under wheat cultivation in 2020/2021 was 2,449 acres, constituting a 19.6 per cent rise compared to the last season. The number of farmers also increased by 5.5 per cent. The ministry also added that the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah topped in terms of the highest cultivated area under wheat cultivation with 1,109.6 acres, or 45 per cent of the total area under wheat cultivation in the Sultanate. Al Dakhiliyah also came first in terms of wheat crop production, with 1,465.6 tonnes or 55 per cent of the total wheat production. **>A5**

With India putting curbs on exports, Oman is looking for other sources to meet the deficit

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is planning to import wheat from Australia and Argentina following India's decision to stop wheat exports to countries around the world, including the Sultanate of Oman. Haitham Al Fana Al Araimi, CEO of the Omani Flour Mills Company, confirmed to *Times of*

Oman that "India was supposed to continue exporting wheat until July 2022, but announced the suspension of exports, and this is what made us head to Australia and Argentina. India is still exporting wheat but it is limited to countries that have government-to-government agreements." Wheat cultivation in Oman grew by 19 per cent during the agricultural season 2020/2021 to

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Sultanate’s first e-locker parcel network launched

The e-locker network offers customers ultimate flexibility on where and when to receive their parcels and documents

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, represented by Oman Post and Asyad Express has launched an e-locker parcel network across Oman in partnership with several distributors of petroleum products and real estate developers.

The strategic Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) that underpin this partnership were signed with Shell Oman Marketing Company (Shell Oman), Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) and Al Maha Petro-

leum Products Marketing Company (Al Maha), as well as the real estate developer, Al Mouj Muscat.

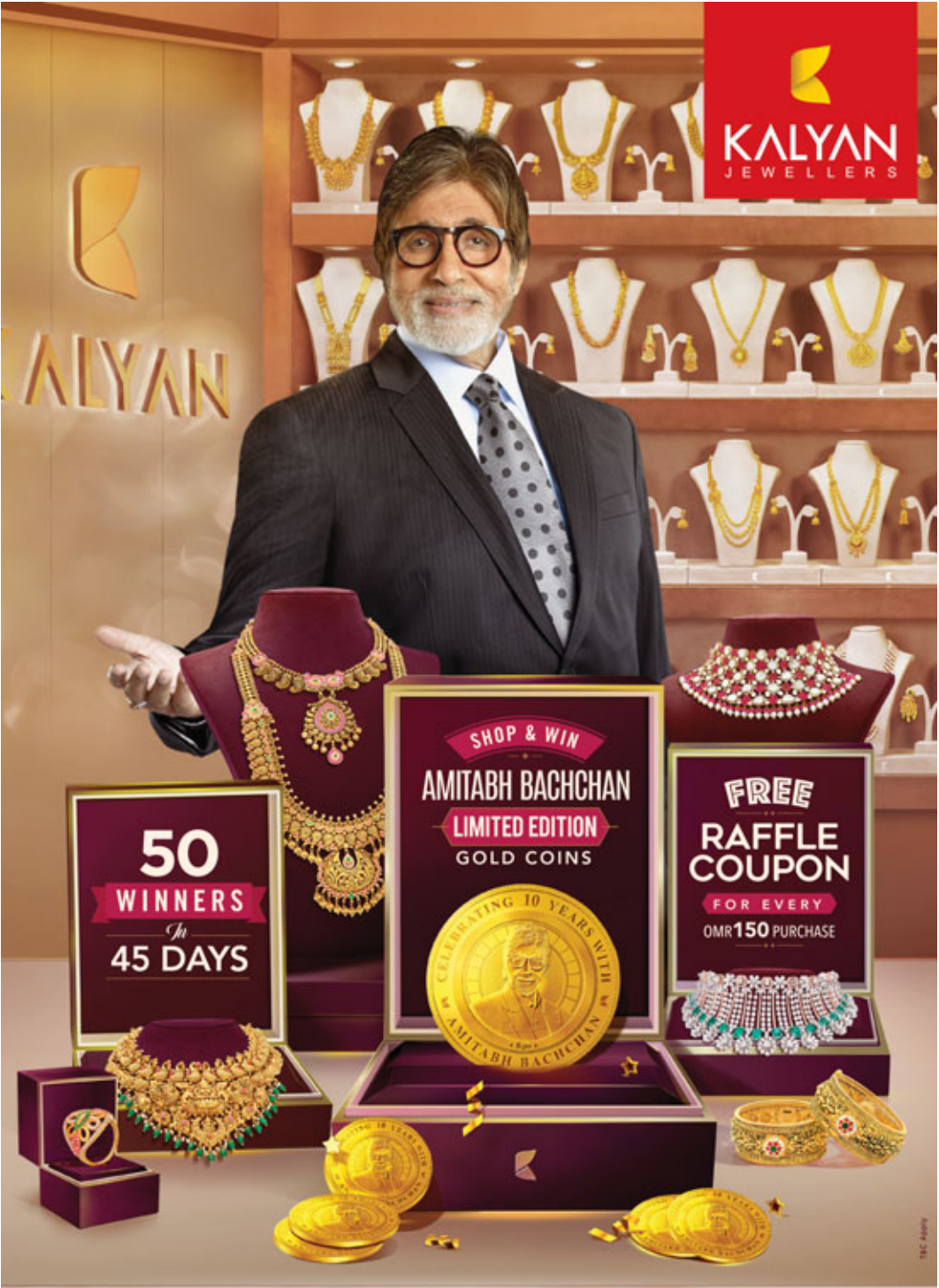
The MoUs reinforce Oman Post and Asyad Express’ plan to expand customer accessibility to its wide range of e-commerce and postal services, by deploying multiple outlets and increasing the number of parcel service delivery points throughout the Sultanate of Oman. The arrangements also translate the signatories’ aligned visions towards leveraging emerging technologies to transform their operations, generate new efficiencies and optimise customers’ experience and convenience.

At the forefront of this co-operation is the introduction of the Oman Post and Asyad Express e-locker Parcel Machine network across Oman. This will be the first e-locker network of its kind, which offers customers ultimate flexibility on where and when to receive their parcels and documents. These e-lockers will be placed in selected OOMCO, Shell

and Al Maha service stations, as well as in Al Mouj Muscat to allow customers to pick up their items easily and securely at a time convenient to them. The e-lockers will be deployed in several pilot projects before being installed in other key sites across Oman.

Nasser Al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express said, “We always look to provide our customers with increased flexibility and access to all our logistics and postal services, utilising the latest technologies to make customer experience as seamless as possible. Our investment in the new e-lockers is a prime example of this. Our customers will have 24/7 access to pick up and drop off their parcels and documents at multiple locations across Oman. The e-locker concept also supports environmental sustainability”. Oman Post and Asyad Express plan to sign additional strategic partnerships and explore further cooperation opportunities with the private sector, all in line with Asyad Group’s comprehensive private sector partnership strategy. -OMA





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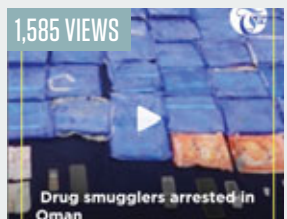
The Morning Minute video on OMR conversion rates had 1,100 views and reached 4,300 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

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The Maghrib Minute news wrap had 1,585 views and 84 likes on Instagram.



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DHOFAR

Preparation for Khareef reviewed

SALALAH: The Office of the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar held yesterday a meeting on the readiness of the departments concerned in Dhofar Governorate for the 2022 Khareef season. The meeting was chaired by Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar.

The meeting reviewed all preparations of the departments concerned for serving the visitors during the tourism season. The review included the adequacy of personnel of Royal Oman Police concerned with traffic at all roads

leading to Dhofar Governorate, providing the beaches with rescue teams and preserving safety and security of all visitors.

The meeting discussed enhancement of municipal services in all fields, including preparation of the information boards for the internal roads and the roads leading to the Governorate of Dhofar via the Wilayat of Thumrait and the coastal road through the Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands. The meeting reviewed the preparation of the locations proposed to host the activities accompanying the tour-

ism season within and outside the Wilayat of Salalah.

The meeting stressed the significance of extending the working hours at some health centres to meet the increase in the number of visitors to Dhofar Governorate. The meeting stressed the importance of increasing the medical cadres in the Wilayat of Salalah, the health centres and emergency centres and the availability of adequate medicines and mobile health services (ambulances) along Adam-Thumrait Road and at the border centres.

tions made in terms of residences and associated services, adequacy of food items in Salalah and other Wilayats of Dhofar Governorate, the readiness of telecommunication companies and electricity companies, and the roads leading to the tourism sites in Dhofar.

The meeting discussed the increase in the number of flights of Oman Air and Salam Air to meet the increasing number of visitors during the tourism season. The meeting also discussed compliance with the precautionary measures issued by COVID-19 Supreme Committee. -DNA

DOMESTIC NEEDS

< FROM **A1** Oman wheat production

However, wheat production in Oman is not sufficient to meet its domestic needs. Al-Araimi pointed out that the Indian government has taken the decision to ban exports following drought affecting its crops, besides hike in prices of wheat in local markets.

Al-Araimi confirmed that the Omani Flour Mills Company had secured its wheat requirement

from India until the end of the year.

He further said that wheat harvest season in Australia and Argentina is scheduled to start in November, and the company will import wheat from these two countries at that time.

He explained that Australia is the sixth largest wheat exporter in the world, followed by Argentina at the seventh spot.

OCCI INITIATIVES

< FROM **A1** Mutual visits planned

"We are also working to attract and localise foreign investments through multiple mechanisms, including mutual visits among business owners here and in other countries, providing data and direct communication to investors, enhancing communication and economic and commercial cooperation between the OCCI and its counterparts in friendly countries, creating partnerships between the private sector in Oman and that in other countries and discovering more commercial and investment opportunities that can add value to the national economy," the chairman of the OCCI added.

As part of efforts to set up mutual trade delegations, Oman

will look at organising missions to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the US, Bangladesh, Brazil and a number of African countries. Commercial delegations run by OCCI's branches in the governorates have also earmarked foreign visits to Korea, Japan, Tunisia and Indonesia among others.

During these visits, bilateral meetings will be held and interactive sessions held to promote Oman as an investment destination. Other initiatives OCCI worked on were preparing reports on the opportunities and economic development plans for Al Buraimi, Ad Dhahirah and Al Wusta.

 Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

MEETING

OHRC to explore best practices to promote rights

MUSCAT: The role of national mechanisms in promoting and protecting human rights figured high in the agenda of Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and constitutes the topic of a symposium to be organised in June 2022.

Through the symposium, OHRC will explore the best practices of activating national and international cooperation to promote human rights. This includes a review

of success stories in the field.

This was unveiled during OHRC's first meeting of the 4th annual sitting (Fourth Term), held under the auspices of Sheikh Abdullah Shuwain Al Hosni, Chairman of OHRC.

The meeting discussed a workshop scheduled to be organised by the OHRC about three human rights agreements that Oman joined recently.



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27/2022/MM/-PA-4	Supply of Gas	25/-OMR	06/06/2022	23/06/2022	26/06/2022
28/2022/MM/-PA-5	Supply of Food stuff (Specified for SMEs)	25/-OMR	06/06/2022	23/06/2022	26/06/2022
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Twitter shares details of deal with Elon Musk

Musk never requested a non-disclosure agreement to prevent the company from talking about the negotiations



the company's business. Twitter's proxy statement, published for shareholders to understand and vote on the deal, depicts Musk as in a hurry to conclude the negotiations that took place over the weekend of April 23 and April 24 with his "best and final" offer.

What has Twitter said about dealing with Musk? Instead of due diligence prior to inking the deal, Musk has instead taken feverishly to Twitter after signing the deal on April 25 to complain

about fake users of the social media service and a lack of SEC oversight. On Tuesday, he tweeted, "Yesterday, Twitter's CEO publicly refused to show proof of <5% of accounts on the service being 'fake/spam accounts.'" He has also questioned the accuracy of the company's public filings and suggested that the number of Twitter's spam accounts is likely closer to 20%. In its earnings, Twitter has stated the number could be more than 5%. Independent researchers believe the number of bot accounts is between

9% and 15% of all users on the social media platform. According to the proxy statement published on Tuesday, Musk had not sought information about this issue from Twitter in the run-up to the deal. "Mr. Musk did not ask to enter into a confidentiality agreement or seek from Twitter any non-public info regarding Twitter," Twitter said in its statement.

What has the effect been on the Twitter share price? Twitter shares plunged to around \$37.55 on Tuesday afternoon, a haircut of over 30% on the \$54.20 per share price when the deal with Musk closed, suggesting that shareholder confidence in the deal price is not there. On Monday, Musk suggested at a conference that the deal price could come down. He has, however, not formally made that request. By contrast to Musk's protracted public voicing of doubts since closing the deal, Twitter said it expects everything will go through later this year. **DW**

MASS SHOOTING

Biden slams white supremacist 'terrorism' after mass shooting

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday condemned what he called the "poison" of white supremacy behind the mass shooting that killed 10 Black people in the second-largest city in the state of New York. Biden was speaking in Buffalo, where an armed 18-year-old white teenager is accused of opening fire on 13 people — 11 of whom are Black — at a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighbourhood. The FBI had said the case was being investigated as a hate crime and an act of "racially motivated



violent extremism." "What happened here is simple and straightforward: Terrorism, terrorism, domestic terrorism," Biden said. The US president also

condemned "those who spread the lie for power, for political gain and for profit." He described "a hate that through the media and politics [and] the in-

ternet has radicalized angry, alienated, lost and isolated individuals into falsely believing that they will be replaced — that's the word, replaced — by 'the other'." The alleged mass killer had referred in a manifesto to the so-called replacement theory, which claims that non-white immigrants are overwhelming the white population as part of a leftist plot. The conspiracy theory has spread from QAnon forums to mainstream areas, such as a nightly talk show by prominent Fox News host Tucker Carlson. **DW**



Printed and published by: Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770, Postal Code: 112
Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali
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RENEWABLE ENERGIES

UN floats plan to boost renewable energy as climate worries mount

GENEVA: The United Nations (UN) chief on Wednesday launched a five-point plan to jump-start broader use of renewable energies, hoping to revive world attention on climate change as the UN's weather agency reported that greenhouse gas concentrations, ocean heat, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification reached record highs last year. "We must end fossil fuel pollution and accelerate the renewable energy transition before we incinerate our only home," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Time is running out." His latest stark warning about possible environmental disaster comes after the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) issued its State of the Climate Report for 2021, which said the last seven years were the seven hottest on record. The impacts of extreme weather have led to deaths and disease, migration, and economic losses in the hundreds of billions of dollars — and the fallout is continuing this year, WMO said. "Today's State of the Cli-



mate report is a dismal litany of humanity's failure to tackle climate disruption," Guterres said. "The global energy system is broken and bringing us ever closer to climate catastrophe." In his plan, which leans into the next UN climate conference taking place in Egypt in November 2022, Guterres called for fostering technology transfer and lifting of intellectual property protections in renewable technologies, like battery storage. Such ambitions — as with his call for transfers of technologies aimed to fight COVID-19 — can cause innovators and their financial backers to bristle: They want to reap the benefits of their knowledge, investments and discoveries — not just give them away. **ANI**

COVID CASES RISE

New York City lifts COVID-19 alert level to 'high'



NEW YORK: New York City, the largest city in the United States, raised its COVID-19 alert level from "medium" to "high" on Tuesday, as infections continue to go up in recent weeks. The rating means there is a high COVID-19 community spread and pressure on the health care system in the city is substantial. "New York City has transitioned to a high COVID alert level, meaning now is the time to double down on protecting ourselves and each other by making choices that can keep our friends, neighbours, relatives and coworkers from getting sick," said Dr Ashwin Vasan, the city's health commissioner. The guidance requires New Yorkers to wear a face mask in all public indoor settings and crowded outdoor settings and consider

avoiding higher-risk activities. New York City raised its COVID-19 alert level to "medium" from "low" in early May. Even though there is only one step away to reach the highest COVID-19 alert level, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said on Monday, "We're not at the point of mandating masks." The seven-day average percentage of positive COVID-19 test results rose to 5.18 per cent in New York City on Monday, still the lowest among 10 regions in New York State, according to data issued by the state on Tuesday. Daily new COVID-19 cases in the United States have been on the rise since early April, and the death toll from the pandemic has surpassed 1 million in the country. **ANI**

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MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,156.29 points, down by 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.38 per cent at 472.02 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 8.43 per cent, was the top gainer, and Muscat Desalination, down 7.44 per cent, was the top loser.

Oil prices remain above \$100 per barrel mark on global woes



Opec has lowered expected supplies coming from Russia by 0.36 million barrels per day to 10.88 million barrels per day in 2022



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Crude oil prices remained elevated and comfortably above the \$100 per barrel mark during May-2022 even as volatility witnessed a steep spike, according to a new report.

"The uncertainty over sanctions on Russia by the European Union with some disagreements more

than offset demand fears as China continued with its strict lockdowns led by a spike in COVID-19 cases. In addition, oil price gains were capped by news on global economic growth," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest, an investment, strategy & research firm, said in its monthly oil market report.

The Russia/Ukraine conflict-affected economic growth in the EU region resulting in a downward

revision in the region's expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth by around 110 basis points (bps) to 2.8 per cent in 2022, by the IMF, as compared to 5.3 per cent growth seen in 2021. The faster-than-expected tightening of the US economy also affected growth prospects there and is expected to result in a relatively smaller-than-expected economic growth.

The strict lockdowns in China, as

seen from zero car sales in Shanghai during April-2022, resulted in a steep decline in crude oil imports in the country during April-2022 and also affected the overall economic activity. Industrial output and consumer spending declined to the lowest levels since the pandemic began with no quick recovery in sight, according to Bloomberg, while GDP declined by 0.7 per cent year-on-year from April-2022.

This also affected the global supply chain with automakers to consumer discretionary companies facing unprecedented cost escalation and production hurdles.

Meanwhile, the voluntary sanctions on Russian crude oil by several countries globally have resulted in a faster-than-expected tightening of the oil market. Although a lack of consensus in the EU has delayed the imposition of a full sanction on Russia, Germany plans to stop importing Russian crude by the end of the year, the Kamco Invest report said.

As a result, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) further lowered expected supplies coming from Russia by 0.36 million barrels per day to 10.88 million barrels per day in 2022. The International Energy Agency (IEA), on the other hand, said that Russia shut in nearly one million barrels of oil production in April-2022. In addition, the inability of several oil producers to raise output further supported the gain in oil prices despite pessimism on

the demand front.

Opec reported a marginal increase in production during the month with higher output from Iraq and Saudi Arabia partially offset by a steep decline in output in Libya. The overall compliance to Opec+ quotas stood at 223 per cent, according to IEA with Opec compliance at 162 per cent.

Prices in the refined product market remained at near record levels in several countries.

US gasoline future prices breached the \$4 per barrel mark for the first time to reach a record high while diesel prices remained elevated globally as a result of a drop in exports from Russia. Jet fuel prices also remained capped as demand remained affected by China's lockdowns and Russia/Ukraine conflicts. These higher prices also indicated constraints on refining capacity. A similar statement was made by Saudi Arabia's oil minister who claimed that a refining crunch is driving fuel costs rather than a shortage of crude oil.

BUSINESS DELEGATION VISIT

Agreement renewed to boost business between Oman, Iran

MUSCAT: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Credit Oman and the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) was renewed on the sidelines of the Iranian business delegation's visit to Oman.

The MoU targets supporting and developing business between the two countries. It also aims to facilitate services and subsidise products in Oman and Iran.

The MoU was signed by Sheikh Khalil Ahmed Al Harthy, CEO of Oman Credit and Reza Alikhani, Chairman of EGFI's Board of Directors. -ONA



CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA organises workshop on targeted financial sanctions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In continuation of the efforts of the Capital Market Authority (CMA) to enhance the anti-money laundering and combating financing terrorism efforts in the regulated sector, and to enhance the financial institutions' compliance, organised a workshop on "Targeted Financial Sanctions".

This was organised in collaboration with Rakaiz International Consultancies and Training Institute for the compliance officers of the companies regulated by the



CMA in the capital market and insurance sectors.

The workshop acquainted the participants with the basics of targeted financial sanctions and the standards applied in this regard, besides the preventive measures the institutions must

take to combat money laundering and terrorism financing as well as clarifications on enforcement and application of targeted financial sanctions. The participants were acquainted with the risks of money laundering and terrorism financing with practical examples.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Milipol Qatar seminar to focus on security management & cybersecurity

MUSCAT: The 14th edition of Milipol Qatar 2022, the Middle East's leading international event for homeland security and civil defence, which will be held from May 24 to 26, at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) will feature a two-day seminar programme centred on major event security management and solutions to combat increasing cybersecurity risks.

The seminar will launch on Wednesday, May 25 with major local and international experts and with 21 presentations probing all aspects of the safe delivery of major events.

Notably, keynote speeches will be given by a representative of the Safety & Security Operations Committee (SSOC) of the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022 and by Major General Marc Boget, Commander in Chief of the French Gendarmerie Cyberspace.

"Qatar is the ideal venue to explore security management of large-scale events as it readies to host the world's biggest sporting tournament - the Fifa World Cup - this November, and has a growing calendar of mega sports gatherings, including the Qatar F1 Grand Prix, which begins a 10-year run in 2023, the 2030 Asian Games," said Francois Jullien, Milipol Events Director.

The first-day programme will include presentations from experts discussing the holistic approach to large event security, they will also examine how to build weather resilience with comprehensive meteorology AI programs, while a senior adviser from Austria's Frequentis will deliver lessons from a control room supplier in supporting key events.

May 26 will be given over to security and cybersecurity and comes as AI-powered intelligence



provider ReportLinker forecasts the Middle East cybersecurity market will grow at a compound annual growth rate from its current worth of \$20.3 billion to \$44.7 billion by 2027.

A representative from the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology will outline the impact of fifth-generation warfare (5GW), conducted primarily through non-kinetic military action, such as social engineering and misinformation, while the Arab Association for Cybersecurity will take delegates through the implementation of effective cyber diplomacy.

Experts from the National Cyber Security Agency will examine a range of issues including cyber security strategies, ways of penetrating high-security networks and securing 5G networks.

Other presentations will be made by representatives of Al Jazeera, Huawei and BeIN.

"The programme will enable local, regional and international security professionals to share

advanced knowledge with the unified aim of ensuring a safer world for us all," commented Major General Nasser bin Fahd Al-Thani, President of the Milipol Qatar Committee.

The seminar runs alongside the main Milipol Qatar 2022 industry-only exhibition with the combined event being held under the patronage of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani and organised by Qatar's Ministry of Interior in partnership with Paris-based international event organiser Com-exposium, acting on behalf of the GIE Milipol headed by Civipol.

The exhibition features participants from 23 nations across Europe, the Middle East, and North America with over a third of - 58 per cent being event newcomers. The show will host five international industry national pavilions representing France, which is expected to be the largest housing over 20 companies, North America, Germany, Italy, and for the first time Austria.

Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التجارة والصناعة وترويج الاستثمار
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

Tender 22/ 2022 Announcement for

The Internal Tenders Committee at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion announces the following tender:

Tender No	Title of the Tenders	Company rate	Tender document price R.O (un refundable)	Tender Document collection Deadline	Offers Submission Deadline
22/2022	"Invest In Oman" Film Proposal	Specialized	25/_ OMR	Thursday 29/5/2022	Monday 13/6/2022 Before 10:00 am

Terms and conditions documents can be obtained through the ESNAD service via <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> in which they will be available until the date mentioned in the table above, provided that the document's price is paid through the website's payment gateway.

All companies shall submit their offers with a temporary insurance in the form of Bank Guarantee or Certified Cheque issued by a local bank in the Sultanate of Oman values not less than **(1%)** of the offer, Addressed to H.E Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and valid for **(90)** days from the date of offer submission. Any offer that does not meet the required temporary insurance shall not be considered. A copy of the Bank Guarantee or Certified Check must be attached with the offer submitted by the company on the website (**ESNAD service**) and the original Bank Guarantee or Certified Check must be kept until it is requested by MOCIIP. Offers shall be submitted through the **ESNAD service on the above-mentioned website** before 10 o'clock on the morning of the day mentioned for offers submission. Offers submitted after this date will not be considered, regardless of the reasons of the delay.

The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other submitted offer.

Note: Priority shall be given to companies and institutions whose bid has the highest Omanisation Rate .

Correspondences:

- 🚩 Tender inquiries; All correspondence pertaining to TENDER Inquiries shall be online through E-Tendering System (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- 🚩 E-Tendering System inquiries : All correspondences pertaining to the technical support of E-Tendering System shall be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number .

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MSX index ends marginally lower

Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 8.43 per cent, was the top gainer, and Muscat Desalination, down 7.44 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,156.29 points, down by 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.38 per cent at 472.02 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 8.43 per cent, was the top gainer, and Muscat Desalination, down 7.44 per cent, was the

top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 607 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.99 million, with more than 13.57 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 9 advanced, 12 declined, and 27 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers of OMR226,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR106,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,602.59 points, down 0.22 per cent. Prices of HSBC Bank Oman and Muscat Finance were up by 1.82 per cent and 1.39 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, United Finance, Al Omaniya Financial Services,

Global Financial Investments and Ominvest were down by 6 per cent, 5.1 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 1.37 per cent and 1.27 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,105.45 points, up 0.22 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Fisheries, A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy and Raysut Cement were up by 8.43 per cent, 5.46 per cent, 4.97 per cent, 1.92 per cent and 0.58 per cent respectively. Oman Cement was the only loser down by 0.77 per cent.

Services Index was down by 0.42 per cent before closing at 1,611.73 points. Prices of Barka Desalination and Ooredoo were up by 0.71 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Renaissance Services, Oman National Engineering and OIFC were down by 7.44 per cent, 1.83 per cent, 0.94 per cent and 0.69 per cent respectively. — United Securities

Trend Micro to showcase Oman's digital journey at Comex Technology Show

MUSCAT: Trend Micro Incorporated, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, is set to participate in the 31st annual Comex Technology Show 2022, from May 23 to 25, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

As a Diamond Sponsor, Trend Micro will showcase its state-of-the-art innovations advancing Oman's digital journeys and accelerating growth for organisations across industries.

At Comex 2022, industry leaders and decision-makers will embrace future technologies to improve efforts on securing organisations across sectors. The event will host multiple seminars, workshops, and solutions, as enterprises explore the potential of innovations and strategies transforming Oman's digital experiences.

Alongside industry-leading technology, Mohammed Hashim, Cybersecurity Consultant, Trend Micro Oman, will lead the discussion on the 'Machine Learning in Threat Detection and Response' session, focusing on the need for enterprises to adopt modern AI-based cybersecurity innovations that have the capabilities of deep analysis and visualisation of cyber threats. Also, a real-time demonstration of the Trend Micro Vision One – XDR (Extended Detection and Response) platform will provide a better understanding of its effects on strengthening an enterprise's infrastructure.

"We at Trend Micro are aligned with Oman's Vision 2040 and are honoured to support the country with industry-leading solutions that are not only protecting digital



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agendas but accelerating growth for organizations throughout the digital transformation journey," said Assad Arabi, Managing Director, Gulf Cluster at Trend Micro. "Events such as Comex 2022 are essential as they allow us to exchange insights and solutions that successfully guide enterprises through the modern threat landscape and help maintain stability in operations. We at Trend Micro look forward to working closely with organisations in Oman from the public and private sector, and want to strengthen their digital strides as they advance the country's capabilities in a new digital era."

As per the Trend Micro's Annual Cybersecurity Report for 2021. Over 4 million (4,153,443) email threats and more than 4.6 million (4,629,874) URL victim attacks were detected and blocked across Oman. Additionally, 700,607 malware attacks were identified and stopped. And as the country transitioned into remote work, Smart Home Network (SHN) solutions shielded home devices and prevented 581,119 SHN events.

These recent figures indicate, that throughout the evolving threat landscape, organisations need to adopt multilayered solutions to be able to protect their operations against more sophisticated attacks from cybercriminals.

The company recently launched Trend Micro One, a unified cybersecurity platform with a growing list of ecosystem technology partners that enables organisations to better understand, communicate, and lower cyber risks. This unified approach delivers a continuous lifecycle of risk and threat assessment with attack surface discovery, cyber risk analysis, and threat mitigation and response.

Trend Micro One is the perfect security console to counter modern threat actors and their stealthy attacks in today's digital era. And avenues like Comex 2022 provide the best opportunity for the company to showcase its state-of-the-art solutions, and expertise, and share insights that will bolster the digital capabilities of organisations across industries in Oman.



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STOCK MARKET

Saudi Stock Exchange's main index ends trading higher at 12,713.38 points

RIYADH: Saudi Stock Exchange's main index ended trading higher yesterday, gaining 23.51 points to close at 12,713.38 points. The total value of the trading reported was SAR 8.9 billion, while the toll of shares traded was 190 million, divided into over 396,000 deals.

The Saudi Parallel Equity Market Index ended the day gaining 144.91 points, to close at 22,832.38 points, with a valuation of SAR 21 million and an overall tally of more than 377,000 stocks traded and divided into as many as 1,255 deals. -SPA

STATISTICS

UK inflation hits 40-year high

LONDON: Britain's inflation rate rose to the highest level in 40 years last month as Russia's war in Ukraine fuelled further increases in food and fuel prices. Consumer price inflation accelerated to 9 per cent in the 12 months through April 2022, up from 7 per cent the previous month, the UK Office for National Statistics said. -DNA

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CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVELS HAVE FALLEN BELOW GUIDELINES AFTER THE PANDEMIC

According to a new study led by the University of Bristol, the level of physical activity of British children was significantly lower by the time COVID-19 induced restrictions were lifted.

The findings of the research were published in the 'International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity'.

The study found that by the end of 2021 little more than a third (36%) were meeting the national recommended physical activity guidelines.

While there was no change in their parents' physical activity levels, the National Institute for Health and Care Research-funded study findings showed that 10 to 11-year-olds took part in on average just 56 minutes – less than the recommended hour – of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity during weekdays from last April to December.

That's around eight minutes on average less, a drop of 13 per cent, than children of a similar age were doing before the pandemic.

Senior author Russ Jago, Professor of Physical Activity and Public Health, said: "It was surprising the extent children's physical activity levels had fallen after the pandemic, indicating that changes in physical activity patterns did not revert to previous levels once freedoms had been restored.

"These findings highlight a greater need to work with children, families, schools, and communities to maximise the opportunities for children to be physically active, as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic."

The findings showed children were less active at the weekend than during the week, taking part in 46 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on weekend days. This was around 8 minutes slower than the activity of children who were measured using the same methods pre-pandemic.

The study, published today in the International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity, also revealed a marked increase in sedentary time, with children spending 25 minutes longer being sedentary per day, than previously during the week.

The findings showed children were less active at the weekend than during the week, taking part in 46 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on weekend days.

The National Institute of Health Research-funded study recruited 393 children and their parents, from 23 schools in the Bristol area, who wore an accelerometer to measure the intensity of physical activity and answered a questionnaire. This information was compared with data from 1,296 children and their parents who were recruited from 50 schools in the same area before the pandemic.

Physical activity is important for children's health and happiness. The UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) recommend all children and young people should take part in an hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) each day. This is an activity that gets children slightly hot, slightly sweaty, and out of breath. The Chief Medical Officers also advise children should limit the amount of time they spend being sedentary.

The study's first author Dr Ruth Salway, a Statistician at the university's School for Policy Studies, said: "The key strength of this study was we used data collected before and after the pandemic, using the same methods and in the same schools."

"The data clearly demonstrates children's physical activity had deteriorated once the restrictions were lifted. This emphasises the importance of understanding how such habits change over time, so appropriate support and interventions can be introduced as normality resumes." -ANI





ROUND-UP



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Technical training workshop organised

Premium Motors' workshop focused on how technicians should think and apprised them of systematic fault-finding techniques



MUSCAT: Premium Motors, official dealer for the German car brands Audi and Volkswagen in Oman, hosted a technical training virtual and on-site workshop for technicians and team leaders from both Audi and Volkswagen.

The 'technical service hand-book' themed workshop covered topics such as fixing it right the first time, boosting efficiency, the most cost-effective method of repair, increasing customer satisfaction and meeting the standards. The workshop focused on how

technicians should think and apprised them of systematic fault-finding techniques.

Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors, said, "We pride ourselves on talented and driven professionals from all walks of life. The automotive industry is constantly in a state of change. It is very important to us that all of our technicians are up to date in every area of a vehicle. During the training workshop, industry-trained instructors combined theory and hands-on learning opportunities to help participants gain a strong foundation in automotive vehicle maintenance, diagnosis, repairs, manufacturers' specifications, customer service

and communications."

Each candidate received a "go-to" document to refer to in the future if they need to review the required procedure. This was an internal on-site training for a specific topic where evaluations were based purely on interaction and discussion.

Premium Motors, boasts a 10,000 square metres area comprised of a bespoke showroom and premium service and spare parts facility. Spread across three floors and designed in accordance with global standards and corporate identity, the showroom is located at Alfardan Heights at Ghala.

Focused on providing a compressive customer journey; from

sales, and used cars to after-sale services, the Premium Motors facility provides customers with a seamless and exceptional experience throughout. The premise has been configured and modernised to create a comfortable, spacious and cool environment for customers to browse both the brands' top-notch line-up.

The overall enterprise of the dealer for both Audi and Volkswagen brands is to sell and service vehicles and most importantly provide an outstanding experience for customers. Above all, it is committed to ensuring enhancing customer satisfaction in all spheres of its activities namely sales, service, and spare parts.



Nama CEO visits GUtech

MUSCAT: Eng. Omar Al-Wahaihi, CEO of Nama Holding Group, visited the German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) with several officials; in response to the invitation of Dr Hussain Al-Salmi, CEO of the Oman Educational Services Corporation, to review the most prominent developments of the Oman Educational Services academics and research, and discuss its aspirations, future projects, and aspects of cooperation between the two parties.

The visit comes as part of strategic initiatives aimed at creating opportunities for cooperation between higher education institutions and the energy and electricity sector, opening practical horizons that serve the economic sector of the Sultanate, and providing research opportunities to apply academic theoretical knowledge on the ground in a practical way, ensuring the transfer of knowledge in a thoughtful manner, in line with local requirements.

Al-Wahaihi said: "Cooperating with the German University of Technology in Oman as a leading educational institution in the Sultanate opens prospects for growth and progress, and enhances the efficiency of the business that we will cooperate in implementing to ensure the sustainability of projects and ideas, by finding joint research and practical paths. between the two sectors and investing in the specialities that are unique to the university, so that cooperation with GUtech aims to share the theoretical experience of university students with the professional competence to produce projects that serve the market."

Al-Salmi said, "We affirm our keenness to make this cooperation a success so that we can direct practical, applied and advisory research activity towards areas that directly serve the government and community sectors, and open horizons for our students and university academics."



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Ataya Atta Flour	5 KG
Biryani Rice	5 KG
Fine Granulated Refined Sugar	2 KG
Cooking Oil	1.8 LTR
Masoor Dal	1 KG
Happy Nick Cornflakes	1 KG
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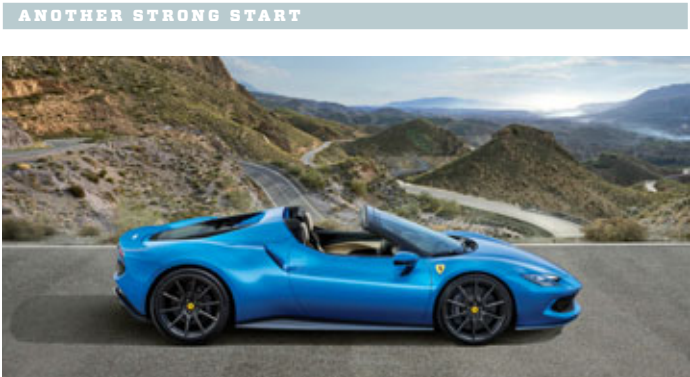
Experience luxury with Lincoln Navigator SUV

The powerful Navigator is equipped with a twin-turbo V6 engine producing 450 horsepower delivered through a 10-speed transmission

MUSCAT: Experience fine full-size luxury with the Lincoln Navigator SUV. Made to envelope passengers in thoughtfully defined interior and features, the Navigator offers some of the finest experiences one can enjoy. The powerful Navigator is equipped with a twin-turbo V6 engine producing 450 horsepower delivered through a 10-speed transmission. Navigator's lighter, high-strength aluminium-alloy body helps create a more refined ride. The Navigator is equipped with a clean and uncluttered interior layout, with a simple, soothing ambience. At night, interior ambient lights sequentially illuminate each of the SUV's three rows. During the day, a panoramic roof fills the cabin with natural light. Inside, spaciousness comes in all three rows, including storage in each to keep the cabin clean and organised. An available rear-seat entertainment system allows passengers to stream content wirelessly with an Android device to one of the 10-inch adjustable



screens mounted on the rear of the front seats. The Navigator is designed to be intuitive and easy to use. A 12-inch configurable instrument cluster allows drivers to choose the information they want displayed. An available Head-Up Display can show selected information on the windshield instead of the instrument cluster. This helps drivers keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel. It does not fade in the sunlight and is visible even with polarised lenses. Occupants can enjoy available Revel® Ultima audio with 20 speakers that work in concert with Navigator's interior design and acoustics. Standard SYNC® 3 enables clients to manage audio, phone, navigation and more from the vehicle touch screen or steering wheel-mounted controls. Second-row passengers have their own audio and climate control, while third-row seats feature power recline capability. While on the move, the Navigator is also easy to adjust to changing conditions. With the turn of a dial, the driver can adapt the Navigator to changing road or weather, and enjoy a smooth, confident ride. Additional available technology includes: Trailer Backup Assist, which automatically steers the vehicle to turn a trailer the desired



Ferrari announces consolidated preliminary results for first quarter

MARANELLO: Ferrari announced its consolidated preliminary results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2022. Shipments totalled 3,251 units in Q1 2022, up 480 units or 17.3% versus the prior year. The product portfolio in the quarter included eight internal combustion engine (ICE) models and two-hybrid engine models, which represented 83% and 17% of total shipments, respectively. Shipments during the quarter were driven by the Ferrari Roma and the SF90 family, together with the Portofino M. In the quarter, the first deliveries of the 812 Competizione commenced. The Ferrari Monza SP1 and SP2 were lower compared to the prior year and reached the end of their limited-series run. The deliveries of the 296 GTB will begin in the second quarter of 2022, as planned. Quarterly shipments reflected the deliberate geographic allocation in response to port congestion observed in the first months of the year. As a result, EMEA(4) was up 19.5%, Americas(4) was down by 12.8%, Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan recorded a robust 46.9% increase in line with the strength of the demand from Mainland China, and Rest of APAC(4) grew by 55.6%. Net revenues for the first quarter of 2022 were Euro 1,186 million, up 17.3% or 16.6% at constant currency(1). Revenues from Cars and spare parts(5) were Euro 1,012 million (up 18.3% or 17.9% at constant currency(1)), thanks to higher volume, positive product mix and pricing, together with the contribution from personalizations. The decrease in Engines(6) revenues (Euro 37 million, down 17.8%, also at constant currency(1)) was attributable to lower shipments to Maserati, as the 2023 contract expiration gets closer. Sponsorship, commercial and brand(7) revenues reached Euro 109 million, up 19.6% or 17.2% at constant currency(1) mainly attributable to the better prior year Formula 1 ranking and the contribution from brand-related activities, partially offset by lower sponsorship. Other(8) revenues increased to Euro 28 million (up 42.0% or 37.1% at constant currency(1) mainly due to other supporting activities.

May offer: 50% discount on Talabat app for ahlibank credit cardholders

MUSCAT: In an endeavour to continuously enhance the value-added products and services it offers to its esteemed clientele, ahlibank's ongoing collaboration with Talabat, the region's leading food delivery and q-commerce app, will enable ahlibank customers to avail of even more exciting offers for purchases made through the app, starting on May 19, to continue for a week. The six-month-long collaboration will offer credit cardholders of ahlibank a discount of 50% on orders made through the app. Scheduled to run the third week of each month from January to June. The promotion will be open to all customers making purchases using their credit cards. This initiative will enable the Bank to meet the specific requirements of its customers, as part of its strategic approach to widening their access to a host of products and services that it offers. Commenting on this new partnership, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution, said, “We are always keen to communicate with our customers and take into account their feedback and suggestions. We are constantly studying market trends, which have been reflected in a number of initiatives and offers that we have launched over the past period. This new offer, which targets the category of ahlibank's credit cardholders, approves our belief in the importance of keeping up with



customers' needs and lifestyles, as the world is currently witnessing a marked shift towards digital services that ensure security, low cost and speed of delivery.” “This campaign reflects our focus on expanding the bank's growth by signing agreements with partners from different sectors. Through our collaboration with Talabat, one of the leading delivery companies in the Gulf, we aim to enhance the comfort of our customers and help them reach the greatest amount of advanced services and products,” he added. Under the collaboration agreement, ahlibank customers can avail of a discount of up to RO 10 for each order made through the Talabat app. The discounted amount will be absorbed by the bank, as it is a BIN (Bank Identification Number) based campaign with an auto-apply discount on the checkout page of Talabat. Pointing out that the campaign truly reflects the bank's determination to increase its footprints in the market, Al Balushi stated,

Lamha: Oman's digital marketplace to be launched soon

MUSCAT: In the aftermath of the pandemic, a homegrown brand – Lamha, has been conceptualised to help businesses of all sizes grow. Literally meaning – ‘a moment of vision’, Lamha is the brainchild of its young and dynamic Omani founder- Fatma Salim Al Kharousi. “To deliver sustained In-Country Value (ICV) for the Sultanate, Lamha seeks opportunities to create value chains for, and with merchant partners. We are also keen to assist in developing and promoting newly established Omani companies, especially SMEs, through our platform,” says Fatma. Lamha, is an easy-to-use, interactive and secure web platform that enables visitors to discover and shop for local products and services, as well as international products throughout Oman. Lamha realises how valuable SMEs are for the development and growth of the country. Lamha itself being an SME has specially designed a specific section of the website dedicated to SMEs called “SME Souq” to help SMEs embrace digital transformation effortlessly through a perceptive hands-on approach, and fine-tuned expertise that gears them for unprecedented transformation, to enable their growth digitally. The company looks forward



to helping businesses take their growth venture to the next level in an economically viable manner; by helping them transform, and thrive digitally, through a suite of collaborative, user-friendly, web-based tools and resources. Lamha is also looking toward rewarding customers for every purchase they do. Quality products with timely delivery, offering local Omani products, a seamless and secure buying process and more interactive features are some of its unique offerings. Doing its bit to support SMEs and enable them to come on the virtual platform with ease, without any additional financial burden, Lamha is currently offering complimentary registrations for SMEs for its SME Souq Plan.



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Offer valid from 20th March to 19th May 2022 on applicable models purchased for personal use. Offer not available for vehicles purchased for Commercial use, Rent-a-car, Fleet, Taxi, Government and Driving School. # Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes 10,000 kms Service Intervals. @ For 1st year Oman and UAE only. ^ For 1st year only. * & ^ Applicable for private registrations only. For Commercial registrations additional amount needs to be borne by the customer. *@ Additional PMS Service for new car, Special In-House Finance rate & trade-in benefits. Second car purchase should be either in the name of existing Renault owner or his/her immediate family member (wife/husband/son/daughter/brother/sister) to avail additional benefits under the scheme. Conditions apply. Social media users who will participate in different digital promotional campaigns and online challenges on the Renaultoman Instagram will get a fuel voucher worth OMR 50 (3 nos.) / Renault branded UV Sterilizer cum wireless charger (2 nos.). Accessories and equipment shown in the car are not part of standard features. * EMI shown is calculated on the price of the base model variant with 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals. Terms & Conditions apply.

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4

DAYS
DEAL



RIAL 0.390

Banana (Ecuador)
per kg



RIAL 0.080

Onion (India)
per kg



RIAL 1.690

Mumtaz Tea Dust
900 gms



SAVE 28.674%

RIAL 2.790

RIAL 1.990

Al Asayil White Egg
2 x 30's

2
kgs



SAVE 24.615%

RIAL 0.650

RIAL 0.490

Hira Sugar 2 kgs

4
Pcs



SAVE 21.429%

RIAL 1.400

RIAL 1.100

Lacnor UHT Milk
4 x 1 Ltr



SAVE 49.422%

RIAL 3.460

RIAL 1.750

Walnut (USA)
500 gms



SAVE 34.934%

RIAL 2.290

RIAL 1.490

Beef Bone-In (Pakistan)
per kg



SAVE 31.746%

RIAL 1.890

RIAL 1.290

Dove Soap
4 x 135 gms

4
Pcs



2
Pcs

SAVE 55.133%

RIAL 1.315

RIAL 0.590

Dabur Vatika Hair Cream
2 x 140 ml Assorted



SAVE 28.583%

RIAL 209.895

RIAL 149.900

LG 43" 4K Smart TV
43UP7750PVB



5
Ltrs.

SAVE 50.000%

RIAL 8.900

RIAL 4.450

Smart Kitchen Aluminium
Pressure Cooker 5 Ltrs



3
Ltrs.

SAVE 26.420%

RIAL 2.025

RIAL 1.490

Comfort
Fabric Softener
3 Ltrs Assorted

amazfit

Available @ Selected
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SAVE 40.294%

RIAL 29.980

RIAL 17.900

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A2008 BIP U Pro
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128
GB
MEMORY

8GB
RAM

RIAL 149.000

Samsung Galaxy S20
Fan Edition 5G G781,
4500 mAh, Android

ikon



750
Watts

SAVE 25.105%

RIAL 23.900

RIAL 17.900

Ikon Mixer Grinder 3 Jars
IKIN721

Moulinex



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Watts

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RIAL 9.900

Moulinex Blender
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