

**THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE
VACATING YOUR HOUSE**

Tenants living in houses in Oman must inform their landlords either three months before their rent agreement expires, or before completing half the duration of their rent agreement, whichever time period is shorter. **>A3**



6 085010 120010

**HIS MAJESTY SENDS CABLE
OF GREETINGS TO LITHUANIA**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Gitanas Nausėda of the Republic of Lithuania on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Nausėda. He also wished the people of Lithuania further progress and growth. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 249 | 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

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

CAMEL RACING

Sayyid Theyazin to preside over Al Bashayer Annual Camel Racing Festival



ADAM: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth will patronise over the concluding ceremony of the 5th edition of Al Bashayer Annual Festival for Arabian Camel Racing on 5 March 2022.

The 6-day event will be held on Al Bashayer racecourse in the

Wilayat of Adam, the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah. The race, to begin on 28 February, includes 74 rounds with prizes for the winners ranging from 25 cars, a golden sword, a silver sword and several other cash prizes.

Dr. Abdullah Salim Al Junaibi, Director General of Al Bashayer racecourse said that the importance of this festival is embodied in its position as one of the most important sports events in the Sultanate of Oman. The race will see the participation of contestants from Oman and the GCC.

Al Junaibi affirmed that the event will be held in adherence to preventive measures set by the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. **- ONA**



SCREENING COMPLETE

Ten projects shortlisted for final stage of Bilarab Bin Haitham Award

MUSCAT: The Arbitration Committee of Bilarab Bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design has concluded sorting out and evaluation of the projects that meet the terms of the first phase of the award, which include architectural landmarks, models and buildings inspired by the Omani culture, in addition to tourism and commercial establishments, parks and open-area souqs.

Ten projects have qualified for the final stage of evaluation out of the projects submitted.

The participants were divided into five individual teams and five team groups were invited to deliver presentations on their projects within the initial review stage, which will be held on 27 and 28 February at the exhibitions hall of Sultan Qaboos University.

>A2



OMAN'S LOCATION MAKES IT VULNERABLE TO CYCLONES

Researchers have offered advice to mitigate damage from cyclones

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's maritime location between the Tropic of Cancer and Equator makes it more susceptible and vulnerable to cyclones, say climate researchers in the country.



Citing reasons why Oman faces so much damage from cyclones, they have also offered suggestions on ways to mitigate their impact.

The researchers have shared their thoughts in "Scientific Insights", a periodic newsletter published by the Ministry of

Higher Education, Research, and Innovation.

Dr Ahmed Hadidi, an assistant professor at the Department of Applied Geosciences at GUTech, said: "Oman's location between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator makes it vulnerable to cyclones developing in the ocean,

and climate change does not play a major role in this phenomenon," he revealed. "However, climate change may increase the frequency and intensity of these events."

Exposed to cyclones

Climate researcher Harith Al Saifi added: "The Sultanate is exposed to cyclones because of its location on the Arabian Sea, which satisfies the appropriate elements for the formation of tropical conditions, the most important of which is the warming of surface water above 27 degrees." He went on cite many examples of cyclones and hurricanes that previously affected Oman. **>A4**







Is your bank keeping pace with your business needs?

Realise your organisation's potential with Bank Muscat Corporate Banking solutions.

At Bank Muscat, we value your time and aim to simplify your commercial banking processes and increase the productivity of your organisation with a host of Corporate Banking solutions. We bring banking to you with our wide range of services including Corporate Loans & Cards, Global Trade Services and New-Age Digital Solutions that cater to your everyday banking needs and meet your long-term business goals.

Contact us at CorporateServiceDesk@bankmuscat.com or scan for more.



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.



Dhuhr.....	12:26pm
Asr.....	3:42pm
Maghrib.....	6:08pm
Isha.....	7:19pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:23am

Joy for Czech cyclist Jan Hirt as Tour of Oman comes to an end

French team Arkea Samsic were named the best team of the peloton, while the White Jersey, which is given to the best young cyclist, went to Dane Anthon Charmig of Uno-X Pro Cycling Team

Gautam Viswanathan

MUSCAT: Jan Hirt finished top of the Tour of Oman standings to be crowned champion of the six-day cycling event, while Fernando Gaviria finished ahead of the chasing pack on day six of the event, just as he had on day one.

Czech cyclist Hirt, who races for Belgian team Intermarche – Wanty – Gobert Materiaux, saw off competition from Fausto Masnada and Rui Costa to claim the Tour of Oman title.

“Cycling is a team sport – alone, you can do almost nothing,” said Hirt. “A title is impossible to defend alone, and I am really happy that I have this strong team.”

Meanwhile, UAE Team Emirates’ Gaviria was able to outlast Kaden Groves of Team Bike Exchange Jayco and Amaury Capiot of Arkea Samsic in a tournament that is as much about mental strength, persistence and determi-

French team bags title

MUSCAT: The French team Arkea-Samsic won the 11th edition of Tour of Oman.

The 6-day tournament was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth with the participation of 17 international team.

The entire length of the 11th edition of the Tour of Oman was 891 km, encompassing a diverse range of picturesque terrains and marvellous natural sceneries.

The closing ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Kamil Fahd Al Said, in the presence

of Basil Ahmed Al Rawas, the Ministry’s Undersecretary for Sports and Youth.

HH Sayyid Kamil said that the tour is an international event that attracts professional champions in cycling. “The diverse terrains of the routes in Oman always heat up the competition,” added HH Sayyid Kamil.

In his turn, Al Rawas said that the Tour of Oman enjoyed international coverage, reaching over 190 countries. This, he said, contributes to promoting Oman’s various geographical landscapes. -ONA



nation as it is about physical preparation and stamina.

“I’m really happy to take the last stage here in Oman,” said Gaviria, following his victory. “It’s been a good week for me and the team. I’m happy because my team worked well and stayed focused on winning the stage and we were able to deliver.

“From the beginning, we tried to take control of the race and luckily I had good legs in the finish and could take the sprint,” he added. “It was a nice week: One of the beauties of this sport is to travel and discover new countries and cultures. So to ride in amazing places like Oman is great and we’ll hope to be back next year.”

Hirt was in pole position to finish atop the overall standings once he had finished stage 5 leading the pack. Arguably the most arduous of the six-leg race, stage 5 involved climbing up the mountain paths leading to Jabal Akhdar, the Green

Mountain, a true test of ability and concentration for even the most skilled cyclists.

French team Arkea Samsic were named the best team of the peloton, while the White Jersey, which is given to the best young cyclist, went to Dane Anthon Charmig of Uno-X Pro Cycling Team.

Arkea Samsic cyclists knew just how hard it was to summit the mountain, with Kevin Vauquelin having endured much en route to finishing second on day five.

“This second place is different to the one obtained yesterday, because to come to the summit, I had to exceed my own abilities both in terms of physical capabilities and energy,” he said. “I would once again like to thank all those who helped me get here.

His teammate Elie Gesbert added: “The Green Mountain is a demanding climb. The few seconds

more I took to climb it, I am sure, will mean I am going to miss out on ascending the podium.”

White Jersey winner Anthon Charmig said: “The Green Mountain stage didn’t go as I had hoped for after an early crash, but overall, happy about the race and incredibly proud of my stage win! Thanks to the team for the help all week!”

The Tour of Oman route spans the length and breadth of the country and features a variety of terrains from wide open roads to winding, mountainous paths.

Challenges

Cyclists taking part often need to be prepped on many levels for the arduous route mapped out for them. This year, stage 1 saw them race across asphalt as they hit the ground running from Al Rustaq fort to the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in the capital,

Muscat, a distance of 138 km.

Stage 2 saw the cyclists departing from Naseem Garden, the competitors hugging the coastline as they tried to see who could win the 167.5 km race to the Sohar Corniche. They were back in Muscat for stage 3, which began at Sultan Qaboos University and ended a good 180 km later in Quriyat.

After a short journey to Al Sifah by the sea, the drivers began stage 4 by making a beeline for the Royal Opera House Muscat, some 119.5 km away. Stage five took the riders into the hinterland of the country and marked by far the most challenging leg of the race; after setting off in Samail, the cyclists needed to brave the steep slopes and thinner atmosphere of Jabal Akhdar, the Green Mountain that stands nearly 3,000 metres above sea level, all the while making sure they had enough energy for the

150.5 km they need to complete.

It was a sprint to the finish in stage six, with cyclists taking off from Al Mouj Muscat and heading for the Muttrah Corniche, covering a distance of 135.5 km.

Diabetes awareness

The 2022 edition also marks the first appearance at the event by US cycling team Novo Nordisk, the world’s first all-diabetes cycling team, which included raising awareness on diabetes as part of their message at every event they compete in. Frenchman Charles Planet is captain of the team of cyclists who all have type 1 diabetes. “I am very proud to showcase our jersey and show our message,” he said. “We have a double mission here: To show what we can do in the race, and to raise awareness about diabetes. Exercising every day is so important to managing diabetes.



MEETING

Majlis Al Shura Office reviews results of discussions with ministers



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Majlis Al Shura Office reviewed the results and recommendations of the discussions held with the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Minister of Economy.

The meeting was chaired by Khalid bin Hilal Al Mawali, Chairman of Majlis Al Shura in the

presence of the members and Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary of Majlis.

The meeting also reviewed a number of ministerial responses including the reply of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the reply of the Minister of Health and the reply of the Minister of Information.

Majlis Al Shura Office also ap-

proved the agenda of the 8th session of Majlis scheduled for the end of February for a discussion on the statement of the Ministry of Economy. The Majlis Al Shura Office also reviewed the request for a discussion submitted by a number of members on the internal circular No. 3/2020 of the Ministry of Labour, on not linking the qualifications with wages.

The request of the members also conveyed the interest of the members in a discussion with the Minister of Labour on the subject.. The Majlis Office decided to incorporate the request in the agenda of the next session of Majlis Al Shura.

It was the 9th regular meeting of the third annual convening (2021-2022) of the 9th term.

ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

Presentations of projects sought



Those who have qualified will deliver detailed presentations before the Arbitration Committee.

The Arbitration Committee urged the youth who qualified to amend and improve the designs of their projects and told them the aspects of their project which they

need to work on.

The Committee also asked them to prepare final video presentations for their projects, provided that they send their participations not later than 10am, Thursday, 24 February.

-ONA



Follow us on
TFMOman



OMAN



AI Rifa Banking Services

Your Special Banking World

Platinum Credit card with exclusive features and offers including maximum value with Master Card Buy-1 Get-1 offers across merchants

Access to Airport lounges across the world

Transfer your salary and get a chance to enter "Double your salary" scheme draws

Housing loans with a quick processing time

Attractive rates on Long Term Deposit for Retirement

For more information:
<https://bit.ly/BankdhofarEng>





الرفحة

AI Rifa

الخدمات المصرفية الخاصة

Special Banking Services

the best bank for you

2479 1111

www.bankdhofar.com

KNOW OMAN

Here’s what you need to do before vacating your house

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tenants living in houses in Oman must inform their landlords either three months before their rent agreement expires, or before completing half the duration of their rent agreement, whichever time period is shorter. Muscat Municipality has pertinent articles pertaining to tenancy and rent agreements in the capital, which clearly detail the responsibilities of both tenants and property owners.

“This agreement can be renewed for a further period, unless one of the parties advises the other of his wish to vacate the property before the expiry of the valid period by at least three months or half the period, if it is less. The landlord may not ask for evacuation of the property except in accordance with the provisions and procedures of the Royal Decree No. (6/89),” said Muscat Municipality.

Tenants are also not allowed to sublet or rent their houses to anyone else, unless permitted to do so by the owner of the property. Utilities such as electricity



and water bills, municipality fees, sewerage service charges and any other allied fees must be paid by tenants, either from the time they take possession of the property, or on any other date that has been mutually agreed upon in writing.

Municipality taxes mentioned in the provisions of Royal Decree No. (6/89) and its amendments are a government debt to be paid by landlords or tenants as per the agreement and can be collected by administrative confiscation.

Once the lease/rent agreement has expired, the tenant is obligated to return the property to the land-

lord, after repairing any damages caused during his stay. The landlord, on the other hand, must conduct any maintenance, overhauling and restoration works required for the house to meet the standards expected by future renters. In the event of either party failing to comply with their commitments prescribed in the terms of rental agreement issued by Muscat Municipality, the other party shall have the right to rescind their provisions.

Rental agreements can also be considered null and void, if they are not registered with Muscat Municipality or if the tax related to the property is not paid within a month from the time the agreement comes into effect or has expired. Landlords who do not deposit their rental agreements or file taxes on time will also face a fine equal to three times the fixed tax, which has been set at three percent. “Other terms and conditions may be added to this agreement as mutually agreed by both parties provided they do not contradict with Royal Decree No. (6/89),” added the municipality.

INITIATIVE

Hydroponics Project of ISM harvests rich crop of greens

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian School Muscat harvested hydroponically home-grown greens on 2nd February 2022. The much-appreciated hydroponics initiative helped students to grasp the basic concepts in agriculture, become sensitive towards the increasing urbanisation that accelerates food demand, resulting in the growing interest and need for vertical farming worldwide.

Students are equipped to face the challenges with soilless agriculture, producing the best of the greens packed with nutrients. Using hydroponics, the initiative was able to save 80 per cent water over what is consumed in conventional farming.

Training and networking with the growers, Indian School Muscat got the first instalment of the produce of this year. Showcas-



ing dedication towards breeding, processing and transformation; distribution and consumption in an urban environment, students learned cost effective ways to grow one's own greens.

The group of enthusiastic students and teachers working tirelessly under the guidance of Nanma Krishikootamat Indian School Muscat harvested mint, basil, red

and green lettuce and sold them during recess hours through the temporary sale-counters in the school premises. The proceeds were handed over to the Hydroponic Project. Sachin Toprani, President, Indian School Management Committee was all praise for the wonderful initiative and extolled students and the teachers. “Sowed goodness, reaped goodness in multiples, generating a reasonable yield hydroponically, opening new realms of expertise into daily life,” he said.

Praising and congratulating the students and the teachers for their energy and enthusiasm, Principal Dr Rajeev Kumar Chauhan said, “This is an era heralding, widening the scopes and horizons of education”. The hydroponics teacher coordinators worked tirelessly helping the students to excel and surface as glorious winners in all walks of life.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BOOK MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

30,303 REACH



Will a 4th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine become necessary?

Story on whether we need a 4th dose of Covid-19 vaccine

A story on if we need a 4th dose of Covid-19 vaccine reached 30,303 people and had 3,408 engagements on Facebook.

TELEVISION MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

12,500 VIEWS



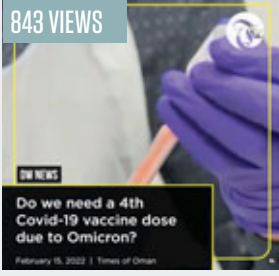
Price of Oman oil approaches \$93

Maghrib Minute video news wrap

The Maghrib Minute video news wrap had 12,500 views and reached 36,800 people on Facebook.

VIDEO MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

843 VIEWS



Do we need a 4th Covid-19 vaccine dose due to Omicron?

Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video had 843 views and 40 likes on Instagram.



←THE→ COUNTDOWN

SPORTS LOUNGE

HAPPY HOUR

Saturday to Wednesday from 16:00 - 19:00

WINGS AND DRINKS

Monday from 18:00 - 20:00

TOASTED TUESDAY

Tuesday from 18:00 - 20:00

LADIES NIGHT

Wednesday from 18:00 - 20:00

CURRYWURST SATURDAYS

Saturday from 18:00 - 20:00

LUNCH PROMO

Sunday to Saturday from 13:00 - 16:00

CONTACT OUR CULINARY CONCIERGE

+968 2498 5000 | DINING.MUSCAT@KEMPINSKI.COM

All prices in OMR, subject to 8% service charge, 5% VAT & all applicable governmental taxes



Win

Some amazing gift's from

Khyber Restaurant & McDonald's

in our raffle!

Register on Times Eshhar Classified

Whatsapp your name to **+968 93388405**











*Condition applied



OMAN



Follow us on
TFMOman



HARAT AL BILAD in the Wilayat of Manah is one of Oman's largest ancient archaeological neighbourhoods. It contains 376 houses and nearly 250 wells dating back nine centuries.

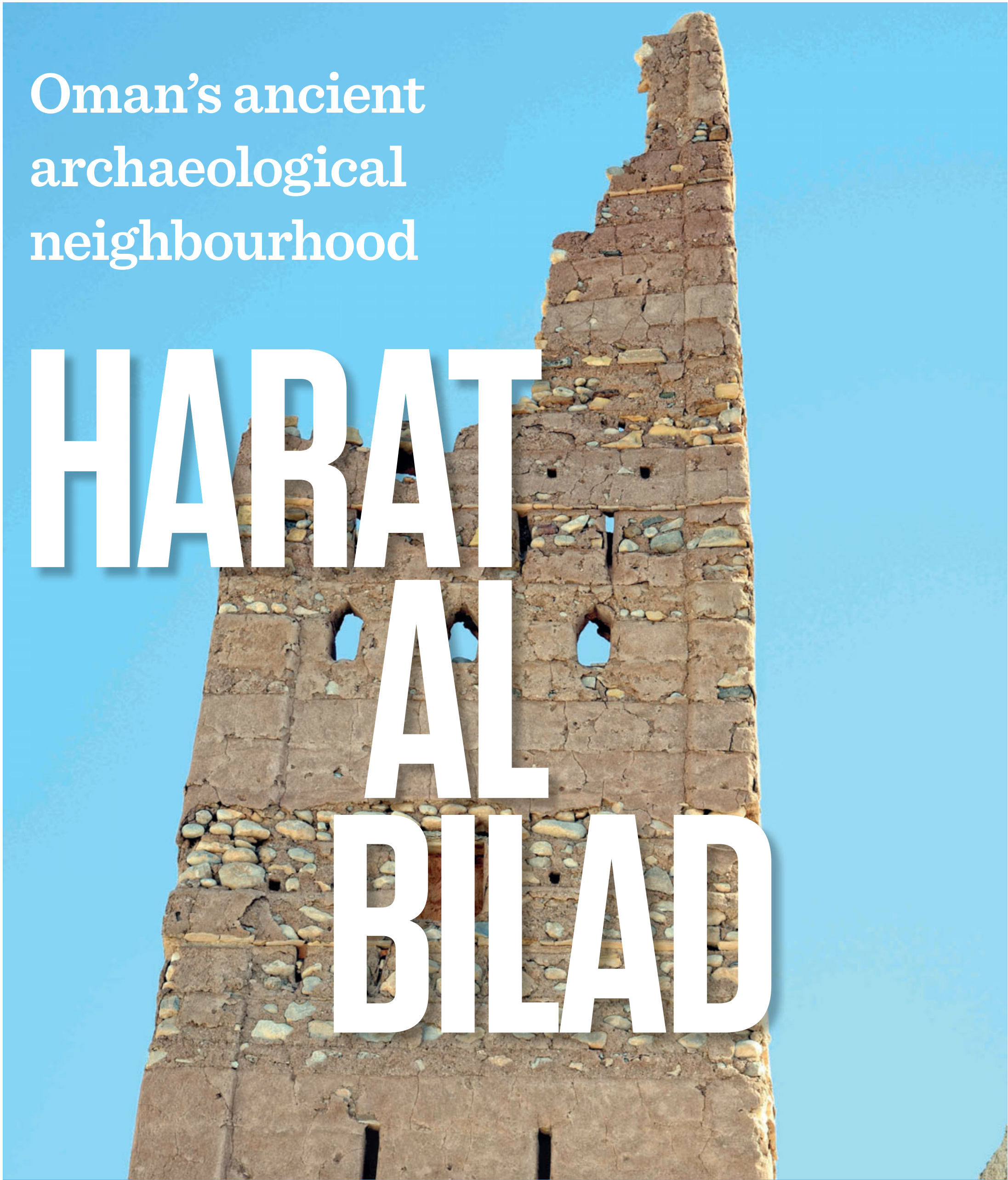
The scholar, Sheikh Nejad bin Ibrahim, was among the first who settled in Harat Al Bilad and founded Al Yamania Quarter in 470 Hijri. Harat Al Bilad has been referred to by several names, such as "Manah Fortress" and "Fortress of bin Nejad". It was the seat of an active

scientific movement and where many books and Fiqh encyclopedias were copied, the historical researcher Khal-fan bin Salim Al Busaidi has said in his book, 'Donations and Grants in the history of the people of Manah'.

Located in the middle of the Wilayat of Manah, visitors to Harat will find several gates, including the main Morning Gate, which was built close to the market of the wilayat. The other gates are spread throughout the Harat, namely the "Bab

Al Qasab", "Bab Al Nasr", "Bab Al Rawla", "Bab Al Burj", and "Bab Al Duajain".

For the defence of the Harat, it had a wall on all sides. The people took care of the wall because it was the first line of defence. In addition to the defence towers, there were several openings and windows along the walls to open fire on the enemy. Harat Al Bilad includes four ancient mosques spread along its central lane. They are Al Ali, Al Ain, Al Shara and Al Rahba.



GLOBAL WARMING

< FROM A1 Cyclones have increased in intensity over the years

The 1723 cyclone, according to the documentation of the French Order of St John and the Book of Al-Nameer, the Safar cyclone in June 1836 which made landfall at a rock in Wadi Al Hemali in Rustaq and the 1959 cyclone called Al Ghariqah, which killed more than 120 people.

"Last but not least; the well-known cyclone that made landfall in Masirah and Dhofar provinces in 1977," Al Saifi added. "Generally, cyclones affect the Sultanate of Oman sporadically and are spaced out in time."

Increased intensity of cyclones

According to a study by Dr. Suad Al Manji and Amna Al Rahili,

although their number has decreased globally, cyclones have increased in intensity over the years. This is due to increasing global warming of ocean waters, which gives higher capacity to build and increase the intensity of cyclones. Therefore, hurricane-rated cyclones have a higher probability of impact and landfall than tropical storms.

Thus, the likelihood of the Sultanate being affected by cyclones is high. Researchers also found that during 1880-1900, the number of cyclones affecting Oman has increased, with some of them having a severe impact.

From 2007 to the present, history is repeating itself, and cyclones are increasing in intensity and

impact on land.

Not attributable to climate change

Hilal Al Hajri, a meteorologist at the Civil Aviation Authority, said there is some controversy over climate change and its related impact on adverse weather events.

"Based on statistics, the average number of cyclones in the last 10 years is increasing compared to the years immediately preceding them," he said.

"However, if we return to recent years, it is clear that the current status of the average number of tropical cyclones is lower than before, indicating that the frequency of these weather events cannot be attributed to climate change with

absolute certainty, especially with the increased and faster development of monitoring devices that have clearly enhanced the monitoring of tropical events.

"Nevertheless, the question still arises as to what causes cyclones, and what are the true factors that play a role in causing cyclones," he added.

Tropical cyclones are given names according to the ocean in which they form: They're called hurricanes if they form in the Atlantic Ocean and its seas and parts of the Indian Ocean, typhoons if they originate in the Northwest Pacific Ocean in East and Southeast Asia and cyclones if born in the Indian Ocean.

Oman is at risk of tropical cy-

clones because these conditions are active above the Indian Ocean from May to July and October to November. Cyclones formed in the Arabian Sea account for one percent of all hurricanes in the world's oceans, but do account for very high losses and damages.

Ways to mitigate damages

Harith Al Saifi also explained how countries like Oman could be better prepared to withstand the impact of hurricanes, while stressing the need for awareness, preparedness and appropriate planning to reduce their impact.

Solutions include, he said, "Sound urban planning, where canyons are left unfettered, and trails are deepened to absorb suf-

ficient water from flowing wadis. Another solution is to build bridges compatible with the exceptional conditions produced by cyclones, such as flooding, which cause significant road damage, as well as increasing canyons and drainage channels in modern cities.

"The rainfall associated with cyclones is enormous and equivalent to several years of rain," he explained.

"For example, the mountains of Dima Wattayeen recorded an amount of approximately 100 mm rainfall during Cyclone Gonu in 2007. This amount is equivalent to 10 years of rain over Muscat. This volume cannot be managed by natural sewers, so, it overflowed to its surroundings."





Follow us on

TFMOman



OMAN





order now



99217943



80076006

Download Salsabeel App



Download on the App Store



GET IT ON Google Play

FREE DELIVERY



1st

5GB BOTTLE IN OMAN



Follow us for more offers



GULFOOD 2022

Omani companies sign deals at Gulfood in Dubai

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn, continues its participation at the annual food and hospitality event – Gulfood 2022 held at Dubai World Trade Centre in the UAE amid great response from the visitors flocking to the Sultanate’s pavilion.

The participating Omani companies under the umbrella of Madayn have inked export, import and distribution related contracts and deals this week, and have attracted a large crowd of business owners, investors, commercial agents and suppliers.

Representatives of the participating companies expressed the great role played by Gulfood for the food and beverage industry and its remarkable contribution to spreading awareness on the Omani products at the global level.



“This is our third participation at Gulfood,” says Khamis Al Yarubi, Chairman of Overseas Food Industries, adding: “Although the previous participations were successful; however, we have received greater impact at this year’s version compared to the previous ones despite the conditions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, we have signed initial import and export related contracts and MoUs with Jordanian, Syrian, Iraqi and Emirati companies this week.”

May Al Harthy, Marketing Specialist at Nakheel Oman Development Company, commented that the company is present for the first time at Gulfood, and is focusing through its participation on promoting Omani dates and introducing the visitors to the ‘Million Date Palm Plantation Project’, which is one of the leading agricultural projects in the Sultanate.

Nakheel is also promoting its three brands at the event: Tamrah -luxury brand of fine Omani dates and sweets, Nizwa – high quality

natural dates targeting local and international retail markets, and Zaad – targeting export and wholesale in local and international markets. Al Harthy said, “We have received a great turnout from suppliers and international retailers and wholesalers at the exhibition.”

Maryam Al Ghazali of Al Jouhad Food Tech Laboratory, said: “Through Gulfood 2022, we aim at highlighting on our company’s vision in becoming the most reliable laboratory in the region that is capable of analysing a range of products under local and international specifications and Halal assurance system requirements. These products include farm to fork food products, beverages, water, cosmetics including sanitisers, feed and feed raw material, and veterinary drugs finished products and raw material.”

Commenting on the participation at Gulfood 2022, Malallah Al Hamadani, Marketing Director at Oman Foodstuff Factory (Al Mudhish) said: “We constantly

aim at promoting our products at local and international platforms under ‘Made in Oman’ campaign that is managed by Madayn. Our participation at Gulfood allows us to get familiarised with the recent trends in food manufacturing and meet business owners from all over the world.”

Osaid Al Houqani, Director of Operations at Nizwa Food Industries, said, “We aim at achieving the greatest possible benefit at Gulfood by meeting representatives of food and beverage industries and promoting our products to a large segment of local, regional and international visitors.”

Through Gulfood 2022 platform, which will conclude on Thursday, Madayn aims at introducing the Omani products to visitors from across the globe, explore new regional and international markets and consumers for the Omani industries, and allow the participants under Madayn to learn about the latest products, trends and technologies in the food, beverage and hospitality industries.

FALAM BEACH, A BEAUTIFUL TOURISM DESTINATION

The coastal strip in the Wilayat of Mahut, Al Wusta Governorate, is one of the most beautiful sites frequented by tourists and local people of the state. Falam beach, located along the coast, is a tourism destination and a natural reserve favoured by bird watching amateurs. -ONA



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY OF FROZEN MUTTON FOR THE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS	05/2022	07/03/2022	14/03/2022	1500 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa crediti" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.

ADR TRAINING

Agreement inked to offer arbitrator training and accreditation courses

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre (OAC) and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) announced partnership to offer CIArb’s ‘gold standard’ arbitrator training and accreditation courses in Oman.

The partnership comes in response to the marked preference by Omani and international parties doing business in and through Oman to resolve their disputes through arbitration, and the resultant growing demand for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) training.

Under this strategic partnership the two institutions will jointly offer, for the first time in Oman, CIArb’s world-renowned ‘Pathways in International Arbitration’ programme which also includes accelerated route courses to CIArb Membership and Fellowship.

All individuals who acquire CIArb Fellowship through any of these courses will be deemed to have satisfied the important first step - the education and training requirement - for admission onto OAC’s Panel of Arbitrators.

The courses, offered in Arabic and English, will be delivered in accordance with CIArb’s regula-



tions, standards, and would make use of CIArb tutors, syllabi, and course content, and also the CIArb’s centralised assessment system. These courses will be conducted in the conventional face-to-face mode as well as in a virtual environment.

The partnership would also strive to generally increase awareness of the advantages of arbitration and other forms of ADR to members of the business and legal communities in Oman and the wider MENA region.

The partnership agreement was signed recently by Dr Moosaa Al Azri, CEO of the OAC and Catherine Dixon, Director General of CIArb.

On the occasion of the signing of this strategic partnership, Dr Al Azri said, “This historic part-

nership is part of the greater vision of the OAC to build capacity in arbitration in the Sultanate of Oman and generally enhance the attractiveness of Oman as a seat and venue for arbitrations.”

Catherine Dixon CIArb’s Director General said “CIArb is delighted to be working with the OAC to deliver International Arbitration training in Oman to establish Oman as an attractive and sustainable seat for international arbitration. This exciting collaboration will enable arbitration practitioners and those aspiring to be arbitrators, to access world-class internationally recognised training and to join CIArb’s global and diverse membership of over 17,000 ADR practitioners operating in over 150 jurisdictions.”



AL KAMIL POWER COMPANY SAOG

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report and the audited financial statements of the Company for the year 2021.

Summarised Operational and Financial Results

Operational performance

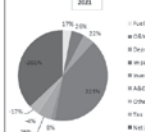
Over the last few years the load profile of the plant had changed from base load operation to a peaking plant. The operation profile during the year showed very low dispatch starts and load factor, thereby serving more as stand-by for the grid requirements. The plant achieved commercial availability of 95.33%. The commercial availability was adversely affected by the GT1B outage incident. The plant clocked 6,740 days (entire PPA tenure) without Lost Time Accident upto the end of 2021. This is reflective of our commitment and internal focus on Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Management. We acknowledge the excellent performance of our dedicated and diligent Operation and Maintenance team, especially against the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Financial Performance

Consequent to the attainment of the Power 2022 procurement process by OPWP, the resultant non-renewal of the PPA beyond 31 December 2021 and the lack of economic feasibility of the Spot Market, the Board of Directors believe that there are no economically viable options available for the company to continue its operations beyond 31 December 2021. Therefore, the Financial Statements have been prepared on realisation basis.

The company posted a net loss of RO 14.77 million, mainly due to impairment loss on plant & machinery and building of RO 16.45 million, provision for decommissioning and liquidation costs of RO 1.40 million and inventory provision of RO 0.57 million.

The following graph explains the costs as percentage of the total revenue.



2021

100%

16.45% Plant & machinery

1.40% Decommissioning and liquidation costs

0.57% Inventory provision

82.58% Other costs



2020

100%

16.45% Plant & machinery

1.40% Decommissioning and liquidation costs

0.57% Inventory provision

82.58% Other costs

Power Sector in Oman

AKPC's entire output generated was purchased by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOG (OPWP) pursuant to the Power Purchase Agreement between OPWP and AKPC.

Suite of Project Agreements

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) sets out the terms for the generation and supply of power exclusively to OPWP, a closed joint stock company owned by the Government of Oman. The Agreement covered a fifteen-year period from 1 May 2002, was extended for 4 years and 8 months and expired on 31 December 2021.

The Generation Licence is granted by the Authority for Public Services Regulation, a state regulatory body established under the Sector Law.

The Natural Gas Sales Agreement (NGSA) with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) for the purchase of natural gas from MEM for a period of fifteen years, further extended upto and expired on 31 December 2021, at a pre-determined price.

Electricity Connection Agreement (ECA) with Oman Electricity Transmission Company SAOG (OETC) for establishing a framework between OETC and the Company to provide connection of the power station to the transmission system and enforcement of the Grid Code between OETC and the Company.

The Operation & Maintenance Agreement (OMA) with Al Kamil Construction & Services LLC (AKCS). Pursuant to OMA, AKCS was responsible for the operations and maintenance of the plant in return for a fixed, as well as a variable fee. The Agreement covered a fifteen year period from 1 May 2002, further extended upto and expired on 31 December 2021.

Company's future

There have been a number of developments over the past 12 months as a result of which the Board of Directors is of the view that it is no longer feasible for the company to continue operations beyond 31 December 2021. These developments include: (i) the decision by OPWP to annual Power 2022 procurement process and the resulting confirmation of the expiry of the power purchase agreement between the Company and OPWP; and (ii) the independent study commissioned by the Company finding that the Company has no real prospect of participating in the Spot Market launched in January 2022. The Board of Directors will therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the Commercial Companies Law, convene an extraordinary general meeting to consider and pass resolutions necessary for the liquidation of the Company.

Dividends

No dividend was paid in 2021.

The following is the dividends paid by the Company in the last six years:

Year	Dividend %
2016	7%
2017	10%
2018	25%
2019	40%
2020	55%
2021	NIL

Other Matters

There is a continuous process for identifying, evaluating and managing the key risks faced by the company. The internal audit plan was framed to appraise any identifiable high-risk areas. The report of the internal auditor was reviewed and any necessary actions were taken.

The auditors have given an unqualified audit report on the financial results of the Company for the year 2021.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said and his Government for the encouragement and support they continue to provide to private sector investors.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the Directors, management staff and all personnel associated with the operation of the Al Kamil power plant for their hard work and dedication.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Frederic Claux
Chairman

AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020		
	RO '000	USD '000	RO '000	USD '000
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	--	--	19,435	50,530
Right-of-use assets	--	--	70	182
Total non-current assets	--	--	19,505	50,712
Current assets				
Property, plant and equipment held for sale	1,328	3,453	--	--
Inventories	720	1,872	1,313	3,413
Trade and other receivables	1,875	4,875	930	2,418
Bank balances, deposits and cash	4,357	11,328	591	1,537
Total current assets	8,280	21,528	2,834	7,368
Total assets	8,280	21,528	22,339	58,080
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	9,625	25,025	9,625	25,025
Legal reserve	3,208	8,341	3,208	8,341
(Accumulated losses) / retained earnings	(8,174)	(21,252)	6,593	17,141
Total equity	4,659	12,114	19,426	50,507
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Employees' end of service benefits	--	--	18	49
Provision for decommissioning costs	--	--	179	465
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	--	--	85	221
Deferred tax liability	--	--	1,838	4,779
Total non-current liabilities	--	--	2,120	5,514
Current liabilities				
Current portion of lease liabilities	--	--	7	18
Amounts due to related parties	116	302	145	377
Provision for decommissioning costs	1,329	3,455	--	--
Provision for liquidation costs	250	650	--	--
Trade and other payables	1,338	3,476	217	561
Employees' end of service benefits	21	57	--	--
Taxation	567	1,474	424	1,103
Total current liabilities	3,621	9,414	793	2,059
Total liabilities	3,621	9,414	2,913	7,573
Total equity and liabilities	8,280	21,528	22,339	58,080
Net assets per share	0.048	0.13	0.202	0.52

AUDITED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020		
	RO '000	USD '000	RO '000	USD '000
INCOME				
Revenue	7,362	19,141	6,515	16,942
Operating costs	(5,420)	(14,092)	(4,005)	(10,413)
Gross profit	1,942	5,049	2,510	6,529
Other income	260	676	151	392
	2,202	5,725	2,661	6,921
EXPENSES				
Impairment loss on property, plant and equipment	16,453	42,777	8,194	21,304
Provision for decommissioning costs	1,150	2,990	--	--
Provision for liquidation costs	250	650	--	--
General and administration	390	1,014	387	1,008
Interest on lease liabilities	5	13	6	16
	18,248	47,444	8,587	22,328
Loss before taxation	(16,046)	(41,719)	(5,926)	(15,407)
Taxation credit	1,279	3,326	892	2,319
Net loss and total comprehensive income for the year	(14,767)	(38,393)	(5,034)	(13,088)
Basic earnings per share	(0.153)	(0.40)	(0.052)	(0.14)



WORLD



TFM
954 1 910



Follow us on
TFMOman



**“We choose homegrown
We choose A'Saffa**

At A'Saffa, we are constantly trying to live up to the trust you have placed in us over the past 20 years. Consequently, our quality products ensure that you receive only the most flavourful and nutritious local food. With us, you will get nothing but the best.

1
No.1 CHOICE
OF OMAN

**الصفاة
A'SAFFA**

A name you can trust اسم يمكنك الوثوق به

asaffa.com

PROTESTS

Canada PM Justin Trudeau invokes emergency powers to deal with protests

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday invoked never before used emergency ordinance in a bid to quash protests that have brought the capital city Ottawa to a near standstill.

For the past two weeks, hundreds and sometimes thousands of protesters in trucks and other vehicles have blocked the streets of Ottawa, as they vented their frustration over vaccine mandates and other virus-related restrictions.

As a result, Trudeau conducted a meeting with the country's provincial leadership and announced the measures in a national address.

"The Federal government has invoked the Emergencies Act to supplement provincial and territorial capacity to address the blockades and occupations... The scope of these measures will be time limited, geographically targeted, as well as reasonable and proportionate to the threats they are meant to address... This is about keeping Canadians safe," Trudeau told a news conference.

"The blockades are harming our economy and endangering public safety," said Trudeau.

"We cannot and will not allow illegal and dangerous activities to continue."

What is the Emergencies Act?

The Emergencies Act is an unprecedented measure and grants government greater authority to deal with matters deemed to be a national emergency.

It was passed in 1988 and must only be invoked if the situation exceeds the capabilities of existing measures.

The act grants police greater power and more resources to deal with illegal protests and come into effect immediately.

While the scope of the act covers the entire country, the measures will only apply in areas where they are needed.

When asked whether there would be any military involvement, Trudeau said he would not deal with hypothetical scenarios.

The prime minister did however stress that the move "in no way brings in the military as a solution against Canadians" and that it was about "empowering law enforcement."

The decision comes after the so-called "freedom convoy" converged on the capital city in trucks, demonstrating primarily over COVID-19 regulations.

-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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

QUITTING TOBACCO

WHO launches Quit Tobacco App

NEW DELHI: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday launched 'Quit Tobacco App' to help people kick the cigarette butt and give up the use of tobacco in all forms - including smokeless and other newer products.

"Tobacco is deadly in every form. Innovative approaches such as this app are much needed to support people give up tobacco, which they may be aware is harmful, but are unable to quit for various reasons," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, launching the app.

The app helps users to identify the triggers, set their targets, and stay focused to quit tobacco. **ANI**

CONDOLENCES



Muscat Media Group offer their sincere condolences to our colleague **ANIL KUMAR.P** on the sad demise of his father **E. Ramakrishna Kurup**

May His Soul Rest in Peace



Follow us on
TFMOman

WORLD



World keeps an eye on Ukraine over possible Russian invasion

Moscow has amassed over 100,000 troops around Ukraine with US officials warning that Russia was ready for a full-scale invasion



INVASION: Kremlin says allegations about Russia's invasion of Ukraine are nothing but a campaign to trigger tensions and escalate the situation.

NEW DELHI: With Western powers and the Ukrainian Government voicing concern over the likelihood of a Russian invasion, which Moscow has repeatedly denied it is planning, much of the international media has kept its eye on the Ukraine border situation.

Moscow has amassed over 100,000 troops stationed around Ukraine with US officials warning that Russia was ready for a full-scale invasion of the country. The United States and other western countries have sent arms and troops to Europe to support Kyiv. Kremlin says allegations about Russia's invasion of Ukraine are nothing but a campaign to trigger tensions and escalate the situation.

"Indeed, the whole world is in disarray because of this, and, indeed, this is nothing but an absolutely unprecedented information campaign to provoke and escalate tension in Europe," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday.

At the heart of the military ten-

sions are the draft agreements that encapsulate Moscow's security guarantees. Russia President Vladimir Putin has demanded legal guarantees that Ukraine will never join North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) or host its missile strike systems.

In response to Russian demands, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken stressed that Washington and its allies would not agree to curb the NATO admissions process for new members, saying the military alliance's door "remains open".

In its own written response to Russia, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called on Russia once again to immediately de-escalate the situation. He called for re-establishing formal ties between Russia and NATO, and opening channels of communication to avoid escalation.

Moscow-based American political analyst Andrew Korybko said if Russian national security red lines aren't respected, it will take action to defend its legitimate interests.

According to the Moscow analyst, the situation can be successfully de-escalated through the US respecting all or most of Russia's security guarantee proposals - ideally in writing but possibly informally as a temporary measure to defuse the crisis.

Against this backdrop, the US, Australia and several other countries have asked their citizens to leave Ukraine. Indian Embassy in Ukraine also asked its citizens, particularly students whose stay is not essential, to leave Kiev temporarily. India has also requested its nationals to keep the Embassy informed about the status of their presence to enable the Embassy to reach them where required.

"In view of the uncertainties of the current situation in Ukraine, Indian nationals in Ukraine, particularly students whose stay is not essential, may consider leaving temporarily. Indian nationals are also advised to avoid all non-essential travel to and within Ukraine," the Indian Embassy in Ukraine said in an advisory.

An expert in international relations has said that escalation in tensions between Russia and the Western countries will put pressure on Indian foreign policy priorities and New Delhi will find it hard to balance all sides.

Harsh V Pant, Head of the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation, said that India "had not really responded in the Crimea situation in 2014". "Many in the West had argued that India had taken the side of Russia. I think it's a similar policy that India might approach this year," he said.

Amid increasing tension over Ukraine between Russia and Western countries of the NATO, the UN Secretary-General declared on Monday that "there is no alternative to diplomacy."

"I am deeply worried by the heightened tensions and increased speculation about a potential military conflict in Europe", Antonio Guterres told journalists, in a statement at UN Headquarters in New York. **ANI**

Thousands of nurses strike in Australia for higher wages

CANBERRA: Australia's most populous state of New South Wales saw its first nurses' strike in nearly a decade on Tuesday. Nurses said they wanted better pay for their jobs and a better balance between their numbers and patients requiring their services.

Brad Hazzard, NSW's health minister, said the strikes were "unfortunate" and "disappointing" especially because they came in defiance of a last-minute state order that asked nurses to call off their protest over risks to public health.

Thousands of nurses and midwives protested at the parliament building in Sydney in solidarity.

They carried placards reading "Need more nurses now" and "Stop telling us to cope."



Cases have been steadily falling in Australia, but frustration from an overwhelming surge of omicron infections over the last few months remains.

Australia recorded nearly 2.4 million cases after the first case of omicron was detected last November.

The total number of confirmed COVID cases stands at around 2.6 million, and the total number of deaths at 4,664. **DW**

Unvaccinated Italians aged 50 and above banned from work

ROME: All Italian citizens over 50 who have not been vaccinated against the coronavirus or received a medical exemption from vaccination will not be allowed to access their workplaces starting Tuesday.

The measure was adopted by the cabinet following the mandatory vaccination rule introduced in Italy for citizens over 50 in early January.

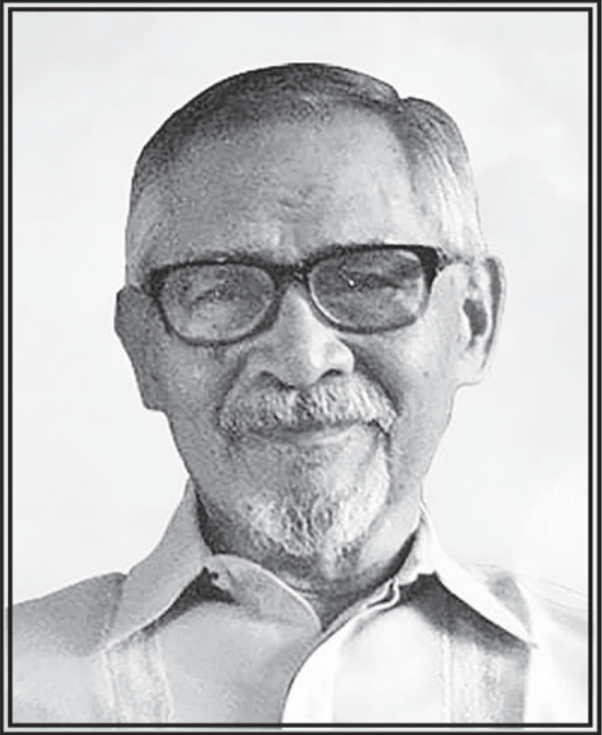
Starting Tuesday, all employees in the aforementioned category will have to present a "reinforced" green pass proving a full vaccination course or recovery from COVID-19. Unvaccinated workers will thus face wage cuts for the period of absence, as

well as fines of up to 1,500 euros (\$1,700).

According to the latest data from the office of the Commissioner for the COVID-19 Emergency, Italy currently has around 1.4 million unvaccinated citizens in this age category, of whom only 10 percent have medical exemption certificates. Up to 800,000 of them do not have a permanent job or are retired.

Thus, the work ban may affect about half a million Italians. To date, over 90 percent of the Italian population have received at least one shot of a vaccine against COVID-19, and over 88 percent have been fully vaccinated. **ANI**

CONDOLENCES



Muscat Media Group offer their sincere condolences to our colleague **Ionone Bangcas** on the sad demise of his father **Rev. Samaon L. Bangcas**

May His Soul Rest in Peace





DO
MORE

MEDALS
TALLY

BEIJING 2022



Rank		G	S	B	T
1	Norway	12	7	7	26
2	Germany	8	5	2	15
3	USA	7	6	4	17
4	Austria	6	6	4	16
5	Netherlands	6	4	3	13
6	PR China	6	4	2	12
7	Sweden	5	3	3	11
8	Switzerland	5	0	5	10
9	ROC	4	7	9	20
10	France	3	7	2	12
11	Italy	2	6	5	13
12	Japan	2	5	7	14
13	Canada	2	4	11	17
14	Slovenia	2	3	2	7
15	Republic of Korea	1	3	1	5
16	Australia	1	2	1	4
17	Finland	1	1	2	4
18	New Zealand	1	1	0	2
19	Hungary	1	0	2	3
20	Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
21	Slovakia	1	0	0	1
22	Belarus	0	2	0	2
23	Spain	0	1	0	1
24	Belgium	0	0	1	1
24	Estonia	0	0	1	1
24	Latvia	0	0	1	1
24	Poland	0	0	1	1

timesofoman.com

BEIJING 2022

Gremaud captures women’s freeski slopestyle gold, China’s Gu wins silver

CHONGLI: Swiss skier Mathilde Gremaud, runner-up at PyeongChang 2018, claimed the women’s freeski slopestyle gold at Beijing 2022 on Tuesday.

China’s prodigy Gu Ailing, who beat Gremaud in the Big Air for the gold on February 8, took the silver with her third run score of 86.23 points.

In the dramatic three-run final, Gremaud, 22, collapsed in the first section of her first run, receiving only 1.10 points as she was unable to perform in the other five sections of the run.

“Actually, I did not feel too much pressure after the first run. I was thinking that I have two more runs to show my best,” Gremaud said after the final.

“I love skiing and do it for fun,” she added.

Gremaud, who had taken the Big Air bronze at Shougang on February 8, rebounded in her second run, collecting the eventual winning score of 86.56 points and her ranking rose from the bottom of the 11 finalists to the top.

Although she got only 46.96 for her third run, it did not have any impact on her top podium finish.

Gu, 18, did not show her form in the first two runs, ranking only eighth after her second run. But she captured the last chance to throw a series of brilliant tricks in her third run to finish second.

“So, so special. It really came down to the last run again. I don’t know why I keep doing it to myself. But I am happy that I was able to push through and turn that pressure into fuel and it feels so, so good,” said Gu.

On her Olympic debut, Gu is setting her sights on a second gold medal at Beijing 2022 in the halfpipe competition, which starts on Thursday.

“My goal coming into this Olympics was to win one gold, and have one more podium in a different event so I’ve already met that goal and I’m going into my strongest event. Feeling really good right now and super excited to see what the next couple of days bring,” Gu added.

“My biggest goal is to inspire young girls in China and worldwide to have interactions with the sport, to be able to try skiing,” she noted.

The bronze medal went to Estonian talent Kelly Sildaru, who notched down 82.06 points on her first run. The 2020 Youth Olympic champion almost completed a perfect second run until the last landing in the sixth section ended with a ski detached from her left foot.

Without the ski, the 19-year-old still skied smoothly to the finishing area, but her score was only 46.71 points. **Xinhua**



BOOK LAUNCH

OOC launches Arabic version of ‘Managing Olympic Sports Organisations’ book

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) inaugurated the Arabic version of the book “Managing Olympic Sports Organisations”. This is one of the most important curricula taught in advanced sports management courses for NOCs. OOC, represented by the Olympic Solidarity Department, worked hard to translate the book issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from English into Arabic with the aim of achieving maximum benefit from international programmes that cover and enhance all areas of sports development and benefit from multidisciplinary Olympic solidarity programmes.

This initiative comes in cooperation with International Olympic Solidarity as this book will contribute in promoting and facilitating the implementation of sports management courses organised by the Arabic-speaking National Olympic Committees.

This work is an important addition to OOC and a true translation of the level and great confidence in the IOC.

The book aims to present a simplified and practical picture of the management science that has been developed by Olympic sports organisations around the world, as well as to clarify the basic dimensions of administrative culture, which would strengthen Olympic institutions and run their programmes effectively.

This comes as part of the education programme that aims to exchange experience and knowledge among employees in sports institutions and use it as a reference that expresses the richness and diversity of ways to manage Olympic sports organisations.







TOYOTA 2022

NEW RANGE

New Excitement



INSURANCE* 1 Year
(IN LIEU OF INSURANCE RO 125)

SERVICE**
2 YEARS / 20,000 KMS
(whichever is earlier)



INSURANCE* 1 Year
(IN LIEU OF INSURANCE RO 175)

SERVICE**
2 YEARS / 20,000 KMS
(whichever is earlier)



INSURANCE* 1 Year
(IN LIEU OF INSURANCE RO 250-275)

SERVICE**
2 YEARS / 20,000 KMS
(whichever is earlier)



Campaign Period: 9th January 2022 – 9th March 2022. Benefits are applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in Lieu of Insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses Insurance (as applicable), he/she will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. Cash Gift in lieu of insurance can also be used as part of down payment. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only, excluding diesel grades) on 20YM / 19PLT: Yaris HB, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, Supra, Avanza, Fortuner & Hilux 4x2; 20YM / 20 PLT: Yaris HB, Yaris SD, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, Avanza, Fortuner, Highlander HEV & Hilux 4x2; 21YM / 20 PLT: Corolla 2.0, C-HR, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. 21YM / 21 PLT: Yaris SD, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla Cross, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. 22YM / 22 PLT: Yaris SD, RAIZE, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla Cross, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per Insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. **2 Years / 20,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 2 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on all Toyota models excluding Corolla 1.8 HEV, Avalon (Except 21YM), Supra, Fortuner, Highlander HEV, LC WGN, Hiace, Granvia and Coaster. **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on models upto 21YM LC WGN (LC200) 4.6L & 5.7L. **8 Years / 80,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 8 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions on all models of 20 YM Corolla 1.8 HEV models. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.



Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED C.R No:1703412



Facebook.com/toyotaoman



@toyotaomanofficial



Youtube.com/toyotaoman



www.toyotaoman.com

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2022 reaching \$93.39, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 46 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$92.93. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,081.98 points, down by 0.06 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.42 per cent at 500.42 points. Muscat City Desalination Company, up 9.90 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 8.93 per cent, was the top loser.

**Plan for a bright future with
AXA Savings and Protection Plan
in partnership with Bank Muscat**

Visit <https://bm.click/SavingsInsuranceEN> or Call 24032684

Bank Muscat is only an agent and the insurance policy is provided by the insurance partner.
The insurance contract is between the insurance company and the customer and NOT between Bank Muscat and the customer.

CMA reviews investment options for Sohar Free Zone firms

The symposium is aimed at exchanging views between the capital market sector institutions and the existing institutions in the economic zones and free zones in Oman



Times News Service

MUSCAT: An introductory seminar was held on Tuesday in the Sohar Free Zone on the capital market and its financing options to enhance investment activities.

The event was organised by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) in cooperation with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones at the Sohar Free Zone and targeted the heads of boards of directors and executive departments of companies operating in the Sohar Free Zone.

The symposium aimed to exchange views between the capital market sector institutions and the existing institutions in the existing economic zones and free zones in Oman by emphasising the importance of the sector in ensuring the sustainability of companies' performance and ensuring the provision of long-term

Mohammed Said Al Abri, Vice President for CMA said the capital markets are the main pillar in supporting the economic development worldwide further to being the underpinning in creating a

true partnership between the public and private sectors through furnishing financing for huge development and investment projects supporting the economy.

Al-Abri added the Omani capital market is ready, legislative, and technology-wise to finance huge productive projects to ensure the expansion of investment and lucrative investment opportunities for individuals and institutions. He added that the laws and regulations governing the capital market have recently witnessed updates as well as expansion in licensing new products in line with the new fintech to meet the financing needs of the market and that the CMA is dealing with an adequate level of resilience to ensure the protection of the rights of all stakeholders as well providing enhanced public confidence.

Al Abri emphasised that the seminar aims to extend communication bridges for exchange and sharing of views between the capital market institutions and the enterprises at the economic and free zones in the Sultanate through emphasising the role of

the sector in ensuring the sustainability of the performance of the companies and providing long term financing further to creating a true partnership with the private sector through unified policy and methodology in executing huge development project based mainly on financing from capital market.

Haitham Salim Al Salmi, Chief Executive Officer of Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) pointed to the gradual development of MSX and the roles it plays in financing economic development projects whether for the government sector or the private sector.

He spoke about MSX's strategy that is derived from the main pillars namely the growth of the national economy, the attractiveness of the stock exchange, the fintech, the commercial performance of the stock exchange and the development of the internal infrastructure of the stock exchange. He added such pillars are the foundation for a set of objectives and initiatives to go ahead in the next five years in accordance with a work plan and timeline with clear indices to assess the extent of success.

INVESTMENT

Arcapita-sponsored platform invests in five global fintech companies



“

Arcapita's ARC Fintech Portfolio has invested in minority stakes in five high-growth fintech companies. The companies have grown at double-digit rates over the past three years, and in the aggregate are valued at more than \$4.0 billion.

Yousif Al Abdulla
MD, MENA Investments

MUSCAT: Arcapita Group Holdings (Arcapita), the global alternative investment firm, announced the launch of the ARC Fintech Portfolio (the Portfolio) platform which has invested in minority stakes in a diversified portfolio of high-growth financial technology (fintech) companies (Companies).

The portfolio is geographically diversified with exposure to key global markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Brazil and the Nordic region. The companies have seen strong growth rates over the past three years including through the pandemic, while also providing diversification across

sub-segments and geographies. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift for consumers, businesses and governments to digital solutions. Few sectors have gained from that transition more than fintech, which benefited from increased mobile accessibility and faster service offerings.

Arcapita pursued these Companies through co-investments with seasoned international investment firms that together with Arcapita aim to deliver attractive risk-adjusted returns. High-profile international institutional investors have invested in most of the companies, and major well-renowned international partners are working

with these companies to achieve their goals.

Yousif Al Abdulla, Arcapita's Mena Investment Managing Director, said: "Through the ARC Fintech Portfolio, we are offering our clients a diversified fintech exposure. The Portfolio is built on Arcapita's prudent approach of targeting companies that offer attractive risk-return profiles with differentiated value propositions, proven business models, a growing client base and a well-established product-market fit. Given the growing demand for innovative fintech solutions, we believe that the sector carries significant growth prospect over the long-term."

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR247.5mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR247.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from February 16 until March 16.

The average accepted price reached 99.951 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.63862 per cent and 0.63893 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). - OMA

GET READY TO ROAR!
START A POWERFUL JOURNEY WITH
YUKON 5.3L SLT BASE, 2021 MY

NOW
OMR 23,995 ONLY
INCLUDING VAT

GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

Scan the QR Code to check out the GMC YUKON

• 5.3L ECOTEC3 V8 WITH DYNAMIC FUEL MANAGEMENT • 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED WITH OVERDRIVE • INCLUDES TRACTION SELECT SYSTEM INCLUDING TOW/HAUL • PANAROMIC SUNROOF • 20" 6-SPOKE POLISHED ALUMINIUM WHEELS • 9 SPEAKER BOSE AUDIO SYSTEM

Offer is valid from 15.01.22 to 14.03.22. Price mentioned is after discount and can be adjusted against down payment. VAT will be charged as extra. Vehicle shown is for illustrative purposes only.

MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC
9450 0004: Ghubra
9410 6970: For branches at - Salalah / Sohar / Nizwa / Sur / Ibbi

800 76 200

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Muscat City Desalination Company, up 9.90 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 8.93 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,081.98 points, down by 0.06 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.42 per cent at 500.42 points.

Muscat City Desalination Company, up 9.90 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 8.93 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of United Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Omantel was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 354 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.78 million, with more than 8.38 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 11 advanced,

11 declined and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR519,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR505,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR14,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6481.28 points, down by 0.12 per cent. Prices of Muscat Finance, United Finance, Global Financial Investments, Al Anwar Investment, and Bank Muscat were up by 1.72 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.45 per cent, 1.25 per cent, and 0.39 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5716.16 points, down by 0.13 per cent. Services Index was up by 0.17 per cent before closing at 1637.59 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,087.23	4,081.45	4,081.98	4,084.28	-2.30	-0.06
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,493.28	6,481.28	6,481.28	6,489.14	-7.86	-0.12
Industry Index	5,728.25	5,715.80	5,716.15	5,723.82	-7.67	-0.13
Services Index	1,638.35	1,629.96	1,637.59	1,634.78	2.81	0.17
MSX Shariah Index	502.53	499.47	500.42	502.53	-2.11	-0.42
MSX TR INDEX	4,920.00	4,913.03	4,913.67	4,916.44	-2.77	-0.06

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,383,453	2,784,672	354	22,007,247,754	11	11	21	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002266	7,500	2,397	4	0.320	0.320	0.318	0.320	0.314	0.006	1.911	0.320	0.318	0.320	0.100	19,585,367
OM0000001590	203,666	12,016	19	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.001	1,724	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	18,121,633
OM0000001749	5,995	1,415	2	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.232	0.004	1,724	0.236	0.236	0.240	0.100	78,063,960
OM0000003224	226,232	100,447	3	0.444	0.444	0.444	0.444	0.438	0.006	1,370	0.444	0.430	0.444	0.100	104,960,040
OM0000001772	671,308	54,107	41	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.001	1,250	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000002796	1,390,334	717,412	30	0.516	0.516	0.516	0.516	0.514	0.002	0,389	0.516	0.512	0.516	0.100	1,844,428,993
OM0000001707	27,991	25,192	5	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0,900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	80,730,000
OM0000003026	1,067,930	846,363	20	0.800	0.800	0.792	0.800	0.800	0.000	0,000	0.792	0.792	0.796	0.100	800,000,000
OM0000003968	2,895	1,048	2	0.362	0.362	0.360	0.358	0.358	0.000	0,000	0.360	0.352	0.360	0.100	233,038,034
OM0000006920	110,850	10,966	14	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.099	0.099	0.000	0,000	0.100	0.100	0.103	0.100	9,900,000
OM0000003398	132,648	14,326	7	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0,917	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.100	322,926,727
OM0000002168	28,963	12,318	6	0.434	0.434	0.424	0.426	0.430	-0.004	-0,930	0.424	0.418	0.424	0.100	93,720,000
OM0000002176	136,904	51,515	10	0.378	0.382	0.376	0.376	0.380	-0.004	-1,053	0.382	0.380	0.380	0.100	46,661,633
OM0000003000	48,420	33,393	8	0.688	0.692	0.688	0.688	0.700	-0.012	-1,714	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.100	4,472,000
Total	14	4,051,536	1,882,815	171											

Parallel Market

OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	5,100	566	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.101	0.010	9,901	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.100	17,266,094
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	10,000	1,180	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.116	0.002	1,724	0.118	0.115	0.118	0.100	15,340,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	830,313	50,211	40	0.060	0.062	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1,695	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	7,500,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,573,908	109,496	45	0.065	0.067	0.064	0.065	0.064	0.001	1,563	0.066	0.065	0.068	0.100	22,694,387
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	50,000	3,473	4	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1,449	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	109,624	7,044	7	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0,000	0.070	0.070	0.072	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	148	35	1	0.237	0.237	0.237	0.263	0.263	0.000	0,000	0.237	0.000	0.237	0.100	10,942,186
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	11,200	1,322	2	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0,000	0.118	0.114	0.118	0.100	353,569,469
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	43,375	37,823	6	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.872	0.000	0,000	0.872	0.872	0.880	0.100	43,431,800
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	431	19	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.042	0.042	0.000	0,000	0.044	0.042	0.044	0.100	9,282,420
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	516,100	50,579	10	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0,000	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	219,221,297
OM0000004909	SHARQIYAH DESALIN	2,000	290	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.143	0.143	0.000	0,000	0.140	0.136	0.140	0.100	13,985,709
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	11,000	814	3	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0,000	0.074	0.070	0.074	0.100	70,638,324
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	101,418	9,633	11	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0,000	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	16,625,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,000	156	1	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.160	0.160	0.000	0,000	0.156	0.000	0.156	0.100	267,105,000
OM0000007945	NATIONAL LIFE INS	810	290	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.340	0.340	0.000	0,000	0.330	0.310	0.330	0.100	90,100,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RETI FUND	4,406	357	5	0.080	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.082	0.000	0,000	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.100	38,637,284
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	110,000	10,780	3	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.099	-0.001	-1,010	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	196,030,653
OM0000003281	TAGIIR FINANCE	49,000	3,920	4	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1,235	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	20,267,200
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	24,300	1,725	2	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1,389	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	14,412,038
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	37,625	3,386	3	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.095	-0.005	-5,263	0.090	0.090	0.094	0.100	3,021,431
OM0000002804	ASAPPA FOODS	88,159	11,894	16	0.147	0.147	0.133	0.135	0.147	-0.012	-8,163	0.133	0.134	0.144	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	31,000	1,394	6	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.048	-0.004	-8,335	0.044	0.046	0.044	0.100	8,763,966
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	6,000	306	1	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.056	-0.005	-8,929	0.051	0.051	0.056	0.100	11,334,240
Total	24	3,707,917	306,627	177												

STUDY

ICT infrastructure in Oman capable of accommodating new technologies

MUSCAT: The current infrastructure of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Oman is capable of accommodating new technologies in specific fields, according to a study titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic and Expectations of Future Technology'.

The study, conducted by OCCI

showed that digital transformation can be turned into an opportunity to restructure the market in specific areas and to devise an effective regulatory and administrative framework in a bid to accelerate economic diversification programmes. The study stressed the importance of adopting the

techniques of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the programmes of increasing the total added value of the sectors that should boost the economic diversification plans. The study dealt with the rapid technical solutions used by Oman to address the challenges it faced during the pandemic. — **OMA**

GOVERNMENT DATA

India's exports rise by 36.76% to \$61.41 billion in January

NEW DELHI: India's overall exports, merchandise and services combined, increased by 36.76 per cent to \$61.41 billion in January 2022 from \$44.90 billion in the corresponding month last year, the government data showed on Tuesday.

The country's merchandise exports grew by 25.28 per cent to \$34.50 billion in January 2022 from \$27.54 billion recorded in January 2021.

Overall imports in January 2022 are estimated to be \$67.76 billion, which is 30.54 per cent higher from \$51.91 billion recorded in January 2021, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

India's merchandise imports grew by 23.54 per cent to \$51.93 billion in January 2022 from \$42.03 billion recorded in the corresponding month of 2021. Trade deficit widened to \$17.42bn in January 2022 from \$14.49bn recorded in January 2021.

April-January 2021-22 period, India's overall exports, merchandise and services combined, rose to \$545.71 billion, exhibiting a growth of 37.68 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-January 2021-22 period are estimated to be \$616.91 billion, exhibiting a growth of 54.35 per cent. — **ANI**

Upper Air UV Purification

PHILIPS

UVC Technology Air disinfection

signify

Value Added Partner

specialized in

PHILIPS interact

COLOR KINETICS PHILIPS dynalite

High intensity effective zone in upper air for purification

Safe at eye level according to international regulation

Air movement by convection, natural or mechanical ventilation ensures that the bacteria, viruses and other micro organisms in the air pass through the UV zone.

Effective Height - 3m

Diameter - 5 to 6m

Two arm

Droplets containing virus in the air

Droplets land in nose, mouth, possibly lungs

The droplets eventually get into nose and mouth

NEW 4TH DIMENSION LLC Integrated Solutions

CR Number:1362674

info@new4thdimension.com

Contact: 98080865 / 98080867

www.new4thdimension.com

oman OASIS

BALANCED DRINKING WATER

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

RO 50 ONLY 31.50% discount

RO 20 ONLY 28.57% discount

Hot & Cold Dispenser + 2 Full Bottles + 25 Refill Coupons

White Tap Dispenser/ Tap Dispenser/ Manual Water Pump/ Cradle with Tap + 2 Full Bottles + 15 Refill Coupons

BUY & WIN 310 PRIZES

Get your raffle coupon on Purchase of RO 20 or RO 50 offer or Coupon book worth RO 20

Register your raffle coupon number at www.omanoasis.com/discount2022 to win.

CALL TOLL-FREE 800 71 222 or GSM: 9275 5522

Special discount valid from 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2022. Conditions apply.

Scan QR Code to Register

C.R.No: 1365452 MM 06/34/2022

MASTERCOOL

FOR COOLER EXPERIENCE

MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS LLC

Showroom : 24636015

Energy saving , More cooling

MASTERCOOL

Mustafa Sultan Electronics LLC



LIFESTYLE

RESEARCHERS COMBINE
TRADITIONAL MANDALA COLOURING
AND BRAIN SENSING TECHNOLOGIES
TO AID MINDFULNESS

Mandalas are geometric configurations of shapes. The colouring of mandala shapes has become increasingly popular as a way for people to attempt 'mindfulness', a way of being present in the moment. Recent research has said that combining centuries-old traditional mandala colouring with cutting-edge computing and brain-sensing technologies could lead to new ways of helping people achieve mindfulness.

The study was presented in the paper 'Exploring Anima: a brain-computer interface for peripheral materialisation of mindfulness states during mandala colouring', which was published in the 'Taylor and Francis Human-Computer Interaction Journal'.

Mandalas have always been associated with helping people to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Human-computer interaction researchers from Lancaster University developed a new prototype that monitored people's brain signals while they were colouring mandalas and produced real-time feedback on a peripheral display to represent levels of mindfulness.

The researchers, who specialised in thinking about how new computing technologies can be designed to help people, believed that systems like these could be developed to aid the learning, and training, of focused attention mindfulness techniques and help people deal with stress, de-

pression and other affective health disorders.

In the first part of their study, the researchers interviewed experienced mandala practitioners to find out about the special qualities of mandala colouring, and how they can be used to achieve mindfulness and based the prototype on their findings.

The prototype, called 'Anima', included a tablet device for users to colour mandala shapes, a wearable EEG headset that read the wearers' brain signals, and a second display in the shape of an artists' palette, that is placed in the user's periphery.

When users coloured a digital mandala, using a stylus, on the main display, the EEG headset monitored their brain signals and gauged levels of mindfulness. The readings were then represented on the peripheral display as new additional colours, based on four colours selected at the start by the user, but with changes to the saturation and brightness. More subtle colours represented mindfulness periods, with brighter colours representing periods where the user lost focus or became distracted.

Professor Sas said, "Making sense of EEG data and capturing it effectively through design is not a trivial process. It was important that the

colours appearing on the peripheral display, which was decoupled from the main screen, were ambiguous and subtle in order to provide the ability for users to openly monitor their mindfulness but not in a way that distracted their attention from the colouring itself."

"The study outcomes suggest two important and previously unrecognised roles of the mandala: capturing emotional memories and reflecting on them. Technology could support both these roles in ways paper-based mandalas are less able to do so. Participants noted they would much prefer to re-engage with their completed mandala at the reflection stage, and that they longed to even recolour them, often in more positive colours after they had reflected and their mental situation had shifted. Technologies would be able to make this more possible."

Dominic Potts, PhD student and Lancaster University and co-author, added: "By understanding how Anima provides feedback and reflecting on their colouring session using the data provided by the prototype, people can use these kinds of technologies to help improve their mandala colouring as a focused attention mindfulness practice."

The study found that many peo-

ple who used mandala colouring for mindfulness and to help with their mental health liked to keep their completed mandalas and looked back at them as a way of reflecting on how they felt at the time they coloured them. This was another area where technology could help.

The research revealed new understanding in a number of additional areas that could help lead to the development of new mindfulness technologies.

"This decoupling of displays with the use of near periphery for real-time monitoring of the activity on the main display is an important design principle that can be beneficial for mindfulness technologies,"

Dr Claudia Dauden Roquet, lead author of the study, said. "In addition, there has been little attention within human-computer interaction research looking at mindfulness techniques that use fine motor skills, such as colouring intricate details on mandalas, or meditation beads. Our findings offer new insight into these areas that could also help inspire new classes of mindfulness technologies.

"This can be extended to the design of peripheral visual feedback designs for other types of technologies monitoring mindfulness training on a main display.

This could be wristbands on which real-time visuals may appear in random order as subtle indication of one's mindfulness state, or as colours on embedded in objects, such as backlit mouse pads." -ANI



SPORTS

JUVENTUS,
MAN CITY
ACADEMIES
AMONG TEAMS
TO PLAY
IN OMAN
YOUTH CUP



GAUTAM VISWANATHAN

MUSCAT: Juventus’ academies in Oman and Saudi Arabia and Manchester City’s soccer school in Abu Dhabi are among at least 12 teams that will send the best and brightest of their youth players to take part in the Muscat International Unity Cup, which is set to take place on 18 and 19 February.

They will be joined by academy prospects from three Omani professional clubs – Muscat Club, Oman Club and Seeb Club – as well as a host of private academies in the country: Muscat Football Academy, ESG Academy, Junior Starz, Al Mawaleh Academy, and Smart Soccer Academy from Sohar.

Also travelling to Muscat to take part in the Unity Cup are Pro Active Academy from the United Arab Emirates and Premier League Football Academy from Qatar.

“All of the teams are arriving on the 17th,” said Chuck Martini, tournament organiser and head coach for Muscat Football Academy. “We will be holding it at Muscat Club, who are one of the teams participating as well. We are, however, waiting to see if Seeb Stadium can be given to us, but nevertheless, our location is confirmed.”

“We also have the Al Habsi Football Academy with us,” he added. “This should be a great tournament spread across four age categories. We’ve got children born in 2010-11 in one category, 2008-09 as the second, 2006-07 is the third category, and 2004-05 as the fourth. We are looking good at the moment.”

Martini – a former Morocco international goalkeeper who played for Premier League sides Leicester City and Tottenham – added that with audiences now once again able to attend sporting events, hoped that it would draw youth football enthusiasts to come and check out some of the talented players taking part.

“We are happy to have gotten many domestic teams, as well as a few good ones from abroad. I think the tournament is also coming at just the right time. It’s great that we have got youth teams from some of the other GCC countries: Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.”

Muscat Football Academy have also opened a new training base at Muscat International School, providing them more opportunities for expansion and the scouting of raw talent in the country.

“We are due to start training there in the middle of February, but all of the contracts are signed, done and dusted,” said Martini. “It is good that we now have a training base in Qurum.”

“

We are happy to have many domestic teams, as well as a few good ones from abroad. I think the tournament is also coming at just the right time. It’s great that we have got youth teams from some of the other GCC countries: Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Chuck Martini
tournament organiser and head coach
for Muscat Football Academy



FEATURE



ELON MUSK’S STARSHIP COULD CHANGE THE SPACE BUSINESS FOREVER

The SpaceX founder has said his groundbreaking megarocket could be orbital within months.
Some say Starship is the beginning of the end for space firms that fail to see its potential.

Billionaire and SpaceX founder Elon Musk gave an update on Starship recently, a powerful rocket that some say will transform the space industry in ways that many can’t yet imagine. And that lack of imagination could pose a problem for other industry players.

“I feel at this point highly confident that we will get to orbit this year,” Musk said, referring to the Starship model.

The rocket was on display at the Starbase test facility during Musk’s speech. Sitting atop its giant booster, called Super Heavy, Starship measures just short of 400 feet (120 meters) tall. This makes it taller than Saturn V, the 363-foot-tall NASA rocket used for the Apollo moon missions in the 1960s and 1970s, currently the tallest operational rocket ever used. Starship is meant to be fully reusable and have the capacity to carry over 100 tons to Mars and the Moon.

“Fully reusable Starship and Super Heavy systems are expected to allow for space-based activities that have not been possible before,” SpaceX writes in the Starship user guide.

Starship would be a major step toward SpaceX’s goal of making life interplanetary. The rocket’s massive payload capacity along with the reusability factor could drastically change the economics of launching people and things into space.

Musk’s speech focused on Starship’s

technical developments. He remained vague about what projects the company might be in store.

“There’s going to be some future announcements that I think people will be pretty fired up about,” he said. “There are a lot of additional customers that will want to use Starship. I don’t want to steal their thunder. They’re going to make their own announcements.”

Explosions and crashes

Already last year, the Starship project received a major endorsement after NASA offered SpaceX a \$2.9 billion (€2.5 billion) contract to put its astronauts on the moon. This came after SpaceX became the first private corporation to shoot astronauts into space when in 2020 it ferried NASA astronauts to the International Space Station on Falcon 9, the world’s first orbital-class, reusable rocket.

Thursday’s update was the first major news about Starship in over two years. The rocket had been slated to make its first-ever orbital test flight in January or February of this year, but was delayed by environmental assessment by the US Federal Aviation Administration along with some hardware problems. Musk said both issues will be solved soon.

“Hopefully, you know, basically a couple months for both,” he said.

This wasn’t the first time that the project has experienced delays.

“This is going to sound totally nuts

but I think we want to try to reach orbit in less than six months,” Musk had said at the last Starship update, in 2019.

He was half right: The goal was unrealistic. In the two years that have passed, Starship prototypes have fallen victim to fiery crashes and explosions, but orbital flight has remained out of reach. Adding insult to injury, a solar storm over the weekend destroyed dozens of satellites SpaceX had launched just last week, meant to form part of a massive internet communications network called Starlink.

An elevator to space

Musk has earned himself a reputation for setting out overly ambitious timelines, and this could explain why much of the space sector might not yet be expecting the reality of a functional Starship and everything it would bring with it.

“A fully functional Starship would so thoroughly render all legacy launch systems obsolete that it may as well be that they had never even existed,” Casey Handmer, physicist and founder of the carbon capture startup Terraform Industries, who blogs regularly about advances in space travel, told DW in an email.

Starship could “enable a conveyor belt logistical capacity to low Earth orbit,” Handmer writes in his blog. Those positioned to exploit this major shift in capacity will prosper, while all others will fade rapidly into obscurity, he said.

The finance guys seem to agree. “We think of reusable rockets as an elevator to low Earth orbit,” Morgan Stanley Equity Analyst Adam Jonas wrote in a note, reaching for another metaphor. “Just as further innovation in elevator construction was required before today’s skyscrapers could dot the skyline, so too will opportunities in space mature because of access and falling launch costs.”

Investors shoot for the moon

Morgan Stanley estimates that the global space industry could generate over \$1 trillion in revenue by 2040, up from about \$350 billion today. In the short and mid term, much of this is likely to come from satellite broadband internet access, part of the so-called space-to-Earth economy.

But consulting group McKinsey reported that investment in “lunar and beyond” projects has been increasing steadily. In a January note, the group said that such ventures were pulling in between 10 percent and 15 percent of all private investment in space-related companies, or about \$1 billion. This is up from less than 5 percent a decade ago. A rocket like Starship would play a major role in this economic shift.

And, so far, there isn’t much out there like Starship and its SpaceX predecessors. In December, the company was awarded three more NASA flights as aerospace giant Boeing continued struggling to address issues with its

own Starliner spacecraft. Both companies have signed contracts with the space agency to transport its astronauts to the International Space Station.

European space company ArianeGroup is also trying to play catch-up. The planned Maia launch system is scheduled to open to the satellite launch market in 2026 and will be designed to be reusable. In size, however, it will be dwarfed by Starship, launching just 1 metric ton in reusable mode to low Earth orbit against Starship’s planned 100. Notably, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire called it “our Falcon 9,” comparing it to a SpaceX product that will have long become redundant by 2026 if Musk’s plans succeed.

“If you’re not careful, SpaceX will be the only game in town,” Fatih Ozmen, co-founder of Sierra Nevada Corp., a privately held American aerospace company, told the Financial Times in October.

This is big talk about a rocket that has yet to complete an orbital test flight. And if hiccups at Tesla, Musk’s electric and self-driving car company, have shown us anything, it’s that huge projects can take time. But Musk and his employees aren’t eager to wait.

“SpaceX has a team of skilled, motivated, capable engineers and technicians at Boca Chica who work 24 hours a day to create this future,” Handmer said. “They are well resourced and they are acting like they intend to prevail.” -DW



ROUND-UP

Omantel ICT's 'Teamway' to offer cloud-based ERP and POS solutions

Omantel believes that businesses need to continuously adopt cloud-based solutions to operate their business efficiently, hence Omantel ICT introduced Teamway cloud solutions to Oman's market in cooperation with Intelligent Projects and Qaid Al-Ard, an Omani SME company, starting with the most demanded ERP & POS products

MUSCAT: As more and more businesses adopt digital solutions for their operations, Omantel has stepped in to fill the need for secure, tested and reliable solutions by leveraging its capabilities and strong ecosystem of partners and sister companies.

Omantel's new product 'Teamway' supports government initiatives to boost Micro & Small Businesses across the Sultanate by offering cloud-based ERP & POS solutions to provide ease of doing business without any initial investment in setting up the system. Teamway is a flexible product that can be scaled up as per the needs of individual businesses.

Omantel believes that businesses need to continuously adopt cloud-based solutions to operate their business efficiently, hence Omantel ICT introduced Teamway cloud solutions to Oman's

market in corporation with Intelligent Projects and Qaid Al-Ard, an Omani SME company, starting with the most demanded ERP & POS products.

'Teamway' ERP consists of different standard modules like Inventory, Accounting, Project & Task, HR Management and Supply Chain readily available to start using on the go and also open for any customised requirement based on customer's business nature. Business owners opting for standard Teamway ERP solution can subscribe online and for any customised Teamway ERP requirement can connect with Omantel's ICT Expert. Customers can access Teamway from anywhere via the Internet and can choose from two offerings - ERP & POS-based upon their requirement.

Eng. Baha Al Lawati, Enterprise Business Unit VP at Omantel



said, "Omantel continues to be an enabler of digital transformation in Oman. This transformation is not just about shifting to digital options but offering society safe & secure solutions that allow for cost optimisation and operational excellence. 'Teamway' ERP& POS are the latest business solution for our SME customers. They can rely on Omantel's technological efficiencies, infrastructure, agility, and expertise to derive more from their businesses."

In her turn, Ruba Ahmed Elhadi,

Intelligent Projects Founder said: "We are glad that Omantel showed interest in Teamway. Teamway is purely an Omani product completely developed with our in-house resources after proper analysis of the exact need for Omani business process flows. Though Teamway's ERP & POS fits the needs of the majority of business types, it could be customized to fit more sophisticated needs of our customers and provide the best smart technology solutions to the SME sector all over the Sultanate."

Bader Sulaiman Al Yarobi, the founder and CEO of Qayd Al-Ard Company, said: "There is no doubt that the cooperation with Omantel and Intelligent Projects Company will contribute in offering a high-quality service to our business customers in the SME sector. 'Teamway' service was launched after an extensive study to meet and exceed the market requirements from the technical and financial point of view, which makes us confident of providing the ERP and POS services in a new way that suits the needs

of the local market and provides an advanced experience to elevate customer's operations."

Omantel is the Sultanate's first and leading integrated telecommunications services provider, enabling the digital society to flourish, allowing new ways of doing business and delivering a world of information, news and entertainment. While striving to ensure optimum customer satisfaction, Omantel plays a key social role to provide the required support and subsidy to all sectors of the Omani society.

OFFER



Exclusive benefits on Ford Expedition

MUSCAT: Now is a good time to own a Ford Expedition and avail exclusive benefits. The benefits include Service 3 Years / 60,000km, petrol card worth OMR100 and registration 1 year. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.) The offer is valid until March 9.

Powered by a 3.5-litre EcoBoost engine with standard Auto Start-Stop plus a class-exclusive new 10-speed automatic transmission, the Expedition offers best-in-class fuel economy and power, with up to 400 horsepower and 650Nm torque available.

The Ford Expedition is built to take you places as you enjoy the advantage of confidence and capability. Eye-catching design,

leading-edge features, powerful performance, impressive capability and more make the Expedition a perfect companion for every journey.

The Expedition offers more driver-assist technologies than any other full-size SUV. In addition, an all-new high-strength, aluminium-alloy body and redesigned high-strength steel frame form the foundation for Expedition's rugged off-road and strong towing capabilities. More than 40 features and driver-assist technologies in the Expedition help make the journey as enjoyable as the destination.

Its collision avoidance detection system helps drivers avoid other vehicles or pedestrians, while the available Blind Spot Information

System helps monitor blind spots outside the driver's immediate view. In addition, Expedition offers available new connectivity technologies and convenience features, including - Wireless charging, SYNC® 3, Power in every row: With four 12-volt power points, six USB chargers and a 220-volt power outlet that lets passengers stay charged and connected; Advanced cargo manager with an adjustable shelf, and Panoramic Vista Roof.

The Ford Expedition also offers the best towing capability of any full-size SUV, together with features such as Pro Trailer Backup Assist, which makes backing up a trailer as easy as turning a knob. Plus, an available hands-free lift-gate makes loading cargo easy.

The Expedition has a roomy, flexible interior. With seating for up to eight people and their gear, this full-size SUV makes modern family adventures more comfortable during short and long trips alike.

The Expedition is the first full-size utility to feature a sliding second-row seat with tip-and-slide functionality, providing easy access to the third row without the need to first remove a child safety seat. Once in the third row, even adults will appreciate more legroom and reclining seats.

Those interested in experiencing the Ford Expedition can visit their nearest Ford showroom.

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

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

BankDhofar offers attractive interest rates starting from 3.5% on short term personal loans

MUSCAT: BankDhofar has announced discounted rates on short term personal loans, for; School fees, Marriage, travel, health, beauty treatment, etc. Customers transferring their salaries to BankDhofar may avail of the loan and enjoy attractive rates starting from 3.5 per cent.

Commenting on the offer, Muhammad Al Raisi, Executive Manager - Assets Products Development and Bancassurance, said: "At BankDhofar we cater to the various needs of our customers. With this offer, we are giving them convenient financial solutions to fulfil their various personal requirements. We understand that life is demanding, thus, we opted to provide flexible short-term loans with tenures of up to 3 years. We encourage our customers to benefit from this offer and we look ahead to design further products, services, and financial solutions that fit with their requirements."

To avail of the offer, customers may visit the nearest BankDhofar branch to apply for a short-term personal loan.

BankDhofar is one of the best banks in the region, catering to customers' needs and requirements, and setting the standard for the best customer experience within the banking industry in the Sultanate through innovative products and creative solutions. Following best international banking practices, provision of outstanding customer experi-



“

We encourage our customers to benefit from this offer

Muhammad Al Raisi
Executive Manager - Assets Products Development and Bancassurance

ence, in addition to its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, has placed BankDhofar at the top of the list of best banks in the region.

oman
OASIS

sifr

SODIUM FREE DRINKING WATER

The healthy choice

Call Toll-Free 800 71 222 or GSM 9275 5522

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater www.omanoasis.com

THE **470** HORSEPOWER
WRANGLER
RUBICON **392**

REWILD YOURSELF



FREE FIRST YEAR REGISTRATION
5 YEARS WARRANTY
5 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSIST

BOOK NOW

Terms and conditions apply.

Jeep
THERE'S ONLY ONE

dhofar ظفار
AUTOMOTIVE للسيارات

Wattayah, Athaiba, Sohar, Nizwa, Salalah
For corporate enquiries **92556617** | For more information **245 005 30** | info@da-oman.com
www.dhofarautomotive.com



WIN!

Some amazing gift's from
Khyber Restaurant & McDonald's
in our raffle!

Register on Times Eshhar Classified
Whatsapp your name to

+968 93388405



*Condition applied



DO MORE

INCREDIBLE CARS IRRESISTIBLE EMIS



MG RX5

EMI STARTING FROM

OMR 83



MG 6

EMI STARTING FROM

OMR 83



MG GT

EMI STARTING FROM

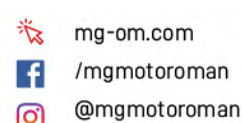
OMR 78

*T&C APPLIES



Azaiba | Wattayah | Sohar | Sur | Salalah
Al Manuma | Ibri | Bidayah | Nizwa | Ibra | Sinaw

MG WhatsApp : 71557334



mg-om.com
/mgmotoroman
@mgmotoroman

