

ITALY WIN EURO 2020 FINAL

Italy have won Euro 2020, after beating England 3-2 on penalties at Wembley. Three of England's young talents all missed penalties, which means Italy have won their second Euro trophy to add to their four World Cup triumphs, the last of which was also won on penalties. **>A8**



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**HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES
PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Milo Dukanovic of the Republic of Montenegro on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes to President Dukanovic and the friendly people of Montenegro. **-ONA**



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His Majesty returns after successful trip to Saudi Arabia

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik returned home after paying a two-day state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in response to the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of the KSA.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan held a round of official talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques at Neom city. The two leaders reviewed means of enhancing relations and cooperation between the two countries, as well as strengthening fraternal ties between the two brotherly Omani and Saudi peoples.

His Majesty was received at the Royal Airport by His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al-Said, Special Envoy to His Majesty the Sultan, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al-Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al-Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Sultan bin Salim Al-Habsi, Minister of Finance, Nasr bin Hamoud Al-Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Salmi, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sa'eedi, Minister of Health, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed

Al-Shibani, Minister of Education, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al-Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al-Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al-Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al-Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al-Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al-Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman, and Maj. Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Jaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF). **>A4**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Vaccination drive

1 More than one-third of people in Oman have been inoculated so far. **>A3**

WORLD
Lightning kills 41

2 41 people died in India due to lightning strikes across 16 districts in UP. **>A7**

MARKET
SOFR transaction

3 BankDhofar executed its first SOFR linked transaction. **>B1**





38°
MUSCAT



OMAN, SAUDI TO PROMOTE INVESTMENTS, COLLABORATE ON ENERGY, FOOD SECURITY

Both countries affirmed their determination to work towards Oman's Vision 2040 and Saudi Vision 2030

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Plans have been made between Oman and Saudi Arabia to work together on a number of important sectors, including investments, energy, and food security.

The initiatives were drawn up during the Sunday's visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to Saudi Arabia, where he met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

During His Majesty's trip, the two countries reaffirmed their determination to accelerate the pace of economic cooperation, notably by encouraging government and private sectors to realise meaningful commercial and investment exchanges that will live up to the aspirations and expectations of their peoples and meet the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 and Oman Vision 2040.

This can be done through the launch of joint initiatives covering key areas of cooperation, including investment in the Duqm zone, cooperation in the field of energy, partnership in food security, and cooperation in the fields of culture, sports and tourism.

The two sides also welcomed



the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the establishment of an Omani-Saudi Coordination Council—co-chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries—to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.

They also agreed to direct the departments concerned to expedite the opening of the direct land route and border checkpoint, which will contribute to the smooth movement of the citizens of the two countries and ease the connectivity of supply chains, paving the way for a highly anticipated full economic integration between the two countries.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham

Bin Tarik and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud held a session of talks during which they reviewed ways to develop cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The talks were held in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

The two sides reviewed various aspects of cooperation and ways of enhancing joint action in many spheres.

They commended the current level of coordination in political,

military and security fields aimed at achieving security and stability for the two brotherly countries.

The two sides welcomed the effective interaction between their respective ministers to discuss issues of mutual interest.

A number of agreements

They also directed the officials concerned to work on finalising a number of agreements and MoUs for cooperation in various economic, commercial, investment, security, cultural, diplomatic and educational fields and everything that might generate benefits or bring about prosperity to the peoples of the two countries.

The two sides welcomed the virtual meeting of Omani-Saudi Business Council, which convened via videoconferencing on 4 July 2021 in the presence of the Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Head of the Saudi Chambers Federation and the chairmen of the Omani-Saudi Business Council. The meeting helped promote direct and indirect investment opportunities between the private sectors in both countries.

It will also speed up the rate of visits of business owners, the holding of conferences and exhibitions and the establishment of joint economic projects. **>A5**

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Maghrib.....	7:02pm
Isha.....	8:23pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4.03am

TIMES OF OMAN

Chief Editor RANA N. PARVEZ

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MUSCAT, SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1975

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Sixth Islamic Conference opens in Jeddah

ZAWAWI LEADS OMANI DELEGATION

PALESTINE, JERUSALEM AND PHILLIPINES MOSLEMS ARE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Jeddah : (By our Correspondent)

Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia opened here yesterday the Sixth Islamic Conference of the level of Foreign Ministers, to last for four days.

H.E. Qais Abdul Moniem Zawawi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs arrived Jeddah friday at the head of Sultanate's delegation to the Conference.

Forty Islamic States are participating in the discussions of the conference, in addition to Arab League. The main subjects of discussion include Palestinian problem, the question of Jerusalem the Phillipines Moslems and greater cooperation between the Muslim countries and other matters of international significance.

The question of apartheid in South Africa and conditions in Rhodesia shall also come up for discussion by the conference.

The other Omani members of the delegation who arrived Jeddah included Mr. Salim Geilani, Mr. Ibrahim Hamood Sobhi, Omani Charge d' Affairs in Jeddah ; Mr.

Mohd Saeed Marhoon, Mr. Nazar Mohd Ali, Mr. Salim Ismail Sowaid. Our delegation was preceded by another team of our Information Ministry officials to cover the conference news and to attend the discussions of the International Islamic News Agency.

It may be recalled that Oman's participation in this conference was reflective of her keen desire to make an effective contribution towards Islamic solidarity and coordination.

H.M. Sultan Qaboos thanks Emir of Kuwait

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

H.M. Sultan Qaboos has sent a message of thanks to His Highness Sabah Salim Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, in reply to his condolence message sent on the sad demise of late Sayyid Shihab bin Taimour.

AL-HAMRA, BAHLA & IBRI

Health Minister inspects clinics

Muscat : (By our Correspondent)

Dr. Mubarak Al-Khadouri Minister of Health made an inspection tour of health clinics in Al-Hamra, Bahla and Ibri during the week to personally acquaint himself of the health conditions of the people of these areas.

Dr. Mubarak was accompanied by Dr. Salim Hamad Hamdam during his visit.



H.M. The Sultan receives thanks telegram from Italian President

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

H.M. Sultan Qaboos tuesday received a telegram of thanks from Italian President Giovanni Leone in reply to one sent by him on the occasion of Italy's National Day.

Sumail and Dama receive rain

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

According to reports reaching here widespread rains were received in the area of Sumail and Dama.

Calmness prevails in Eastern and Central Region of Jebel

Firing practice to continue from Salalah plain to Wadis Thimrin and Yishthat

Muscat : (Defence H. Qtrs.)

The military situation in the province remains very quiet. Particularly in the eastern and central regions of the Jebel where terrorist activity has not been evident at all.

Even the western area has had very little to report. The recent mine explosions in the Sarfait area would appear to have dissuaded the communist guerrillas from much movement around the government position. Their lack of knowledge of their own minefields is no doubting as a deterrent, as their random mining tactics seem to have caused recent casualties to themselves. There was an exchange of fire between guerrillas and our troops on the morning of 8 July, but it was only a brief action. No casualties were sustained by government forces. Earlier two shells were fired on to the position, but both failed to explode.

In the thick Khareef the soldiers have to depend more upon their ears than their eyes, as the terrorists may be able to use the weather conditions as cover for their movement. However our men are as vigilant in their listen-

ing as they are with their watching and accurate mortar fire can be called down within seconds of movement being detected.

Thursday The Sultan of Oman's Air Force evacuated a man from Shisur for medical treatment at Salalah Hospital.

There was a firing practice for machine guns from a position on the north east of the Salalah Plain into an area bounded by the bottom of the Wadi Thimrin and the bottom of the Wadi Yishthat yesterday, which shall be continued till July 15 at the following times :

From 1000 to 1600 hours till 15 July and from 2000-2200 hours on the nights of 13 July and 14 July. During the night firing flares will also be used. All citizens had been warned to avoid this area during those times. But they should not be alarmed to hear sounds of firing and to see flares at night.

TEMPORARY DIVERSION AT AL MURTAFA

Police advises motorists to be careful

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

Inspector General of Police and Customs has invited the attention of all motorists about a diversion at Al-Murtafa' roundabout leading to Bid Bid for 2 kilometers till tuesday July 15.

The police announcement stated that the diversion was due to the laying of electricity wires on the road Signboards had been provided to guide the motorists to the diversion, it added.

The announcement further advised that great care should be exercised at this particular point and motorists should not use beam lights after dusk.



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Omani heritage and culture adored by Saudis



From Muttrah in Muscat and Salalah in Dhofar to fragrant frankincense and tasty Omani halwa, here are some elements of Omani heritage that Saudi visitors love

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muttrah in the capital of Muscat and Salalah in Dhofar are two of the areas Saudi Arabian tourists love to visit when they come to Oman.

"There are many memories of places in Oman in the hearts of the Saudi people," said the country's Centre for Government



Communications (CGC).

"These include Salalah in the Governorate of Dhofar, which is an Omani city distinguished by its greenery, moderate climate, natural beauty, and amazing beaches.

"It is among the tourist destinations in the Gulf that is preferred by Saudis," added the CGC.

"Muttrah in Muscat Governorate is another area that is a centre of Omani culture, where the sea meets the land. Muttrah is an embodiment of ancient culture, and

an important destination for Saudis when visiting Oman."

Other aspects of Omani culture adored by Saudis are the famed frankincense resin, which provides Oman an historical importance that dates back thousands of years, as well as oud and incense, which are also sold in many stores in Saudi Arabia. Families in Oman's western neighbour use these products to impart sweet smells to their homes.

"Omani frankincense, in addition to its amazing scent and great

historic value, is among the finest types available," said the CGC. "It is used as a remedy in folk medicine, and the bags of travellers, who leave Oman after a holiday, are seldom not filled with them, because it is one of the best souvenirs available." Omani halwa, often considered a representation of the spirit of the nation's kindness, generosity, and hospitality, is also sold in stores in Saudi Arabia, where it has gained a fan following because of its rich flavour and texture.



Camel racing

With the passion shown by both sides towards camel racing and breeding top quality mounts for the sport, the first born calves to camels owned by Omanis is coveted by Saudi Arabians. This is due to the genetic qualities they possess towards succeeding in camel races.

The firstborn of an adult camel is called a 'bakra' in Arabic-speaking communities, and Omani breeders are known to raise racing camels of good stock. "They are characterised by speed and beauty among their fellow camels, and are more prone to succeed in races and other competitions," explained the Saudi CGC.

PEOPLE URGED

'Follow COVID prevention steps during Eid Al Adha'

MUSCAT: Adhere to preventive measures such as wearing masks and avoiding gatherings during Eid Al Adha, all citizens and residents of the GCC have been urged.

The appeal was made by the GCC Health Undersecretaries who yesterday discussed the latest developments of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in the Gulf.

During the 18th virtual meeting, a standard definition for infected persons and deaths related to COVID-19 in the GCC countries was agreed upon, as well as unifying the test procedures of



gene sequencing for the different variants of the virus.

Furthermore, the meeting set a standardised classification of

high-risk countries and adopted the standards of the WHO.

Related issues

The meeting reviewed a number of related issues including the latest developments of immunisation in the GCC countries, Gulf Unified Treatment Manual and the COVID-19 Gulf Unified Manual.

The virtual meeting was attended by Dr. Mohammed Saif Al Hosni, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs. -ONA

FIGHTING PANDEMIC

38% of eligible people get jab as drive gains speed in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than one-third of people eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations have been inoculated in nearly the last three months, as Oman's vaccination drive gathers speed.

According to data from the Ministry of Health, about five per cent of people were vaccinated as of April 18, 2021, which rose up to 38 per cent on July 12, 2021.

1,359,065 people have been provided COVID-19 vaccinations since the start of the country's national immunisation campaign.

1,081,547 people have been vaccinated with the first dose - amounting to 80 per cent of those who have been inoculated within target groups, while a further 272,141 people have received both doses. "The Ministry of Health continues to run its campaigns to vaccinate the target groups with

vaccines, against the coronavirus in all governorates of Oman under the national campaign for immunisation," said a statement from the Oman News Agency.

Immunisation centres continue to witness good turnout of people, who have queued up to be injected, since the early morning. ONA added that this reflected the great societal awareness about the importance of immunisation against COVID-19.



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RETURNS HOME



< FROM A1 During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by an official high-level delegation comprised HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al-Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Nu'amani, Minister of Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al-Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin

Hamad Al-Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al-Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al-Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), and HH Sayyid Faisal bin Turki Al-Said, the Sultanate's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. -OMA



Interior minister meets Saudi counterpart

NEOM: Within the framework of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al-Busaidi, Minister of Interior on Monday met with his Saudi

Counterpart Prince Abdulaziz Saud Al-Saud, Minister of Interior. The two sides reviewed means of enhancing the relations between the two countries. It also touched on matters of common interest.

Moreover, the meeting discussed speeding up the procedures related to opening the new carriageway that will connect the two countries through the Empty Quarter. -OMA

OPPORTUNITIES

< FROM A1 Oman, Saudi Arabia to explore opportunities to boost investments

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of environment, food security and the 'Middle East Green Initiative' unveiled by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman—all with the prime aim of serving the interests of the two countries at the local, regional and global levels.

They also lauded the efforts of the OPEC Plus countries, led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and with the participation of the Sultanate of Oman, noting that such efforts brought about stability and balance to oil markets, despite weak demand resulting from the successive waves of the coronavirus pandemic that still cripples a large part of the world. To this effect, the two sides stressed the necessity of maintaining cooperation to support oil market stability.

They also welcomed support for cooperation towards adopting the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) approach, endorsed by the G20 as an integrated and comprehensive framework to address and manage the challenges arising from greenhouse gas emissions. The CCE is an approach that constitutes an economically sustainable way to manage emissions through the applications of its four elements, namely reduction, reuse, recycle and elimination.

In this context, the two sides noted the importance of utilising sources of renewable energy and associated technologies, since they contribute to sustaining glob-

al energy supplies. The two sides agreed to direct the authorities concerned to study opportunities for mutual investments in advanced technologies, innovation, energy projects, renewable energy, health sector, pharmaceutical industries, real estate development, tourism, petrochemicals, converting industries, supply chains, logistical partnership, information technology and financial technology (fintech) that may benefit both countries—bearing in mind available potential and opportunities in both countries.

The two sides also welcomed the participation of Saudi companies' investment in quality projects that the Sultanate seeks to accomplish.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern and agreed to coordinate their positions in a way that would serve their interests and support security and stability in the region and the entire world.

Regarding Yemen, the two sides expressed identical views on the need to continue their efforts to find a comprehensive political solution to the Yemeni crisis based on the GCC Initiative and its executive mechanism, as well as the outcomes of Yemen's Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 and the Saudi Initiative to end the Yemeni crisis. The aim is to alleviate human suffering of the brotherly people of Yemen.

Both countries also stressed the importance of cooperating and dealing seriously and effectively with all aspects and implications, as well as repercussions of the Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile file in a manner that will contribute to achieving regional and international security and stability. They reiterated the principle of good neighbourliness, respect for the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy to spare the region all activities that might compromise its stability.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq extended an invitation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to visit Oman. King Salman expressed his appreciation for this invitation and welcomed it.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq expressed his deep thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. His Majesty the Sultan valued the warm reception and unique hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation.

King Salman expressed his best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq. He also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

HM the Sultan visits Ithra Centre at Neom City

NEOM: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq on Sunday visited Ithra Centre, an advanced knowledge institution affiliated to King Abdulaziz Centre for World Culture in Neom City.

The visit comes within the context of His Majesty the Sultan's current state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in response to an invitation from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of the KSA.

When His Majesty the Sultan arrived at Ithra Centre, he was received by Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

The reception party included

senior Saudi officials, as well as the Centre's CEO and working team.

His Majesty the Sultan went on tour of Ithra Centre and had a close look at the major projects that stem from Saudi Vision 2030.

At the conclusion of the tour, His Majesty the Sultan signed the Visitors Register, expressing his appreciation for the efforts made by those running the centre, wishing them success in their mission.

The state-of-the-art Ithra Centre is set up on an area of 80,000 square metres in an innovative style envisaged by Aramco. Its external structure combines the best of traditional and modern architecture that portrays the Kingdom's brilliant future outlook. -OMA





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SULTANATE'S GENERAL COMMISSION TO EXPO

Expo 2020 Dubai a great opportunity to showcase Omani products: Experts

KHALED ORABI

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai, represented by Oman's pavilion, which is under the supervision of the Sultanate's General Commission to Expo 2020 Dubai is a great opportunity to be grabbed and built on, said a number of officials and experts who also pointed to that the Sultanate's participation would provide the opportunity for showcasing the Omani products to a big number of expected visitors to Expo 2020 Dubai.

They also said that the products of minor industrialists and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) would have their share in this opportunity as many such products would be among the items on display at the Frankincense Store at the Sultanate's pavilion during the six months' term of the expo, which would kick off on October 1,

2021 to end of March 2022.

The above statements were part of the workshop held, last Sunday, via videoconferencing under the name (the Road to Expo 2020 Dubai) as part of the educational campaign for minor industrialists, wherein the participants discussed a number of pillars related to the Sultanate's participation in this international event and the project on development of Omani products, worldwide (the Road to Expo 2020 Dubai).

Mohsin bin Khamis Al Balushi, Advisor of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and investment Promotion and the Sultanate's Commissioner General to the Sultanate in Expo 2020 Dubai said that the COVID-19 pandemic has cast a shadow over many sectors, which has led to postponement of the launch of Expo 2020 Dubai for one year. The decision to postpone the launch of Expo 2020 Dubai

was taken in May 2020 by the concerned official, organising and supervisory entities, he added.

He said that the United Arab Emirates has made appreciable investments in hosting this global event to generate economic achievements. He said that a number of youths have taken part in the preparations to the participation in Expo 2020 Dubai along with SMEs. Hamad bin Salim Al Harthi, Head of Finance of SMEs and Portfolio Management at Oman Development Bank (ODB) spoke on the role of ODB in transforming a number of domestic and crafts projects into manufacturing units or small and medium factories.

He also discussed the soft recovery strategy for economy under COVID-19 pandemic conditions and the role of the bank in the support of the value added chain for producers and industrialists.

He also responded to a number

of enquiries on the necessity for finance in development of projects and the role of finance institutions in the support of entrepreneurs and industrialists.

"The Sultanate's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai is a great opportunity to be built on" said Dr Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Industrial Innovation Centre. He also pointed to the significance of selling the products in the form of manufactured products and not as raw materials. He also pointed to fish products in some countries which amounted to 150 products.

Nada Bassam, Taiseer (Oman Trading Platform) the Project Manager on Development of Omani Products (The Road to Expo 2020 Dubai) spoke on the short term and the long term impacts of the campaign on the Knowledge-based economy.

She also praised the role of the sponsors of the campaign.



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BAS

Moody's stays Oman's past rating

MUSCAT: Moody's has stayed Oman's past rating at "Ba3", a future outlook that proves the Sultanate stood the challenge of fluctuating oil prices' impact on its local economy, coupled with the hefty volume of current financial needs of the State Budget.

In a report it issued yesterday, Moody's referred to a 2.6% growth in the Sultanate's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021 and a projected 3.5% GDP growth

in 2022, along with prospects of improvement in the State Budget deficit from -18.1% in 2020 to -3.6% in 2021.

The report also forecasts a decline in public debt to GDP by a different of 10% over 2020 standing, in addition to a decline in current account deficit to GDP from -13.4% in 2020 to -2.3% in 2021. International agencies have stayed the Sultanate's creditworthiness since mid-2020... - ONA

STATE COUNCIL

Study on accelerators of Oman's economic growth approved



MUSCAT: The State Council on Monday approved a proposed study titled 'Accelerators of Growth of Omani Economy' presented by the Council's Economic Committee.

The study was approved during a meeting of the sixth plenary specialised committee (comprising members of the Economic Committee and heads of standing committees), held as part of the

Council's second annual sitting of the 7th Term.

The meeting stressed the need to lay emphasis on the cited accelerators of economic growth at the macroeconomic level to ensure sustained growth of the volume of the local product in consummation of the government's efforts in this regard.

The study aims to identify challenges posed to the development

of the economy and focuses on the banking sector and the labour market in a manner that enhances the government's plans and maintain steady growth of the economy.

The study also determines economic growth accelerators and enablers to be given priority due to their role in diversification seen within the context of the Economic Stimulus Plan. - ONA

BAIT AL FALAJ CAMP

SAF Command and Staff College holds graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: The Command and Staff College (CSC) of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) celebrated the graduation of the 34th Batch on Monday.

The ceremony was held at the CSC headquarters in Bait Al Falaj Camp under the patronage Lt-Gen. Sayyid Munthir Majid Al Said, Head of Liaison and Coordination at the Royal Office.

It is worth noting that the 34th Batch included a number of officers of the Ministry of Defence, SAF, the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), and other military and security units.

The study programme was di-

vided on three semesters as the curriculum included tactical exercises and a number of lectures delivered by undersecretaries and ambassadors, via video conferencing, which contributed to enriching the students' information.

The course was concluded with (Al Hazm) exercise, which is the yield of the courses' programmes.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Lt Gen Hassan Muhsin al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt. Gen Said Ali al Hilali, Head of Internal Security Service (ISS), Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis al Raisi, SAF Chief of Staff, Maj-

Gen. Matar Salim al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), Rear Admiral Saif Nasser al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), Maj. Gen. Mussalim Mohammed Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF), Air Vice Marshal Saleh Yahya al Maskari, Commandant of National Defence College, and a number of SAF senior officers, as well as other civil and security commanders.

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OLYMPICS PREP

OOOOC to review Tokyo Olympics preparations in a meeting

MUSCAT: As part of the Sultanate's participation in the 32nd Olympic Games in Tokyo from July 23 to August 8, the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) will hold a meeting on Tuesday at Oman Olympic Academy (OOA). The meeting will be held with the delegation participating in the Olympic Games in the presence of Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad Al Busaidi, OOC President, and Taha bin Suleiman Al Kishry, OOC Secretary General.

During the meeting, details related to the preparations of players for the Olympic Games will be highlighted, which include swim-



mer Issa bin Samir Al-Adawi, sprinter Barakat bin Mubarak Al-Harthy, shooter Hamad bin Saeed Al-Khatiri and the weightlifter Amer bin Salem Al-Khanjari.

It will also address the measures for athletes and administrators that will be implemented in Tokyo, and the safety rules that must be adhered to against COVID-19, so that sports competitions can be held under a safe environment.

OOC has completed all requirements related to the participation, and the official delegation includes Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad Al Busaidi, OOC President - Head of Delegation, Taha bin Sulaiman Al

Kishry, OOC Secretary General, Kazem bin Khan Muhammad Al Balushi, Chef De Mission, and Adel bin Ibrahim Al Balushi, the media delegate, in addition to Shuaib bin Muhammad Al Zadjali, the doping examination officer, and the international referee, Abdel Moneim bin Khamis Al Alawi.

The athletics team competitions will start on July 31, and the list includes Barakat bin Mubarak Al-Harthy, who will participate in the 100-metre run, accompanied by coach Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Houti.

Swimmer Issa bin Samir Al-Adawi will participate in the

100-metre freestyle race, which will take place on July 27, accompanied by his coach Ayman bin Hamad Al-Kulaibi.

The Sultanate will also be represented in shooting by Hamad bin Saeed Al Khatiri, who will participate in the 50m rifle competitions on August 2, along with his coach Sultan bin Salim Al Rashidi, and the administrator Sulaiman bin Hamad Al Hinai. The list of weightlifters Amer bin Salem Al-Khanjri, who will participate in the 81-kg weight category. The competitions will be held on July 31, accompanied by his coach, Maazen bin Humaid Al-Badri.

Italy win Euro 2020 final, beat England 3-2 in penalty shootout

The Italians had six shots in the direction of England's goal in the first half, but only one of them was on target

Gautam Viswanathan

LONDON: Italy have won Euro 2020, after beating England 3-2 on penalties at Wembley. Luke Shaw gave the English the best possible start, crashing home a shot, easing the hosts' early nerves, and sending a partisan Wembley into frenzied cheers, as he duly converted Kieran Trippier's cross on the counter following an Italian corner. Leonardo Bonucci, however, equalised from point blank range just after the hour mark, and subsequently forced extra time. Three of England's young talents – Bukayo Saka, Jadon Sancho, and Marcus Rashford – all missed penalties, which means Italy have won their second Euro trophy to add to their four World Cup triumphs, the last of which was also won on penalties.

It was the first time Italy had conceded first in the entire tournament, but Roberto Mancini's team are made of some pretty stern stuff: they were far from the favourites to win it at the start but have proved their doubters wrong in making it all this way.

The Italians had six shots in the direction of England's goal in the first half, but only one of them was on target. They also dominated possession, retaining the ball for 65 percent of the first forty-five minutes, but crucially, it was England who managed to retain their lead. Shaw's first international goal seemed to get to the Azzurri, as exemplified by centre-back Leonardo Bonucci's decision to shoot for goal deep into first half added time, when there was little chance of his attempt troubling goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

It was a similar experience for Federico Chiesa, who did well to gallop through the England midfield that simply could not seem to stop him, but his attempt from outside the box flashed narrowly



CHAMPIONS: Italy players celebrating their Euro Cup victory.

wide of the post.

Still buzzing from their early goal, England attacked their opponents from the very start of the second half. Raheem Sterling thought he'd earned his side a chance to double their lead when he was brought down inside the box around the 47th minute, but the officials were not convinced.

Blood still pumping, he then conceded a needless freekick just outside his own box, one that Lorenzo Insigne fired just wide of Pickford's upright.

A few minutes later, Mancini introduced Bryan Cristante into his midfield to try and inject some more creativity. Insigne made a burst into the box with the intention of threatening Pickford soon afterwards, but that aside, the visitors continued to look bereft of ideas as the game at Wembley – which had taken on a party atmosphere – ticked towards the hour mark.

Italy's best chance of the second half so far however, came just as the game crossed 60 minutes. The threatening Chiesa found himself in prime position to shoot, only to be denied by an excellent Pickford save that was made all the better, given he had to wait until the very last second to attempt to block out the shot.

With the defenders ahead of him caught napping, the Everton goalkeeper cut a figure equally furious and frustrated as he questioned why they hadn't done more to stop the Juventus winger. Chiesa was by far the best Italian player on the pitch, as he proved when he sent in a tantalising cross for Insigne to attack, only for Harry Maguire to make a crucial interception and

send the ball behind for a corner.

That set piece would prove to be England's undoing: An in-swinging corner was headed onto Marco Verratti, who tried to fire goalwards. His shot hit the post, and came out to Bonucci, who did not hesitate to tuck home the rebound from point-blank range and make it 1-1 in the 67th minute.

To give England more impetus, boss Gareth Southgate chose to bring on Bukayo Saka for Kieran Trippier. Italy, though, continued to dominate possession, which had increased to 71 percent in the second half.

With their tails up, Italy continued to chase the lead: Domenico Berardi, in the 74th minute, raced through onto a lofted through ball, only for an onrushing Pickford to put him off and fluff his lines. But the chances now kept coming for Italy.

Cristante found Insigne, and the Napoli man would have fired for goal had he not been crowded out by England's defenders.

England's tormentor in chief Chiesa had to hobble off with 10 minutes remaining after Kyle Walker trod on his ankle, and it is telling that the Three Lions' best spell of the second half came while his team were temporarily reduced to 10 men.

He could not continue, however, and had to be replaced by fellow Juve teammate Federico Bernardeschi was required to come on. His freshness would be required, as it turned out, with extra time required to separate yet another set of teams at Euro 2020. The first action of extra time saw a wincing Insigne re-

placed by Andrea Bellotti.

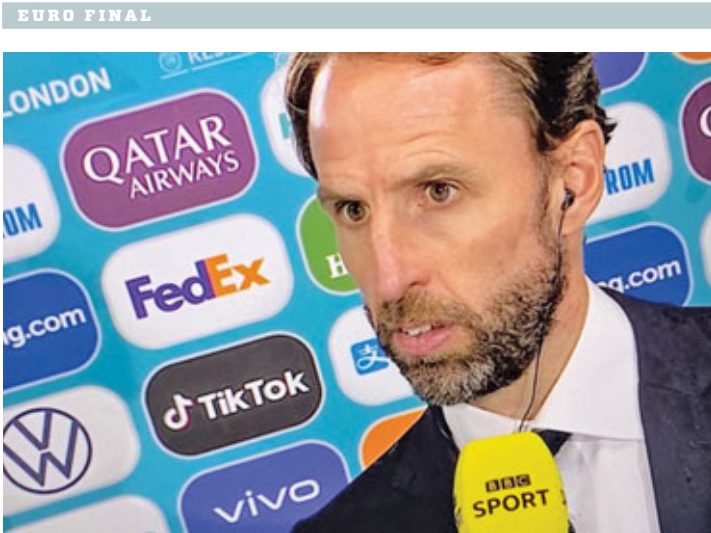
Five minutes into extra time, England were provided an opportunity to score when Sterling was released down the left flank, only for the ever-reliable Giorgio Chiellini to foil his plans. With players feeling the effect of the game, Mancini then chose to take off Marco Verratti and replace him with Manuel Locatelli. Jack Grealish subsequently came on for England.

Wembley's faithful were stunned into silence once again, as the Italians came mightily close to taking the lead: Emerson's cross could have ended up in the back of the net, had it not ricocheted off the back of Pickford, who once again did not hesitate to share a piece of his mind with his defenders.

Both Pickford and his opposite number Gianluigi Donnarumma would be tested in the opening exchanges of the second half of extra time, as Bernardeschi's shot and Harry Kane's cross into the box both needed saving.

Sterling was then presented with another opportunity to put his side in the lead once again, only for the Italian defence to foil him. The Italians seemed happy now to sit back and wait for penalties, allowing England to attack with nine minutes to go.

With penalties all but certain, Southgate elected to bring on players who were more likely to score from the spot, introducing Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho in the last minute of extra time. On the night of the final, however, it would be his opposite number, Donnarumma, who saved England's final penalty from Saka, and make history for Italy.



England penalty decisions in final ‘totally rests’ with me: Southgate

LONDON: Gareth Southgate, the head coach of England, has said the Three Lions' failure in the penalty shootouts in the Euro Cup final "totally rests" with him as he was the one who decided who was going to take the kicks on the basis of training.

In the summit clash, Italy defeated hosts England 3-2 on penalties. This was the first-ever time England had made it to the finals of the European Championships. The normal 90-minute action had finished at 1-1 and even extra time was not able to break the deadlock, sending the match into a penalty shootout. Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho, and Bukayo Saka all missed the chance to net goal in the penalty shootout as England faced defeat at the hands of Italy on Sunday.

"In terms of the penalties, that's my call. It totally rests with me," Southgate told BBC as reported by goal.com.

"I decided on the penalty takers based on what they've done in training, and nobody is on their own. We won together as a team, and it's on all of us for not being able to win the game tonight," he added.

The England manager said the side was "hugely disappointed" with the loss and admitted to not playing "well enough" at the start of the second half.

"We're hugely disappointed. The players have been an absolute credit, they've given everything they possibly could. They've run themselves into the ground," said Southgate.

"At times they played really well, at times we didn't keep the ball quite well enough, especially at the start of the second half, but we can't have any recriminations, they've been a joy to work with. They've gone further than we've gone for so long, but tonight it's incredibly painful in that dressing

room," he added.

After England got off to a flying start, Leonardo Bonucci got the equaliser for Italy as he netted the ball into the goalpost in the 67th minute, bringing the scoreline level at 1-1. No more goals were scored in the match, and hence the game had to progress to extra time. The extra time was also not able to separate the two teams, and hence the game progressed to the much-dreaded penalty shootout.

In the penalty shootout, Italy edged out England 3-2 and as a result, Italy won their second Euro title.

UK PM rallies behind England squad after 'heartbreaking' loss

United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson rallied behind England head coach Gareth Southgate and the squad after the 'heart-breaking' loss against Italy in the Euro 2020 final.

Italy ended hosts England's dream to win the Euro 2020 at the Wembley Stadium on Sunday. Azzurri defeated England 3-2 on penalties after the normal 90-minute action had finished at 1-1 and even extra time was not able to break the deadlock.

"That was a heartbreaking result to end #Euro2020 but Gareth Southgate and his @England squad played like heroes. They have done the nation proud and deserve great credit," Boris Johnson tweeted.

England had a dream start to their first-ever Euro showpiece, Luke Shaw thumping in a fine goal inside two minutes to light up Wembley. Yet Italy slowly found their feet and midway through the second half, Leonardo Bonucci found the net. On to extra time, and then penalties, where both goalkeepers saved two; history, though, belongs to Donnarumma the victor. **ANI**

EURO 2020

Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo wins Euro 2020 Golden Boot

LONDON: Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo might have played four matches in the Euro 2020 but that didn't stop him from finishing as the top scorer in the tournament.

Ronaldo scored five goals in the Euro Cup, the joint highest as Czech Republic attacker Patrik Schick had also netted the same number of goals.

However, Portugal forward won the Golden Boot via the tie-breaker of assists. While Ronaldo had one assist to his name, Schick finished the tournament with zero assists. In third place, it was Karim Benzema of France

who scored four goals in the tournament.

Ronaldo opened his account at Euro 2020 with two late goals in the 3-0 win against Hungary, taking his all-time Euro Cup finals tally to a new record of 11.

He added one more to his total with the opening goal of the 4-2 loss to Germany on Matchday 2 and then struck twice from the penalty spot in the 2-2 draw with France on Matchday 3.

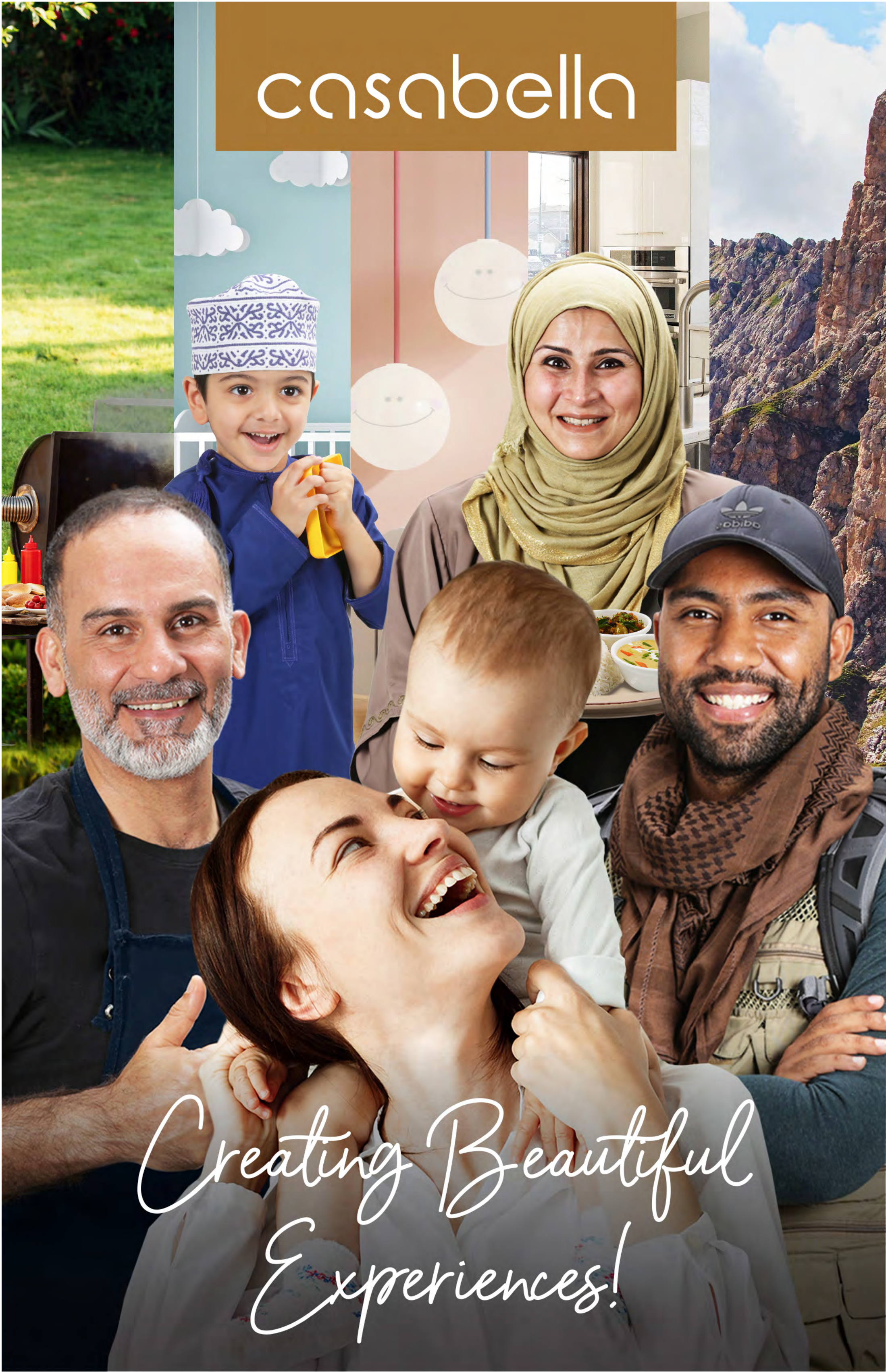
According to UEFA, those two goals against Les Bleus took Ronaldo's all-time tally for his country to a staggering 109 goals, equalling the world-

record mark set by former Iran forward Ali Daei.

And although the Czech Republic's Patrik Schick also racked up five goals at the finals, Ronaldo finished out in front thanks to his assist against Germany, having also played fewer minutes than Schick

Italy ended hosts England's dream to win the Euro 2020 here at the Wembley Stadium on Sunday (local time). Azzurri defeated England 3-2 on penalties after the normal 90-minute action had finished at 1-1 and even extra time was not able to break the deadlock. **ANI**





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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by September 2021 reaching \$73.61, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil increased by 52 cents from the price of Friday, which was at \$73.09. - **ONA**

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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,108.13 points, down 0.59 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index was up 0.17 per cent at 5977.79 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 5.46 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 21.21 per cent, was the top loser.

BankDhofar executes first SOFR linked transaction

Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked transaction will further help the bank provide trade finance facilities to its corporate customers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: BankDhofar executed its first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked transaction. The transaction was a trade finance facility availed from Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

The facility will further help the bank provide trade finance facilities to its corporate customers. BankDhofar is one of the first banks in Oman and the region to execute a SOFR linked transaction.

SOFR is a benchmark interest rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans.

Unlike the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR), SOFR is calculated based on past transactions and is considered a close proxy for a risk-free rate. SOFR is an identified replacement for USD LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) which will be phased out at the end of 2021 for some tenors and end June 2023 for other tenors.

Commenting on the transaction, Abdul Hakeem Al Ojaili, Chief Executive Officer said, "This transaction is a testimony to our strong relationship with global banks. The transaction was priced off SOFR averages and represents



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This transaction is a testimony to our strong relationship with global banks. The transaction was priced off SOFR averages and represents a significant breakthrough for the bank as the industry transitions away from the Interbank Offered Rate (IBOR)

Abdul Hakeem Al Ojaili
Chief Executive Officer, BankDhofar

a significant breakthrough for the bank as the industry transitions away from the Interbank Offered Rate (IBOR). The transaction also demonstrates BankDhofar's position as a leader in adapting and aligning its systems and processes to embrace Alternate Reference Rates (ARRs)."

BankDhofar has been preparing for the LIBOR transition and the new risk-free rates for some time, and this landmark transaction is an important step towards

developing relevant products for its corporate customers in Oman.

Aligning its strategic growth vision with the context of the national priorities and the economic aspirations of the Sultanate, BankDhofar has embarked on a comprehensive organisational transformation journey, implementing major programmes to lay out a solid infrastructure that would get the bank ready for its next phase of business expansion and development.

VERY SMALL APERTURE TERMINAL

VSAT service pact for oil, gas sectors signed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Space Communication Technologies Company (SCT) and Dunes Middle East Company (Dunes) have signed an agreement to provide VSAT (very small aperture terminal) solutions to the oil and gas vertical of the Omani market.

SCT is supporting Dunes to connect its first oil and gas customer using the latest Ka-band technology from the SCT Earth Station in Al Amerat Teleport on the Omani satellite payload @ 30.5 E., to the end customer's headquarters. Dunes have acquired a Class III license from Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) and it operates as a Virtual Network Operator (VNO) to manage its customer networks. This VSAT connectivity service will cover remote sites in the governorate of Dhofar.

The collaboration of SCT and Dunes will empower Dunes to work with different market segments to provide connectivity via satellite in different locations and diversified applications.

"Signing with Dunes Middle East is a milestone for SCT as support to Class III licensees in the Sultanate of Oman, who will deliver the VSAT services to the



Enterprise customers across the Sultanate. We are delighted to witness this growth especially by the newcomers to the market," Eng. Salim Al Alawi, Executive Director of SCT excitingly shared.

Khuwailid Al Hinai, Executive Director of Dunes Middle East said, "We are really very proud to be the first service provider to deliver the new Ka technology VSAT services to oil and gas companies in Oman. Signing the contract with SCT is one of the biggest achievements to Dunes ME, especially after witnessing a successful service delivery to our first customer. This has built trust and confidence in us in order to continue our journey with our strategic partner SCT. We thank our partner SCT for their continued support in achieving our plans and goals and looking forward to long-term business with them and future growth for all of us."

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3	HSE Officer	7-8 yrs	Holding NEBOSH certificate.	3
4	Foreman	8 yrs	Civil/Mech exp.	1
5	Draftsman	6-8 yrs	Waterline exp.	3
6	HDPE Welder	10 yrs	Butt Fusion welding, Extrusion welding in HDPE pipeline network upto max of 600mm dia pipe.	20
7	Instrumentation Engineer (E&I)	10 yrs	Experience in Automation works.	1
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Indian, MBA Finance with 14 + years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact [99510161](tel:99510161)
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ROUND-UP

Customers laud Nissan Sunny for its expressive design, fresh interiors

The latest Sunny is an addition to the growing line-up of Nissan’s renewed sedan models and features a bold new look, advanced powertrains and technology features



MUSCAT: Nissan Sunny has been receiving excellent reviews from customers in the Sultanate for its modern, expressive design, fresh interiors and confidence-inspiring performance.

Praising Nissan Sunny for its advanced powertrains, Waleed Sultan from Muscat who is a long-time Nissan Sunny owner says, “Nissan comes with an expressive exterior featuring Nissan’s V-motion grille and combines a spacious interior design with harmonious materials and colours to give a fresh and renewed feel to the car.”

Rashid Mohammed from Nizwa likes Nissan Sunny for its great design, smart technological upgrades and best-in-class spacious interiors.

He says, “These features make it an ideal car for customers looking

for a superior driving experience.”

Younis Al Balushi from Salalah believes Nissan Sunny continues to be a popular choice amongst customers in the segment because of its outstanding features, intelligent technology and remarkable performance. He says, “The new generation Nissan Sunny builds on this solid foundation and reinforces Nissan’s presence in the increasingly popular B-Sedan segment that is loaded with technology and safety features not usually found in the segment.”

Amna Khalid from Sohar says, “With its emotional design, large roominess and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility technology, Sunny brings a new level of style, excitement and refinement to entry-level buyers

at a highly affordable price.”

A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), said, “Nissan Sunny is the perfect car for customers looking for a sophisticated driving experience. The car continues to be a popular choice amongst customers in the segment because of its outstanding design, intelligent technology and remarkable performance.”

Nissan Sunny: Advanced powertrains

The latest Sunny is an addition to the growing line-up of Nissan’s renewed sedan models and features a bold new look, advanced powertrains and technology features.

The fully upgraded model comes with an expressive exterior featur-

ing Nissan’s V-motion grille and combines a spacious interior design with harmonious materials and colours to give a fresh and renewed feel to the car.

Practical safety features

Safety and technology remain a top priority at Nissan and the Sunny features Nissan Intelligent Mobility technology that helps provide front, side and rear safety monitoring and intervention technologies to enhance awareness on the road. This model also makes for an easier and more confident driving experience with seamless smartphone sync options and driver-assist technology. This is bolstered by mechanical innovations including an advanced engine design, upgraded Xtronic

transmission and an electric power steering system – all of which comes at a highly affordable price, making it ideal for entry-level buyers. The all-new model comes in three trim levels, models - S (MT or Xtronic), SV (Xtronic) and the sporty SL (Xtronic).

‘Emotional Geometry’ design

Under Nissan’s “Emotional Geometry” design language, Sunny adapts key elements – such as the V-motion grille, boomerang-shaped headlamps and tail lamps, kick-up C-pillars and floating roof. The result is an entry-level car that the designers describe as an energetic, provocative, and engaging modern compact sedan. The wheels are pushed out, there’s an imposing grille presence, everything about it says lower, wider, longer.

The exterior dimensions are 3 mm longer and 45 mm wider (than the previous generation Sunny) – along with a 44 mm lower height. Contributing to the new Sunny’s dramatic stance are reduced gaps between the fenders and tires. The new dimensions also help provide easy ingress and egress through all four doors. In addition, the new body offers a wider, more user-friendly trunk opening and 14.3 cubic feet of cargo space. Halogen headlamps with auto on/off features are standard, with the Sunny SV and SL featuring LED low and high beam headlights, LED signature lamps and fog lights. Other available exterior features include heated side mirrors with integrated turn signals and body-colour

exterior door handles and a camera on SL grade.

Colour is another carefully considered element of Sunny’s appeal. Seven exterior colours help accent the sleek body design: Electric Blue Metallic, Brilliant Silver Metallic, Gun Metallic, Super Black, Scarlet Ember Tintcoat, Aspen White TriCoat and Radiant Red.

Signature elements

Sunny’s interior also represents a reimagining of the previous generation design with signature elements found in Maxima and Altima – including the “Gliding Wing” instrument panel that expands the feel of the space through the use of light and sleek “wingspan.” The effect of the design’s spatial symmetry is an enhanced sense of togetherness. The horizontal architecture, open spaces and use of harmonious materials and colours add a fresh, up-level quality to the entire cabin.

Nissan Sunny features a roomy 5-passenger interior with a comfortable rear seat with ample rear legroom and knee room. Its large interior volume of 88.9 cubic feet is matched with 14.3 cubic feet of trunk volume (split rear seat).

Other equipment, standard on SL grade and optional on SV, include a 7.0-inch colour display with touch screen capability (resistive type), Bluetooth Hands-free Phone System and Streaming audio via Bluetooth, a 12-volt power outlet, three USB ports (two charge only), interface for iPod and other compatible devices, Siri Eyes Free and AM/FM audio system with 6 speakers.

BUSHRA HALF-YEARLY DRAW

Alizz Islamic Bank to distribute more than OMR130,000 as cash prizes

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to reward its loyal customers, Alizz Islamic Bank will conduct the Bushra Prize Savings account half yearly draw in the middle of July.

Alizz Islamic Bank’s Bushra Prize Savings account is Oman’s first Sharia-compliant prize savings account and reflects the bank’s commitment to pioneering innovative Sharia-compliant products and services that cater to customers’ needs.

There will be 19 winners in the half-yearly draw. The more you increase your savings the more chances you have to enter the draw. The value of the half-yearly prize is OMR 100,000 which will be allocated to one winner. A total prize value of OMR 30,000 will be distributed among three ‘Tharwa’ customers with each winner receiving OMR 10,000.

Employees of the Ministry of Education who have a Bushra account will have an exclusive draw for them with an amount of OMR 1,500 being distributed amongst three winners from the Ministry who will each receive OMR 500.

In appreciation of the roles of the employees working in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health, Alizz Islamic Bank also has dedicated special draws for both sectors with three winners from the Ministry of Defence and three winners from the Ministry



of Health winning OMR 500 each.

Valuing the pioneering roles played by the employees of the Royal Oman Police Alizz Islamic Bank will also conduct special draws for them with three winners from the Royal Oman Police each receiving cash prizes of OMR 500. Pensioners will also have a chance to win with a special draw exclusively for them where they will have a chance to win OMR 500 each.

Alizz Islamic Bank’s Bushra Prize Savings Account has brought joy and happiness to a variety of

customers who have won in previous draws with different amounts saved in their accounts, the Bushra account has brought good tidings and relieved the stress that many of them were facing. With some being able to build their dream home, others being able to seek medical treatment amongst other things.

Bushra Prize Savings Account is Oman’s first fully Sharia-compliant prize savings account offering daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annual cash prizes as hiba (gift) from the shareholders’

fund. The minimum amount required to be eligible for the draws is only OMR 100, and customers also receive monthly generated profit on their deposited amounts.

Every OMR 100 gives the customer one chance to enter the draw, and the more money deposited in the account, the greater the chances of winning. Bushra Prize Savings Account customers can benefit from services such as obtaining an instant debit card, online and mobile banking, and SMS alerts for any transaction.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Two NBO customers walk away with OMR250,000 each in Al Kanz mega draw

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has wrapped up one of the most anticipated events of the year, the Al Kanz Savings Scheme half-yearly Mega Draw, with two lucky customers walking away with OMR 250,000 each.

Conducted at the NBO headquarters in Azaiba, the event also included the monthly Mazaya Exclusive draw, which gave OMR 10,000 each to four winners, and the Salary Transfer draw, with OMR 500 for each of the 50 winners. As one of the Sultanate’s longest-running prize draws schemes, Al Kanz continues to offer life-changing cash prizes, benefiting over 1,200 customers across the Sultanate in 2021 alone.

“At NBO, we continue to find new



and exciting ways to support our customers’ financial lives and promote a savings culture. Our prize draws are a great way for them to start, or supplement, their savings, and since every OMR 100 counts,

there are infinite chances of winning,” said Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail and Digital Banking Officer at NBO. “We are excited to have reached the halfway mark of this year’s scheme, through which we will ultimately

give outcome 3.251 million.”

With prizes ranging from OMR 100 to OMR 250,000, the Al Kanz Savings Scheme continues to reward more people each year. Customers are eligible to win by maintaining an average minimum balance of OMR 100 in their Al Kanz Savings account. Every OMR 100 provides an extra chance in the draw, so the more money kept in the account, the more the chance of winning. Meanwhile, customers simply have to transfer their salary to NBO to be in for the chance of winning in the Salary Transfer draw. What’s more, Al Kanz also includes Nuqati rewards, offering nine points for every OMR 100 deposited, one of many unique benefits available to account-holders.

OFFER



Good time to own INFINITI Q50 at low EMI of OMR205

MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has announced low EMI on the INFINITI Q50 which offers an optimal blend of ride comfort and class-leading agility. Customers can benefit from as taring EMI rate (terms and conditions apply) of OMR 205 of INFINITI Q50. Subject to credit approval.

The INFINITI Q50 sedan, which represents dynamic and bold styling, has impressed the new generation of buyers. Its engines and chassis technologies that deliver empowering performance and rewarding drive have been a big winner with Oman’s auto enthusiasts.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman, said, “We are delighted to make it much easier for luxury motoring enthusiasts to own a premium vehicle like INFINITI Q50 which comes with the most advanced technological features like intelligent cruise control with full speed range, lane departure warning and prevention, forward emergency braking and backup collision intervention.”

The INFINITI Q50 sedan has been the key driver of INFINITI’s success in the Sultanate due to its sensuous, dynamic and bold styling, segment-leading features and pulsating performance that delivers excellent output.

The brand puts put high performance at the heart of the INFINITI Q50. The 400-horsepower twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine offers class-leading performance that’s bound to get your heart racing. With 475 Nm of torque, acceleration is effortless. You can also choose the brand’s class-leading twin-turbocharged V6 that returns 300 HP and 400 Nm of torque.

With the INFINITI Q50, you can choose from two engines: the 300 HP 3.0 L V6 Twin-turbo or the exhilarating 400 horsepower 3.0-litre Twin Turbo V6. The RED SPORT 400 has Kacchu Aluminum trim and red contrast stitching that takes the cabin to a new level.

The INFINITI Q50’s suspension shapes the drive around you. As road conditions change, it automatically adjusts your vehicle’s body roll, pitch and bounce rate for a smooth, comfortable ride.

Dynamic Digital Suspension comes equipped with two distinct settings, Standard and Sport. Select Standard mode for comfortable, dynamic handling. Engage Sport mode for firmer dampening and greater agility.

With INFINITI Q50 one can set their preference for a soft or firm ride through the Drive Mode Selector. Electronically adjusted dampers do the rest, applying the right amount of force to keep the drive feeling balanced.

The double-wave hood draws the eye along the car to the crescent-shaped rear windows. Strong lines and characteristic headlights create a premium sport sedan that always draws attention. The INFINITI Q50 is available in a selection of colours, including the new Slate Gray. Or go for something that reflects your personality more, like the new Grand Blue.

Its signature Q50 headlights cast an illuminating gaze, making their presence known day or night. With their distinct crescent shape, they flow elegantly into the strong shoulder line of the INFINITI Q50.



ROUND-UP

Welcome impressive savings with fuel-efficient Toyota HEV range

The self-charging HEV range of vehicles from Toyota is powered by an electric motor when driven at speeds below 60 km/h (conditions apply) and for speeds above that, the petrol engine takes over



MUSCAT: Toyota's leading range of Hybrid Electric Vehicles offer an unparalleled advantage of twin power from an electric motor and a petrol engine, to offer maximum mileage than expected. That is lesser visits to the gas station and journeys full of impressive savings.

The self-charging HEV range of vehicles from Toyota is powered by an electric motor when driven at speeds below 60 km/h (Conditions apply) and for speeds above that, the petrol engine takes over.

Toyota has long pioneered Hybrid Electric technology that is self-charging and doesn't compromise on powerful performance and fuel efficiency. In Oman, the Toyota Hybrid Electric vehicle range includes Corolla, C-HR, Camry, RAV4 and Highlander.

Corolla HEV is a hybrid electric model which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and an electric motor with a combined power of 121 hp. It is also paired with an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission, which provides an outstanding fuel consumption value of 27.6km/L while improving the driving experience. As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the all-new Corolla, which includes a comprehensive array of features to

protect its occupants, such as SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Brake Assist, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), among many others.

The C-HR's compact crossover comes with a 1.8-litre full-hybrid powertrain delivering a total output of 121 horsepower with power sent to the wheels through an electrically controlled continuously variable automatic transmission. The C-HR is built on the Toyota

New Global Architecture (TNGA) platform, which promises an involved driving experience. The C-HR is equipped with an array of active and passive safety features including Vehicle Stability Control, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution and Tyre Pressure Monitoring System among others.

The introduction of an electrified version of the Camry cements Toyota's continued efforts in creating ever-better cars and further reiterates Toyota's commitment to environmental sustainability. Combin-

ing two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and electric motors, the hybrid electric drivetrain on the Toyota Camry HEV produces 208 hp (combined: Motor + Engine). The drivetrain is mated to an electrically controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) that executes smooth yet quick gear shifts.

The RAV4 hybrid electric model offers the lowest fuel consumption value of 22.2km/L (as per GSO certification). A new electrified hybrid system combines two power sources consisting of a petrol

engine and electric motor producing a combined power of 219 hp. It is also paired to a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).

The Highlander's thrilling drive personality is brought to life by a new electrified hybrid system that combines two power sources. The combined power of petrol engine and electric motor is 240 hp, capable of delivering a maximum torque figure of 231 nm. The system is mated to an electronically controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).

LIMITED TIME



Mercedes-Benz GLC SUV and Coupé range now available at exclusive prices

MUSCAT: Athletic, aerodynamic and elegantly hi-tech, Mercedes-Benz premium SUVs are second to none. Until 30th September 2021, Mercedes-Benz Oman customers can drive away in the eye-catching sporty Mercedes-Benz GLC 200 Coupé starting from just OMR27,995 including VAT, or the agile Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 4MATIC from just OMR 29,995 including VAT. With such competitive prices, customers can look forward to enjoying all the comfort and versatility of a luxury family car with the thrilling driving experience they expect from the award-winning brand.

"We're thrilled to be able to offer two of our bestselling cars at such a price range. Setting the benchmark for midsize SUVs, they are in a league of their own, offering both strength and comfort. The exceptional quality of all our vehi-

cles combined with our signature aftersales service is why so many choose to be part of the Mercedes-Benz family," said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman.

The Mercedes-Benz GLC 200 Coupé and the Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 4MATIC both come with more power, a front-end refresh, LED Performance headlights and the intuitive MBUX system. Offering the best of both worlds, the Mercedes-Benz GLC 200 Coupé combines SUV performance and coupé agility, with wider aprons, new tailpipe trims, and stylish chrome elements. Meanwhile, with outstanding ride comfort, the Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 4MATIC boasts all-wheel drive, 255 horsepower, 9-speed automatic transmission, advanced safety and a spacious, sensuous cabin all wrapped in an elegantly athletic style.

AUTOMATIC UNIT

Zubair SEC company Al Zahi Al Shamelah launches new carpet cleaning service

MUSCAT: Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) member company, Al Zahi Al Shamelah, recently announced the soft launch of a new automatic carpet cleaning unit.

Founded by Zubair SEC member, Imad Ali Saif Al Ghafri, Al Zahi Al Shamelah is a comprehensive laundry service that offers carpet, upholstery, curtain, and sofa cleaning. The new automatic carpet washing unit is a part of an ongoing expansion plan and is expected to open in mid-August.

The new carpet cleaning unit will feature ultra-modern equipment with innovative technology from GarMak. The automatic machine offers an extra capacity that can wash over 1,000 square metres per day and can accommodate carpets of different sizes with a width of up to 5 metres, at any given length. It will also eliminate hand-washing mistakes and will save overall time, electricity and water consumption. Other features include specialised equipment to dry clean, package and perfume carpets, alongside a private indoor room for the final drying.

Commenting on this new unit, Said Al Sahib Director of Zubair SEC said, "We are extremely pleased to be a part of Imad Ali Saif Al Ghafri's journey as he continues to expand his business, offering customers innovative products and services that complement their lifestyles. We continue to work with budding entrepreneurs like Imad, extending support to them when faced with challenges. At Zubair SEC, we strongly believe in the impor-



tance of the role that small enterprises play towards enhancing the national economy and contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development of Oman. We wish Imad the very best in all his future endeavours."

From his side, Imad Al Ghafri, General Manager, Al Zahi Laundry said, "Services that help manage time more efficiently and offer customers best-in-class cleaning are a necessity. With the launch of this innovative carpet cleaning service, we will be able to offer our

loyal customers high-end upholstery care that can be delivered to the customer's doorstep within 48 hours. This includes dusting, washing, drying, perfuming, packaging and delivery. We combine innovative technology to provide a high-quality and affordable laundry service. I would like to thank my advisors at Zubair SEC for the unwavering support they have provided to me every step of the way."

Through the years, Al Zahi Al Shamelah has provided custom-

ers with unmatched standards of cleanliness, hygiene and customer service. Its widespread experience guarantees quality service with optimal results and accuracy in work.

The laundry service currently operates in the governorates of Al Batinah South, North, Muscat and Al Dhahirah and offers laundry services for carpets, curtains, sofas, mosque carpets and furnishings. It also offers home delivery services for cleaning curtains and sofas.

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