

UPON HM THE SULTAN'S ORDERS,
OMAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ROYAL
WINDSOR HORSE SHOW

MUSCAT: As per the Royal orders
of His Majesty Sultan Haitham
bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman,
represented by the Royal Cavalry,
will take part in Royal Windsor
Horse Show during in May. **>A4**



ROYAL DECREE RATIFIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN SULTANATE OF OMAN, USA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday issued a Royal Decree No. (24/2022) on ratification of an agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America on work permit for spouses of official employees, signed in Muscat on 18 April 2022. Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version attached to this decree. Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. — **ONA**

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His Majesty the Sultan receives Ambassadors' credentials



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received separately at Al Barakah Palace on Tuesday credentials of a number of ambassadors of friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors:

- Thomas Lid Ball, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of King Harald V of the Kingdom of Norway, accredited to

the Sultanate of Oman.

- Mark Lawrence Donovan, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President David Hurley, Governor-General of Australia, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Coulibaly Drissa, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr. Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Muhamed Jusic, Extraordi-

nary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Zeljko Komsic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Hrachya Poladyan, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Vahagn Khachaturyan of the Republic of Armenia, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Frederico Manuel dos Santos, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President João

Manuel Lourenço of the Republic of Angola, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Barney Richard, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Cindy Kiro, Governor-General of New Zealand, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the sidelines meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings and best wishes of their countries' leaders to His Majesty and the

Omani people.

They also expressed their great honour and delight in presenting their credentials before His Majesty the Sultan. They affirmed to exert their sincere efforts to promote relations of their respective countries with Oman in various spheres in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' citizens.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his gratitude for their lead-

ers' greetings and best wishes. His Majesty confirmed that they would receive all support from him, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols, and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. — **ONA**

STATE COUNCIL

Draft Notary Public Law amendment discussed

MUSCAT: The State Council on Tuesday discussed the draft amendment of some provisions of the Notary Public Law, referred by the Council of Ministers. During its 5th regular session for the 7th term, the Council reviewed the aforesaid draft amendment and the opinion of the Legal Committee, in preparation to submit it to His Majesty the Sultan.

The session, which was held under the chair of Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, also covered a set of other topics, including "The Efficiency of Public Expenditure in the Sultanate of Oman" and "The Future of Water in the Sultanate of Oman". — **ONA**

AIRPORT PASSENGER NUMBERS APPROACH PRE-COVID LEVELS



Removal of COVID-19 related travel curbs globally and pent up demand behind surge

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passenger numbers at airports in Oman are steadily approaching the levels recorded before the COVID-19 pandemic began, reveal statistics published by the government.

By the end of February 2022, about 1.1 million passengers had arrived at and departed from four airports in Oman: Muscat, Salalah, Sohar, and Duqm, compared to the nearly 1.6 million passen-

gers using Oman's airports at the end of January 2020, shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Oman.

While passenger numbers in Muscat are still down – 1.43 million passengers travelled through Muscat International Airport in the first month of 2020, and nearly a million used the airport in January and February 2022 – figures published by the National Centre for Statistics and Information show

that there has actually been a passenger increase at both Duqm and Salalah airports.

9,747 passengers arrived at and departed from Duqm airport in the first two months of 2022, compared to 4,985 in January 2020. While 52 flights landed in the first month of 2020, that number more than doubled to 122 by the end of February 2022.

At Salalah in the southern Dhofar governorate, passenger numbers climbed to 147,489 by February 2022, compared to 118,771 in January 2020. 1,067 flights have also landed at Salalah International Airport, compared to 918 flights in January 2020.

At Sohar, however, numbers are still lower than they were pre-pandemic: 23,475 passengers ar-

rived and departed on 274 flights until February 2022, compared to 32,575 passengers on 242 flights in January 2020.

Explaining the reason for the recovery in passenger numbers, Venkat Perumal, sales manager for the Oman office of Go First airlines, said, "The main reason for the steady increase in traveller and flight numbers is because more and more countries have removed their COVID-19 related restrictions.

"Now, you don't need to take a PCR test for most countries, which makes travel very easy...all you need to show is proof of vaccination," he said.

"After about two years of being unable to travel, people are also very eager to fly once again," he further added. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Seven-year-old scales summits of success

1 Akshaj Udaival, a class two student of ISG Muscat has successfully scaled the summits of Mount Nangakarshang (5,077 metres above sea level) on 28th April 2022 and Mount Everest Base Camp (5,364 metres above sea level) on 30th April 2022. **>A3**

WORLD Troops evacuate Sri Lankan PM

2 Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was escorted out of his official residence, after the army prevented several attempts by protesters to break in overnight. Rajapaksa stepped down from his position on Monday amid the worst economic crisis Sri Lanka. **>A7**

MARKET CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR129mn



3 The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR129 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from May 11 until August 10, 2022. The average accepted price reached OMR99.685 for every OMR100. **>B1**



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Summits of success for seven-year-old

Oman resident scales Mount Nangakarshang (5,077 metres above sea level) and Mount Everest Base Camp (5,364 metres above sea level)

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Akshaj Udaiwal, a class two student of Indian School Ghubra Muscat has successfully scaled the summits of more than 5,000 metre height. He scaled Mount Nangakarshang (5,077 metres above sea level) on 28th April 2022 and Mount

Everest Base Camp (5,364 metres above sea level) on 30th April 2022. The seven-year-old achieved the twin feats under the watchful supervision of Lt. Colonel Romil Barthwal (Retd.) Udaiwal's dream run began as a mere four year old when he accompanied his mother, Anuradha Udaiwal, on her hiking expe-

ditions in the mountains of Oman. Little Akshaj claims mountain climbing comes naturally to him and he feels a deep sense of exhilaration as he fearlessly explores the natural terrains of the Indian sub-continent. Colonel Pradeep Bist, SM identified Akshaj's unique ability and trained him in honing his mountaineering skills. In December 2021, Akshaj created a record of sorts by scaling the Chandrashila summit in Uttarakhand which is 4,000 metres above sea level. This feat earned him a place in 'The India Book of Records' wherein he was conferred with the Honour of Appreciation. "The school is truly proud of Akshaj's stupendous achievement



and wishes him luck in his future endeavours," said the school Principal, Papri Ghosh. Akshaj Udaiwal is an inspiration for youngsters his age who dream of creating a niche for themselves in the field of mountaineering.



NORTH AL SHARQIYAH

Ministry lines up financing for Scientific Exploration Centre

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education signed a cooperation agreement with the Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Company Development Corporation to finance a project to develop the Scientific Exploration Centre in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The agreement signing took place at the Ministry's headquarters on Tuesday morning and was attended by Majid bin Saeed Al-Bahri, Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs, from the Ministry, Amer bin Nasser Al-Mataani, CEO of the Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Development Corporation. Majid Al-Bahri, Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs, stated about the importance and objectives of this project, saying: "The use of renewable energy preserves the integrity of the environment, and affects the social aspects of education and health, as well as the economic aspects and the development of industry, so the Scientific Exploration Centre work in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate aims to link the educational parties with the practical aspect of those interested in clean renewable energy, whether they are school students and their teachers, and university and college students, and to develop their innovations and inventions related to this field. "Out of cooperation between the Ministry and the Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Development Corporation, this agreement was signed to finance the project to develop the Scientific Exploration Centre



in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, with an amount of (38,806) Omani riyals. This project aims to educate students and the community about the importance of benefiting from renewable energy, and to highlight the most important investment applications of renewable energy on the production and manufacture of innovations and inventions in the field of renewable energy, and the preservation of the environment." He added: "This educational centre will consist of nine corners, namely: a "solar cell educational platform" corner, a "hydro energy" corner, a "wind energy" corner, a "kinetic energy and vibrations" corner, a "hydrogen energy" corner, a "scientific models" corner, a "virtual reality" corner, in addition to the interactive screens corner, and the challenges corner. It is expected that more than 15,000 students will benefit from the establishment of this centre annually, so we extend our sincere thanks to the Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Development Corporation, for their generous support to the educational

process in the Sultanate, wishing them continued success." Bassem bin Nasser Al Batashi, Acting Director General of Social Responsibility at the Oman LNG Development Corporation, said: "The signing of this agreement stems from confirming the existing partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Oman LNG Development Corporation to support its educational projects and programmes, and to achieve the vision of Oman 2040; With the aim of rehabilitating the Scientific Exploration Centre in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate with the latest technologies and applications that support innovations and scientific research, which is a continuation of the first educational projects supported by the Corporation in the education sector, including, but not limited to supporting 10 centres for scientific exploration in various governorates of the Sultanate and a number of projects related to innovations and scientific fields in the various schools of the educational governorates."

ADVERTORIAL

Dr. Modi Juma Al Ghailani designated as governing body of ASIC, a British accreditation authority

MUSCAT: Dr. Modi Juma Al Ghailani, CEO, Bayan College is designated as a member in the governing body of ASIC (Accreditation Service for International Colleges) - British Accreditation Authority. ASIC accredits the Colleges and Universities in the UK and worldwide. ASIC has an ISO 9001:2015 accredited certifications in recognition of their commitment to high standards in its accreditation process and internal procedures. ASIC was assessed and met the requirements of ISO9001:2015 for the following scope of operations: 'Accreditation for education institutions in the UK and Worldwide'. ASIC is a member of British Quality Foundation (BQF). ASIC is an affiliate of



The European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). ASIC is also a member of CHEA (Recognized by U.S. Department of Education) International Quality Group USA. Dr. Modi was awarded with Chairman's Outstanding Achievement Award. The award recognizes the contribution to the establishment of Higher Education in Oman.

While responding on the new role in ASIC governing body Dr. Modi said that she is looking forward for making qualitative changes in the higher education sector to benefit the future generation of Oman and across the world. Bayan College is nationally and internationally affiliated. Bayan College is nationally affiliated by OAAAQA and is affiliated to Purdue University Northwest.



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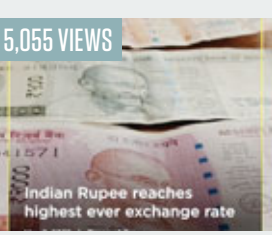
Story on cyclone Asani path

A story on the path forecasted for cyclone Asani reached 21,342 people and had 1,377 link clicks on Facebook.



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5,055 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video on Indian Rupee exchange rate

The Maghrib Minute video on Indian Rupee exchange rate had 5,055 views and 366 likes on Instagram.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

458 VIEWS



Video on Humanity, mental health awards in Oman

The video on Humanity, mental health awards in Oman had 458 views and reached 3,700 people on Facebook.



Video on Humanity, mental health awards in Oman

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UPON HM THE SULTAN’S ORDERS, OMAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW

MUSCAT: As per the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Royal Cavalry, will take part in Royal Windsor Horse Show in May.

The event will mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth.

The show will be held on the grounds of the British Royal Windsor Castle, with a turnout of more than 1,000 participants, including riders, musicians, writers and actors—and (500) horses. The performance covers equestrian sports, military marshals and music shows.

Royal Cavalry's participation

The Royal Cavalry's participation, which comes in response to a British Royal invitation, will stage Omani and international musical pieces and showcase the Sultanate's cultural and civilizational heritage in this global show.

It will be the fourth participation of its kind for the Royal Cavalry in this show. - **ONA**





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IN NEW DELHI

Oman, India seek to boost trade, investment relations



Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. — ONA

MUSCAT: The Omani-Indian Joint Committee will hold its tenth meeting in New Delhi, India, on Thursday 12 May 2022. Oman's delegation is headed by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

Bilateral ties
The meeting aims at strengthening trade and investment relations between the two countries in sectors of mutual interest. The Omani delegation includes a number of officials and representatives of the public sector, comprising the Oman Invest-

ment Authority (OIA), the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and a number of businessmen and representatives of major private sector companies in the Sultanate of Oman.

B2B meetings
The programme includes organising B2B meetings between major companies from both sides in the targeted sectors to discuss opportunities for cooperation and investment. Omani companies op-

erating in the construction, manufacturing, retail, automobiles, renewable energy, pharmaceutical and tourism sectors will participate in the meetings. Al Yousef underscored the depth of trade and investment relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India.

In various fields
Those relations attributed to boosting cooperation, partnerships in various fields. Al Yousef also underlined the role of the Omani-Indian Joint Committee in creating new trade and investment partnerships by

providing the appropriate environment for businessmen from both sides. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion aims through this visit to improve the business milieu and raise the competitiveness of Oman in the field of attracting investments and working to achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040. The "Invest in Oman" forum will be held on the sidelines of the visit in Mumbai, India. The forum aims to introduce the business milieu and highlight investment opportunities available in Oman. — ONA

INTERNATIONAL EVENT



Sultanate to organise international photographers event in October 2022

MUSCAT: Oman will host the 35th FIAP Black and White Biennial-Oman 2022 from 24 to 31 October 2022 in Muscat. Oman will be the first Middle East country to host this international event. A meeting was held to this effect between Said Sultan Al Busaidi, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth's Undersecretary for Culture and Riccardo Busi, President of the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) Board of Directors. The idea of hosting this global event emanates from the cultural

strategy launched by the ministry at the end of 2021, which emphasizes the importance of "cultural communication" with the aim of investing, introducing and promoting the cultural diversity of Oman, besides achieving partnership and integration with local and international institutions in the cultural fields. The event will enhance Oman's role as a world-leading cultural destination. The Biennial also emphasises the pioneering role played by the Sultanate of Oman in promoting the art of photography.

As many as 180 international photographers representing over 60 countries will participate in the event. The participants will also visit a number of governorates where they will a close look at Oman's cultural and tourist attractions. In his turn, Riccardo Busi said that the Sultanate of Oman has a rich history and inspiring geographical diversity for photographers to explore. The event, he added, will be special, due to the fact that it is the first of a kind since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. — ONA

ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN



RAO Commander receives British RCDS delegation

MUSCAT: Maj. Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Tuesday retired Maj. Gen Stephen McMahon, head of the British Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) delegation.

Review meeting
The two sides reviewed a number of military topics and exchanged views on several matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Air Commodore Nasser Said Al Sa'adi, Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Joint Drills of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Defence Attaché of the British embassy at Muscat. — ONA



U.S. Embassy Muscat

Vacancy
Announcement 09/2022

The U.S. Embassy in Muscat is seeking qualified candidates for the below position:

General Services Assistant: Supervised by the Supervisory General Service Officer (S/GSO). Acts as receptionist, serves as the initial point of contact, central customer service representative, and office manager for the General Services Office (GSO), which consists of the following sections: Housing, Procurement, Motor Pool, Shipping, Property Management, and Travel. Assists both the Supervisory General Service Officer (S/GSO) and the Assistant General Service Officer (A/GSO).

TO APPLY:

All applications must be submitted through Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) to be considered. For more information on the position and the required qualifications, please visit the U.S. Embassy website in google Chrome (<https://om.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>) and click on "jobs at the Embassy" then click on "Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA)" to see the vacancy announcement.

FROM WEDNESDAY

Oman to take part in Tehran International Book Fair

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, will participate in the 33rd edition of Tehran International Book Fair, due to kick-off on Wednesday. The participation aims at introducing the Omani culture and highlighting its literary production. Oman's pavilion will include various literary and historic publications in different languages, in addition to several publications and titles on various literary, intellectual, scientific and historic areas. As many as 1700 local publishing houses and 178 foreign publishers representing 32 countries will take part in the event. The State of Qatar will be the guest of honour in the fair, which lasts till 21 May. — ONA



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The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	32441/22	Leasing of Shop at OCC Housing Complex	RO. 52.500	2nd June 2022 1700 Hours	07th June, 2022 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by paying the below amount online to Company's account detailed below:
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Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG
Account number: 0423 01086 3070 017
Account Type: OMR
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Copy of deposit transaction of a non-refundable amount of writing on the above as tender fees to be emailed to CFOSecretary@omacement.com & Treasury@omacement.com with the Subject showing "Tender No." and "Tender Description" enabling Company to provide tender document through email to your company. The above payment is a non-refundable amount. Contact details: Office number: +968 244 37803, Mobile number: +968 97932277

The last date for purchasing of Tender Documents shall be on the 2nd June, 2022.

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, 7 th June, 2022 by 2359 PM, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value or deposit slip. The bid bond must be valid for 90 days from the last date of submission of offers.

Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by a tender bond will NOT be considered. This publication is part of the tender documents.

Invitation to Tender

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

Tender Reference No	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/062	Owner's Engineer Services for Implementation of Distribution Projects for the Year 2022 to 2025 Tanweer transferred area.

Tender Fee	RO. 1,575.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) each Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The Tenderer should have a minimum of five (5) years experience in the design, engineering, and supervision of construction & commissioning of similar projects in the capacity of Owner's Engineer in the Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Tenderer shall have valid Type-1, Type-3, Type-4 & Type-6 (Expert design, tendering, engineering, and supervision services, Distribution studies, SCADA & Control & Protection System Study) registration with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Or the Tenderer shall have minimum valid Type-1 Certificate to participate in this Tender and the time of award The Tenderer should obtain the Type-3, Type-4 & Type-6 certificates from DCRP. If the bidder is not having valid DCRP registration with Type 1 certificate, then the bid shall not be considered and will be rejected. In case of successful bidder not having DCRP grade Type-3 (Distribution studies) approval then successful bidder must engage a DCRP approved Consultant for system studies for Projects detailed in Part-G.
Last date for the issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 25/05/2022
Site Visit	-
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 02/06/2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 07/06/2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 14/06/2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 150 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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EPISODIC MOBILITY PROBLEMS

Queen Elizabeth to skip opening of Parliament

LONDON: Due to mobility problems, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will not attend the customary opening of Parliament on Tuesday. "The Queen continues to experience episodic mobility problems, and in consultation with her doctors has reluctantly decided that she will not attend the State Opening of Parliament tomorrow," said Buckingham Palace in a statement on Monday, reported CNN. "At Her Majesty's request, and with the agreement of the relevant authorities, The Prince of Wales will read The Queen's speech on Her Majesty's behalf, with The Duke of Cambridge also in attendance," the Palace added. The Queen's Speech, which is written by the government, is a significant event in both the royal and political calendars. The speech is one of the monarch's most important symbolic duties and forms the centerpiece of the State Opening of Parliament ceremony, reported CNN. Opening Parliament is a key constitutional responsibility. It can't happen without the monarch. The Queen has had to delegate that responsibility to The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Cambridge, who are counsellors of state. The speech is also used to introduce the government's legislative agenda, and its contents are fiercely debated by lawmakers for days afterwards. This year also marks 70 years since the Queen took the throne. She celebrated her birthday on April 21. The Queen is both the longest-reigning British monarch and the longest-serving female head of state in history. **ANI**



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Barka Water and Power Company SAOG

P.O. Box: 572, P.C.320, Barka. Tel.: 26896499, Fax: 26894387

Barka Water and Power Company SAOG Management Discussion and Analysis Report Q1 2022

We are pleased to present the un-audited financial statements of Barka Water and Power Company SAOG (the 'Company'), formerly known as ACWA Power Barka SAOG, for the period ended 31 March 2022.

The financial results of the period are summarized as under:

Riyal Omani in Thousands	
	Period Ended 31 March 2022
Gross Revenues	4,418
Gross Profit	872
Profit after tax	142
Basic earnings per share – Riyal Omani	0.001

Overview
Safety continued to be the highest priority for the Company. No safety incident was reported during the winter down time available to perform various maintenance activities. The team continued to demonstrate vigilance and implementation of international best practices related to safety. Similarly, the focus on environment resulted in no exceedances during the period. There were no environmental exceedances during the quarter.

The term of the PWPA and the two WPAs was coterminous and had an expiry on 31 December 2021 however this term was extended due to certain force majeure related events resulting in expiry of PWPA and WPAs on 9 February 2022. The Company was notified by OPWP during the quarter about award of extension of the two WPAs until 31 March 2024. The Company accordingly has executed the WPA Amendment Agreements.

The Company has carefully monitored the recently implemented spot market in the sector and believe that operating its power units at this stage is not economically viable. Based on this, the Company has decided to put its power units in preservation mode. The units will be available to operate as soon as demand for power increases and there is an economic justification to operate in the spot market. The Company has engaged with its Operator to manage and oversee the preservation mode of the power units. The MSFE water desalination plant is not expected to operate in future as disclosed in previous reports. The Company will evaluate best option on this front including sale or disposal of MSFE units after securing necessary approvals from its stakeholders.

The expiry of PWPA and no operation in spot market will result in certain challenges in terms of reduced revenue and cash flow generation. The next long term loan installment is due at end of April. The Company has engaged with its Lenders with the aim of agreeing a loan restructuring plan to avoid default on its repayments.

The Company held an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Shareholders 7 March 2022. The Shareholders unanimously approved the name change of the Company to Barka Water and Power Company SAOG. The change of the name has no impact on composition of the shareholding of the Company or on its contractual framework.

From operational perspective, the reliability of the two RO Plants remained the focus as these plants continued to get affected by seawater quality failure during the quarter. Such condition is adequately covered under the force majeure provisions of the WPA and will likely result in extension of the WPA term however it does expose the Company to cash flow challenges as revenue related to force majeure will be recovered at end of the contract term.

The Company has successfully completed the Annual Performance Test for its two RO Plants in the month of April 2022. The accomplishment will ensure revenue generation of the Company for the next contract year.

Plant performance during the period

Power Generation

Quarter 1	Energy Exported (GWH)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor
2022	0.0	0.0%	100.0%
2021	7.0	0.8%	99.7%

During this reporting period the Power Plant was made available to grid only until 9 February 2022 owing to expiry of the PWPA term immediately thereafter. During this period the power plant remained standby and was not requested to be dispatched by the off-taker, however the reliability during this period remained 100%.

Water Production

MSFe Water Facility

Quarter 1	Water Delivered (MMm³)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor
2022	0	0	100.0%
2021	0	0	100.0%

Similar to power plant the MSFE was made available to the grid only until 9 February 2022 as a result of the expiry of the PWPA term immediately thereafter. As per PWPA, the Off-taker had the right to operate the plant either in Call-On mode (MSFE in service) or Call-Off mode (MSFE standby). During this period, the Plant operated in Call Off mode with zero water dispatch to the grid. However, the reliability factor during this period remained 100%.

The Company does not foresee operation of its MSFE plant beyond expiry of its PWPA and evaluating various options of its disposal.

Reverse Osmosis (RO) Phase 1 Facility

Quarter 1	Water Delivered (MMm³)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor¹
2022	2.2	54.6%	98.0%
2021	1.8	44.6%	98.3%

¹after incorporating majeure claims events of the corresponding years

Though the original term of the RO Phase I WPA expired immediately after 9 February 2022, however, the Company was able to a secure further extension in its Term until 31 March 2024 after completing a negotiated RFO process with OPWP. Accordingly, the RO Phase I was made available to the grid during this reporting period and was dispatched as well and achieved a reliability factor of 98%.

Like previous reporting period, the RO Phase I plant continued to face the seawater quality failures. The Company is protected against such a situation under force majeure provisions of its Water Purchase Agreement (WPA). The force majeure claims were submitted and approved by the Off taker.

Reverse Osmosis (RO) Phase 2 Facility

Quarter 1	Water Delivered (MMm³)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor²
2022	2.3	45.1%	98.1%
2021	2.5	49.2%	96.6%

²after incorporating force majeure claim related to algal bloom of corresponding years

Similar to RO Phase I, the original term of the RO Phase II WPA also expired after 9 February 2022, however its Term was further extended until 31 March 2024 based on a negotiated RFO process with OPWP. Accordingly, the RO Phase II was made available to the grid during the entire reporting period and was dispatched as well. it achieved a reliability factor of 98.1%.

Like previous reporting period, the RO Phase II plant continued to face the seawater quality failure. The Company is protected against such a situation under force majeure provisions of its Water Purchase Agreement (WPA). The force majeure claims were submitted and approved by the Off taker.

Maintenance activities during the period

This reporting period falls during Wintertime wherein the Company is obliged to provide a capacity of 85% for Power plant and 87% for the MSFe water Plant to complete the annual planned maintenance activities. Therefore, planned maintenance activities were carried out for all those equipment as per the approved outages.

For the two SWRO desalination plants, a 5% planned outage margin is available during a Contract Year to carry out any planned maintenance with the consent of the off-taker.

The team believes in a risk-based approach towards maintenance to create a viable balance between predictive, proactive and scheduled maintenance. All machines, which include both gas turbines, the steam turbine and both heat recovery steam generators, have been subject to planned maintenance.

Below are the main maintenance activities carried out on the main plant, SWRO-1 and SWRO-2 plants during the reporting period:

Power Plant:

- Monthly checks of power block related transformers completed.
- 110V battery bank stack no:2 was isolated for defective batteries replacement. Battery no: 45 to 54 (total 10 cells of KM450) were replaced.
- Plant HVAC system quarterly pm checks completed.
- Monthly and weekly DCS Image backups checked and extracted in the hard disk.
- HCU42 redundant power supply right side fan module replaced with the refurbished spare.
- CEMS-2 PM and Analyzer calibration. Inlet pump found damage. Replaced with new.
- ST CCCWP#2, PM jobs carried out. Oil replaced, coupling and foundation bolts inspected. Job completed.
- Monthly checks of GT-1, GT-2 and ST generator completed.
- HRSGs nitrogen cylinder installed back.

Water Block

- All the required PM works carried out.
- Water block Transformers Monthly inspection completed.

RO-1 plant:

- Periodic outages of RO trains were taken to inspect the membranes due to high conductivity.
- During such outages leakage issues in UF pre-treatment system was also rectified.
- All the required PMs of battery banks, UPS system, HVAC system were completed.
- All the quarterly inspection of all switchgear related safety equipment and PPEs were also completed.

RO-2 plant:

- Quarterly inspection of all "Switchgears safety isolation equipment's and PPE" was conducted.
- Periodic outages of RO trains were taken for membranes inspection and replacement purposes.
- CIP of various MF racks was done.
- Annual PMs of HP pumps, Filtrate pumps, ERS booster pumps carried out.
- DWEER system servicing was done for multiple trains.
- DWEER system leakages were attending for multiple trains.
- DWEER system related regular PM and CM's executed.

Financial highlights (in RO '000)

Income Statement	Period Ended 31-Mar-22	Period Ended 31-Mar-21
Total revenues	4,418	8,617
Operating costs	(3,546)	(6,030)
Gross profit	872	2,587
Other costs	(730)	(1,218)
Net profit after tax	142	1,369
Earnings per share	0.001	0.009

Revenue

Capacity revenue for Main Plant was lower by (RO 3.5m) as the plant operated until 9 February 2022. In addition, the water capacity revenue of RO plants was lower by (RO 0.6m) due to higher seawater quality related forced outages in the current year which was offset by the higher output revenue of RO Plants by (RO 0.1m).

Operating Costs

The decrease in the operating costs (RO 2.5m) is mainly due to the lower O&M costs (RO 0.6m), lower maintenance costs (RO 0.3m) due to steam turbine generator failure, lower depreciation (RO 0.7m) and lower plant and machinery costs written-off (RO 0.8m).

Gross Profit

Decrease in gross profit (RO 1.7m) mainly attributable to overall lower capacity revenue from Main Plant partially offset by lower maintenance costs and lower depreciation.

Other Costs

Other costs (net of other income) for the current period are lower by (RO 0.5m) primarily due to lower finance cost on account of lower interest on loan and lower income tax provision due to lower taxable profits.

Net Profit after Tax

The decrease of (RO 1.2m) in net profit is mainly due to lower capacity revenue which is partially offset by lower finance costs and income tax.

Cash Flow Statement '000	Period Ended 31 Mar 2022	Year Ended 31 Dec 2021
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	9,886	5,547

Balance Sheet '000	As at 31 Mar 2022	As at 31 Dec 2021
Total assets	92,435	92,467
Net shareholder's equity	36,712	36,571
Paid up capital	16,000	16,000
Current ratio	0.72:1	0.69:1
Gearing ratio	40:60	40:60
Net assets per share – Riyal Omani	0.229	0.229

Cash and cash equivalents, at the end of the period

The increase in cash and cash equivalents for the period ended 31 March 2022 is mainly due to receipt of insurance claim relating to steam turbine generator failure.

Outlook

The Company is striving to maintain its stellar safety record in future as well and is working hard to achieve landmark milestone of 20 years without a Lost Time Incident on 2 May 2022.

The Company has entered the post PWPA period and is geared up to follow an operating strategy which is most economical and is aligned with its business objectives. As stated in the opening section, the Company believes that operating in the Spot Market at this stage is not economically viable and bilateral power agreements is a viable alternative. The Company believes that putting its power units into a preservation mode is a better strategy up until a bilateral power agreement is reached. The company is actively monitoring regulatory amendments to cater for bilateral power agreements as a viable alternative to current spot market.

The Company is in advanced discussions with its Lenders to agree a restructuring plan for its outstanding long-term loan. The plan will allow the Company to agree a new repayment profile in line with cash flow generation that Company is expecting in future. This will also help the Company avoiding any defaults on its loan repayments.

The Company is also under discussion with its Operator regarding the future O&M arrangements for the power units and RO plants. The Company will execute the amended O&M Agreements after securing necessary approvals from its stakeholders.

The Company will make efforts to maintain adequate cash reserves to settle its outstanding tax liabilities. These liabilities relate to certain open tax years which are under the assessment process by the Tax Authorities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022
(EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	31 March 2022	31 December 2021
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	67,495,945	68,400,234
Intangible assets	32,940	52,993
Right-of-use assets	427,347	432,918
Total non-current assets	67,956,232	68,886,145
Current assets		
Inventories	4,610,231	4,614,657
Trade and other receivables	9,993,804	13,419,722
Cash and bank balances	9,874,747	5,547,031
Total current assets	24,478,782	23,581,410
Total assets	92,435,014	92,467,555
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	16,000,000	16,000,000
Legal reserve	5,333,333	5,333,333
Special reserve	85,555	85,555
Retained earnings	15,294,062	15,152,480
Total capital and reserves	36,712,950	36,571,368
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term loan-non-current portion	11,979,088	11,918,094
Deferred tax liability	5,511,241	5,503,264
Provision for site restoration	3,629,913	3,571,362
Employees' benefit liabilities	84,790	80,688
Lease liabilities-non-current portion	729,035	717,168
Total non-current liabilities	21,934,067	21,790,576
Current liabilities		
Long-term loan - current portion	12,027,095	12,027,095
Trade and other payables	12,723,086	13,057,353
Lease liabilities - current portion	8,353	8,353
Taxation	9,029,463	9,012,810
Total current liabilities	33,787,997	34,105,611
Total liabilities	55,722,064	55,896,187
Total equity and liabilities	92,435,014	92,467,555
Net assets per share (RO)	0.229	0.229

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD
ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	Period ended 31 March 2022	Period ended 31 March 2021
Income		
Revenue	4,418,343	8,639,231
Operating costs	(3,546,021)	(5,220,080)
Gross profit	872,322	3,419,151
Other income	8,984	15,733
Profit /(Loss) from operations	881,306	3,434,884
Expenses		
General and administrative expenses	(235,966)	(351,949)
Impairment charge on property, plant and equipment	-	(810,421)
Profit /(Loss) before tax	645,340	2,272,514
Finance costs	(479,128)	(634,867)
Profit /(loss) before tax for the year	166,212	1,637,647
Income tax	(24,630)	(247,077)
Net profit /(loss) after tax and total comprehensive income / (loss) for the year	141,582	1,390,570
Basic and diluted earnings/(loss) per share (RO)	0.001	0.009



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WORLD

Troops evacuate outgoing PM amid unrest in Sri Lanka

Rajapaksa stepped down from his position on Monday amid the worst economic crisis Sri Lanka has seen since 1948

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was escorted out of his official residence, known as Temple Trees on Tuesday, after the army prevented several attempts by protesters to break in overnight.

Rajapaksa stepped down from his position on Monday amid the worst economic crisis Sri Lanka has seen since independence in 1948. He had declared a state of emergency last week.

Troops were deployed in the capital Colombo on Monday after opponents and supporters of the Rajapaksa government clashed outside the president's office.

A curfew has been put in place, with only essential workers allowed outside. Police and the mili-



ECONOMIC CRISIS: Protesters burned down more than 70 houses and offices of former ministers and ruling party lawmakers and over 150 vehicles have been burned or damaged

tary have been given powers to detain people without warrants.

What happened in the clashes in Sri Lanka?

Authorities imposed a nationwide curfew to quell the unrest after dozens of people were hospitalized in the biggest clashes witnessed in weeks of anti-government protests. Police reported at least five people killed, and about 200 were injured in the clashes, as of Tuesday morning.

Protesters burned down more than 70 houses and offices of former ministers and ruling party lawmakers and over 150 vehicles have been burned or damaged.

On Monday, ruling-party legislator Amara Keerthi Athukorala opened fire on demonstrators blocking his vehicle, killing a 27-year-old man and wounding two others.

Authorities said the lawmaker later took his own life, but the party said he had been murdered. Athukorala's bodyguard was also

killed, but it was not clear how.

A politician from Rajapaksa's party who has not been named shot dead two and wounded three people in the southern town of Weeraketiya on Monday. He has since gone missing.

Mobs attacked a museum about the Rajapaksas in the village of Meda Mulana in southern Sri Lanka. Two wax statues of the brothers' parents were flattened. The building as well as their nearby ancestral home were trashed. **bw**

US President Joe Biden signs Lend-Lease Act to speed up shipment of weapons

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Monday signed the Lend-Lease Act on Monday in a bid to help speed up the shipment of weapons to Ukraine.

Previously the US had adopted the measure to help allies in the fight against Nazi Germany.

Congress is set to spend billions more to help Ukraine defend itself from Russia with Democrats preparing \$40 billion (£37 billion) in military and humanitarian aid.

"We cannot afford delay in this vital war effort," Biden said in a statement, and pushed for Congress to get the Ukraine funding bill "to my desk right away."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the move in a tweet, calling it a "historic step."



Putin does not have a way out of Ukraine war: Biden

US President Joe Biden said he is worried that Russian President Vladimir Putin does not have a way out of the Ukraine war, while speaking at a political fundraiser on Monday.

He said Putin "doesn't have a way out right now, and I'm trying to figure out what we do about that."

Biden added that Putin had mistakenly believed the invasion of Ukraine would break up NATO and European Union. However, the US and other European countries have rallied to support Ukraine.

Russia won't attend UNHRC meeting

Russia will not take part in Thursday's specially convened session of the UN Human Rights Council on "the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression."

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Tuesday that "the Russian delegation will not legitimize with its presence this new political show organised under the guise of an extraordinary session."

Death toll 'thousands higher' than reported: UN

The head of the human rights monitoring mission for the United Nations in Ukraine said Tuesday that "thousands" more had perished than the official death toll of 3,381.

Matilda Bogner told a press briefing in Geneva that this was largely because Mariupol had become a "black hole" so "it has been difficult for us to fully access and to get fully corroborated information." **bw**

CLIMATE CHANGE

World has 50:50 chance of hitting 1.5C mark soon

NEW YORK: There is an almost 50% chance that the global annual average temperature will increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) in the 2022-2026 period, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Monday.

This would not mean that the average temperature would necessarily remain that high permanently, the WMO said.

However, the prediction is another warning that human activity could drive global warming up to unlivable levels within the foreseeable future if action is not taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What did the meteorologists say?

There is a 48 per cent chance that the globe will reach a yearly average of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels at least once between now and 2026, the WMO said. Its update drew on data from 11 different forecast centres around the world.



Last year, the same forecasters put the chances of this happening at closer to 40 per cent.

The WMO also said there was a 93 per cent chance that the world would experience its hottest year ever recorded by the end of 2026. It said it was equally likely that 2022 to 2026 will have a higher average temperature than the previous five years.

What effects could the 1.5C temperature rise have?

The hottest year on record so far globally was 2016, when the average temperature was around 1.2 C above pre-industrial levels. Last year's global average temperature was 1.1 C higher than those levels, the WMO's preliminary report shows.

A major United Nations science report in 2018 predicted that warming in excess of 1.5 C could have devastating effects for life on the planet.

The landmark Paris climate agreement of 2015 aims to limit permanent global warming to well below 2 C and preferably below 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. **bw**

UNITED STATES

On-the-run officer dies, fugitive caught after 10-day search

ALABAMA: Authorities in the US state of Alabama said the 10-day search for a guard-inmate pair who had been on the run was over on Monday.

Former jail official Vicky White, who was accused of helping an inmate escape, shot and killed herself after a high-speed chase with police, officials said.

The 56-year-old was described by investigators as romantically involved with the fugitive prisoner.

Casey White, the 38-year-old fugitive and long-time criminal, surrendered after the chase, according to the police.

The two were caught when authorities chasing them crashed into their vehicle after a manhunt through three states, authorities said. Vicky White had a spotless record during her service as an Alabama prison officer. **bw**



AL BUSTAN PALACE
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Tender Announcement

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel invites sealed bids for the below.

Description	Last Date of tender submission	Tender Fee
1. Construction of Walk Way 2. Replacement of Rubber Flooring 3. Hotel Carpet Cleaning –AMC 4. Supply of Dry Store/Fresh &Frozen Meat(Lamb & beef) /Soft & hard Cheese/Fresh & frozen Fish/ 5. Supply of 3 ton Chiller/Freezer Truck 6. Supply of Golf Cart. 7. SS Electric Food Warmer & trolley 8. Hotel Clinic 9. PR Agency	25th May 2022	RO 20.00/Project
10. Supply of Various Kitchen Equipment	25th May 2022	RO 50.00

Reputable Companies with experience and proven track record in this area, may obtain a detailed Scope of Work from Finance Department from Wednesday 11th May, 2022 onwards between 09:00 – 14:00 hours.

The site visit is scheduled on Sunday, 15th May 2022 @ 10.00AM. Please contact Mr. Zahid, Director of Engineering @ 24764191 for the site visit.

Tender must be submitted in a sealed Envelope along with company's Trade License and certificates addressed to:

**Coordinator of the office of The General Manager,
Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel
On or before 25th May 2022 before 2 p.m.**

Note: Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reason.

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Oman confirmed as host for the 2022 44Cup decider in December

Hosted by Oman Sail, Muscat will be the last event of the five-stop international tour in 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is confirmed as host for the final and deciding event of the 2022 44Cup season, set to be held over 7-11 December.

Hosted by Oman Sail, Muscat will be the last event of the five-stop international tour in 2022. This started in Lanzarote in Spain in early February and continues to Cascais in Portugal, Marstrand in Sweden and is followed by its World Championship in Portoroz,



Slovenia before heading for its grand finale in the Middle East.

Muscat will extend a warm welcome to the fleet of ten high-performance one-design RC44s, which will be based in and racing

on the waters off Al Mouj Marina in the heart of the Omani capital.

The teams and guests will experience an authentic taste of culture and enjoy warm hospitality during their stay in Oman, with the

Kempinski Hotel Muscat Hotel stepping in to support the event as hotel partner.

Muscat and Al Mouj Marina are well known to the 44Cup crews, having hosted the fleet

here in 2013, when it was won by Chris Bake's Team Aqua and in 2014 when the top trophy went to Vladimir Proskikh's Team Nika. "There is a passion for sailing in Oman and thanks to Oman Sail, a great development programme for youth sailing. As a professional racing circuit, the fact that the conditions are tricky is ideal for exciting racing. We had a lot of fun sailing there last time we went," explains Team Aqua's tactician Cameron Appleton.

Since 2009, Oman Sail has been attempting to rekindle the country's maritime eminence and to provide opportunities for the Omani youth to learn from the sport of sailing. Oman Sail has become a globally recognised initiative in the process. Omani high-performance sailors are now competing in several leading racing circuits and Oman Sail hosts an increasing number of key international events along their nation's splendid coastline.

In 2021 alone they hosted, among others, the Asian Wind-

surfing Championships, the 2021 49er, 49er FX and Nacra 17 Asian and World Championships, the ILCA Radial World Championship in Mussanah and brought the sailing season to a close with the successful hosting of the Youth Sailing World Championships.

Welcoming the 44Cup to Oman, CEO of Oman Sail Oman Sail Dr. Khamis Al Jabri said: "The high-speed, high-performance racing on show during the 44Cup is always a spectacular sight to behold. With some of the world's best professional sailors competing, the ideal winter sailing conditions will provide an excellent arena for the top prizes to be decided. We look forward to welcoming the teams to Oman and sharing our famed warm hospitality at the finale of this year's series."

Artemis Racing's tactician Andy Horton added: "It feels like an adventure to go to Oman for a regatta. The climate is perfect for winter racing, the culture and the people are welcoming. It's always exciting to go back."

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Gujarat Titans are playing with no fear of world, reckons Gavaskar

MUMBAI: Former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar reckons IPL 2022 newbies Gujarat Titans are doing well in the 15th edition of IPL because they are playing a fearless brand of cricket but at the same time they are not thinking too much about the result.

Gujarat Titans are second in the IPL 2022 points table with eight wins in 11 games as Hardik Pandya and company are just one win shy of securing a playoffs berth. Speaking on 'Cricket Live' on Star Sports, Gavaskar said: "Gujarat are playing with such freedom and they are fearless (in approach). There's no fear of the world in their game and that's why they are winning."

"Of course, you wish to win even when you are playing in your backyard but a loss doesn't mean



that it's an end to the world, that's the approach with which they are stepping on the pitch. They are enjoying their game and playing positive cricket."

In the reverse fixture, GT will clash with fellow IPL newcomers Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh has backed Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat Titans to win the match against Lucknow and become the first team to qualify for playoffs.

"Gujarat Titans are going to win the match against Lucknow Super Giants and they will become the first team to qualify. The Hardik Pandya-led side is very strong. Rashid Khan is in great form and coach Ashish Nehra is giving them just the right amount of confidence. This team is difficult to beat," Harbhajan said.

Former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden lauded the Gujarat Titans for the brand of cricket

they are playing in their debut season and the match-winners the franchise has in its ranks.

Hayden said: "GT bat deep, they've got the confidence, and they are full of match winners. It's exciting to watch them because when there's not a Rahul Tewatia show, it's a Rashid Khan show and when Rashid isn't performing, it's a Killer-Miller (David Miller) show. This team is lined up with several match-winners and that's what makes them a dangerous side. It's exciting to watch the brand of cricket they are playing."

In the first match of the IPL 2022, Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat defeated LSG. But it was the start of the tournament, and like every year, there was a world of possibilities open before every team. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Champions League and relegation on agenda in La Liga's Wednesday games

MADRID: The midweek round of matches in La Liga continues with four games on Wednesday evening that will have a big say in who goes down and who qualifies for next season's Champions League.

A win for Atletico Madrid in their visit to Elche would assure that Diego Simeone's side finishes at least in fourth place and assures a place in next season's Champions League.

Last weekend's results mean Atletico are six points clear of Betis, who are fifth, with three games left to play and with a superior head-to-head goal difference and three points against a rival that needs a win to assure their survival in the top flight for another season, would be enough.

Third-place Sevilla are also in

action on Wednesday, with a win at home to Mallorca also sealing the presence of Julen Lopetegui's side in next season's Champions League.

Mallorca travel to the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium still reeling from the 6-2 home defeat against Granada on Saturday that saw them drop into the bottom three and Javier Aguirre's men are obliged to get something from the game.

If Sevilla beat Mallorca, it would have a knock-on effect meaning that Elche would be mathematically safe from relegation.

Wednesday kicks off with Deportivo Alaves at home to Espanyol in a game the home side have to win to have any chance of staying up. **Xinhua**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2022 reaching \$103.13, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$4.76 from the price of Monday, which was \$107.89. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,154.72 points, down by 0.47 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.91 per cent at 472.63 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 6.32 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR129 million

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR129 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from May 11 until August 10, 2022.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.685 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at

OMR99.650 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 1.26362 per cent and 1.26766 per cent, respectively.

Secured financial instruments

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed com-

mercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 1.50 per cent while the

discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 2.00 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**



NCSI DATA



Oman's standard grade petrol production rises by 27%

MUSCAT: The production of standard grade petrol (M-91) by Omani refineries increased by 27.2 per cent at the end of March 2022 to stand at 2,865,100 barrels, compared to the same period in 2021 when it stood at 2,252,100 barrels. Sales of petrol (M-91) stood at 2,912,300 barrels, while its exports dropped by 0.7 per cent to reach 363,500 barrels, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The Sultanate of Oman's refineries and petroleum industries' production declined by 25 per cent by the end of March 2022 compared to March 2021. The decrease is attributed mainly to the transfer of the outline to the Sohar 2 Refinery in February 2022.

The production of (M-95) automobile fuel stood at 2,855,400 barrels, comprising a decrease of 34.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2021 when it stood at 4,347,700 barrels. Sales of (M-95) fuel also declined by 12.3 per cent to reach 2,946,800 barrels. Its exports also declined by 18.6 per cent to reach 834,300 barrels by the end of March 2021.

Gas oil (diesel) output during March 2022 fell by 36.9 per cent to stand at 5,930,900 barrels. Sales of diesel stood at 3,287,200 barrels, constituting a rise of 2 per cent, while its exports declined by 55.8 per cent to reach 2,715,300 barrels.

Aviation fuel production fell by 6 per cent to reach 1,356,000 barrels compared to the same period in 2021 when production stood at 1,442,900 barrels. Sales of aviation fuel surged by 75.3 per cent to reach 587,100 barrels, while exports dropped by 17.3 per cent to reach 773,300 barrels.

Production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) went down by 21.3 per cent to stand at 1,315,800 barrels. LPG sales increased by 7.2 per cent to reach 1,836,400 barrels, while exports fell by 94.3 per cent to reach 12,300 barrels.

As far as petrochemicals are concerned, benzene production dropped by 81.8 per cent compared to the end of March 2021 to reach 8,600 metric tonnes, while its exports stood at 8,600 metric tonnes, constituting a decrease of 82.7 per cent.

The output of paraxylene stood at 16,700 metric tonnes, while its exports reached 20,500 metric tonnes.

Production of polypropylene stood at 44,100 metric tonnes, comprising a rise of 34.5 per cent. Polypropylene sales went down by 35.6 per cent to reach 5,000 metric tonnes, while its exports surged by 59.6 per cent to stand at 40,500 metric tonnes. - **ONA**

OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY S.A.O.G

Chairman's Report and Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Results for the period ended 31 March 2022

Respected Shareholders,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of the results of the operations for the 3 months' period ended 31st March 2022.

Operating performance:

REVENUE:

Group Revenue for the period ended March 2022 has reached RO 634.8 million compared to RO 602.7 million for the corresponding period of 2021. The Group revenue include acquired business of Zain Group, which contributed revenues of RO 504.2 Mn.

Omantel (Domestic performance) Revenues reached RO 133.3 million compared to RO 131.4 million for the corresponding period 2021. Revenues growth mainly achieved in Mobile Postpaid and Fixed Broadband revenues.

EXPENSES:

Group's total Operating expenses increased to RO 535.6 Mn compared to RO 505.4 Mn for the corresponding period 2021, an increase of 6.0 %.

NET PROFIT: The Group Net Profit after tax for the period has grown by 11.6 % touching RO 62.5 Mn compared to RO 56.0 Mn in 2021. After adjusting for minority interest the net profit for the period is RO 18.5 Mn compared to RO 16.9 Mn in 2021, an increase of 9.5 %

Oman Domestic operation Net Profit for the three months ended March 2022 stands at RO 19.5 Mn compared to RO 19.1 Mn in the previous period. Increase in Net profit is predominantly on account of revenue growth in Postpaid Mobile revenue (11.6 %) and Fixed Broad band revenue (2.1 %), cost optimization measures, reduction in depreciation and impairment provision against receivables (contributed by healthy collections).

Group Earning per Share (EPS) for the period ended March 2022 is RO 0.025 compared to RO 0.023 for the corresponding period of year 2021.

SUBSCRIBER BASE

The total domestic subscriber base as of March 2022 (including mobile and fixed businesses) was 3.170 Mn (excluding Mobile Resellers) compared to 3.244 Mn of the corresponding period of the previous year, a decline of 2.3 % over the last period. Total subscriber base with mobile resellers reached 3.665 Mn.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES:

- 1) Mobile Telecommunication Company (Zain):** Zain Group revenues reached RO 504.2 Mn as of March 2022 compared to the corresponding period revenues of RO 473.3 Mn an increase by 6 % . EBITDA stands at RO 189.8 Mn, compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of RO 195.9 Mn recording a decline of 3.1 % . Net profit has grown by 7 % to RO 64.2 Mn compared to RO 59.5 Mn of the previous period.
- Total customer base of Zain Group increased by 4.8 % to 51 Mn compared to 49 Mn of the previous period.

Market Share: Omantel's Mobile market share (including Mobile Resellers) is 50.4 % with a revenue share of 56.9 % . The Fixed Telephone (post & pre-paid) market share is 70.1 % with a revenue market share of 80.3 % .

Thanks and appreciation

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our shareholders and loyal customers for their continued support that enabled us to achieve these excellent results. Also, we wholeheartedly appreciate the sincere contribution of the Executive Management and Employees for the performance in the challenging situation. With your support, we are confident that Omantel will continue its good performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we are honored to greet His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq on the occasion of Eid Al-Fiter. We pray to Almighty Allah to return this occasion to His Majesty with good health, happiness and long life, and to the Omani people with prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

CHAIRMAN

Note:
1. The unaudited consolidated financial statement will be delivered to any shareholders or other interested party who requests them, within 5 days of the written request. The request must indicate preference for Arabic or English.
2. Request may be addressed to Secretary, Board of Directors, Omantel P.O. Box 789, P.C. 112, Ruwi Sultanate of Oman, Fax: 242 40 586



Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of 31 March 2022

	Unaudited 31 March 2022 RO '000	Audited 31 December 2021 RO '000
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and bank balances	378,574	390,214
Trade and other receivables	998,955	972,305
Contract assets	96,711	90,679
Inventories	76,232	79,853
Investment securities at FVTPL	44,665	43,329
Assets of disposal group classified as held for sale	273,504	31,589
	<u>1,868,641</u>	<u>1,607,969</u>
Non-current assets		
Contract assets	60,732	52,937
Investment securities at FVTPL	25,888	25,522
Investment securities at FVOCI	23,882	22,438
Investment securities at amortised cost	1,000	1,000
Investments in associates and joint venture	115,948	114,288
Other non-current assets	56,466	83,463
Right of use of assets	126,750	225,860
Property and equipment	1,811,327	1,982,990
Intangible assets and goodwill	3,419,700	3,450,987
	<u>5,641,693</u>	<u>5,959,485</u>
Total Assets	<u>7,510,334</u>	<u>7,567,454</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,378,602	1,354,169
Deferred revenue	158,369	139,043
Income tax payables	47,905	45,479
Borrowings	538,969	579,725
Lease liabilities	24,402	46,277
Liabilities of disposal group classified as held for sale	106,467	3,249
	<u>2,254,714</u>	<u>2,167,942</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	1,856,919	1,823,187
Lease liabilities	122,959	202,379
Other non-current liabilities	575,547	606,893
	<u>2,555,425</u>	<u>2,632,459</u>
Equity		
Attributable to the Company's shareholders		
Share capital	75,000	75,000
Capital contribution	7,288	7,288
Capital reserve	36,893	36,893
Legal reserve	25,000	25,000
Voluntary reserve	49,875	49,875
Foreign currency translation reserve	(90,585)	(88,590)
Investment fair valuation reserve	(2,119)	(2,375)
Other reserves	597	(4,217)
Retained earnings	457,576	480,331
	<u>559,525</u>	<u>579,205</u>
Non-controlling interests	2,140,670	2,187,848
Total equity	<u>2,700,195</u>	<u>2,767,053</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>7,510,334</u>	<u>7,567,454</u>

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss – 31 March 2022 (Unaudited)

	Three months ended 31 March	
	2022 RO'000	2021 RO '000
Continuing operations		
Revenue	634,804	602,709
Cost of sales	(217,471)	(188,676)
Operating and administrative expenses	(170,688)	(158,173)
Depreciation and amortization	(136,777)	(146,746)
Expected credit loss on financial assets (ECL)	(10,687)	(11,755)
Interest income	1,590	2,301
Investment income	2,163	812
Share of results of associates and joint venture	1,951	376
Other (expense)/ income	(3,569)	4,789
Finance costs	(32,515)	(33,624)
Gain/ (loss) from currency revaluation	3,261	(6,521)
Net monetary (loss)/ gain	-	(1,691)
Profit before income taxes	<u>72,062</u>	<u>63,801</u>
Income tax expenses and other levies	(9,237)	(7,766)
Profit for the period from continuing operations	<u>62,825</u>	<u>56,035</u>
Discontinued operations		
Loss for the period from discontinued operations	(336)	-
Profit for the period	<u>62,489</u>	<u>56,035</u>
Attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Company	18,495	16,899
Non-controlling interests	43,994	39,136
	<u>62,489</u>	<u>56,035</u>
Earnings per share		
Basic and diluted From continuing and discontinued operations – RO	<u>0.025</u>	0.023

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MSX index ends lower

A'Saffa Foods, up 6.32 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,154.72 points, down by 0.47 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.91 per cent at 472.63 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 6.32 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sembcorp Salalah were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 522 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR 2.57 million, with more than 14.03 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded securities, 4 advanced, 22 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR228,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR28,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,606.78 points, down 0.38 per cent. There were no gainers for the day. Prices of Oman United

Insurance, Al Madina Investments, Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments and Om-invest were down by 2.78 per cent, 2.7 per cent, 1.32 per cent, 1.32 per cent and 1.25 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,091.8 points, down 0.55 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement and Oman Cement were up by 6.32 per cent, 2.38 per cent and 0.39 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries and Voltamp Energy were down by 3.41 per cent, 2.23 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.71 per cent and 0 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 1.3 per cent before closing at 1,623.79 points. Barka Desalination was the only gainer up by 2.86 per cent. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Phoenix Power, OIFC, National Gas and Al Maha Marketing were down by 9.09 per cent, 2 per cent, 1.99 per cent, 1.39 per cent and 1.16 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,174.30	4,154.72	4,154.72	4,174.30	-19.58	-0.47
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,632.15	6,606.77	6,606.77	6,632.15	-25.38	-0.38
Industry Index	6,125.66	6,091.80	6,091.80	6,125.78	-33.98	-0.55
Services Index	1,645.22	1,623.79	1,623.79	1,645.22	-21.42	-1.30
MSX Shariah Index	476.95	472.63	472.63	476.95	-4.33	-0.91
MSX TR INDEX	5,258.29	5,233.64	5,233.64	5,258.29	-24.66	-0.47
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,933.94	6,907.41	6,907.41	6,933.94	-26.54	-0.38
SERVICES TR IDX	1,695.34	1,673.26	1,673.26	1,695.34	-22.08	-1.30
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,357.41	6,322.26	6,322.26	6,357.53	-35.27	-0.55

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
14,032,023	2,571,207	522	22,235,404,224	4	22	16	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 10

REGULAR MARKET

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
RAYSUT CEMENT	243,189	41,734	29	0.165	0.176	0.165	0.172	0.168	0.004	2.381	0.172	0.173	0.175	0.100	34,400,000
OMAN CEMENT	225,750	58,245	18	0.257	0.260	0.256	0.258	0.257	0.001	0.389	0.256	0.256	0.260	0.100	85,365,159
OMAN FLOUR MILLS	5,100	427	2	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.000	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.100	105,840,000
JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	90,050	33,590	11	0.370	0.374	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.372	0.372	0.374	0.100	46,212,245
AHLI BANK	2,204	260	2	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.120	0.100	233,958,896
OMAN TELECOM	960,720	824,562	24	0.860	0.860	0.848	0.860	0.860	0.000	0.000	0.856	0.856	0.856	0.100	445,000,000
RENAISSANCE SER.	579	255	2	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.440	0.436	0.450	0.100	106,384,500
SOHAR INT. BANK	213,000	23,430	5	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.100	328,906,852
BANK MUSCAT	624,179	338,707	50	0.538	0.538	0.534	0.536	0.538	-0.002	-0.379	0.536	0.536	0.530	0.100	1974,185,427
OOREDOO	671,504	222,221	27	0.332	0.332	0.328	0.330	0.332	-0.002	-0.602	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.100	214,811,596
ALJAZEERA SERVICES	40,610	11,129	10	0.274	0.275	0.274	0.274	0.276	-0.002	-0.725	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.100	16,789,971
AL SHARQIA INV.	5,350	503	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.092	0.095	0.100	8,460,000
AI MAHA MARKETING	10,905	7,459	3	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.692	-0.008	-1.156	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.100	47,196,000
ALANWAR INVESTMENT	50,000	4,200	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.178	0.084	0.083	0.088	0.100	16,800,000
OMINVEST	5,937	1,876	2	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.320	-0.004	-1.250	0.316	0.316	0.318	0.100	211,203,475
MUSCAT FINANCE	985,027	73,877	26	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	23,035,974
NATIONAL GAS	13,565	1,926	7	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.144	-0.002	-1.389	0.142	0.141	0.144	0.100	12,070,000
AI MAHA MARKETING	203,500	30,206	30	0.149	0.149	0.148	0.148	0.151	-0.003	-1.987	0.148	0.147	0.153	0.100	35,078,000
ALANWAR CERAMIC	311,000	136,218	12	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.448	-0.010	-2.232	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.100	96,360,000
OMAN UNITED INSUR.	9,364	3,277	4	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.360	-0.010	-2.778	0.350	0.350	0.360	0.100	35,000,000
ALMAHA CERAMICS	16,067	8,194	6	0.510	0.510	0.510	0.510	0.528	-0.018	-3.409	0.510	0.510	0.530	0.100	28,050,000
Total	4,687,600	1,815,096	273												

Parallel Market

ASAFFA FOODS	99,201	10,041	16	0.093	0.104	0.093	0.101	0.095	0.006	6.316	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	12,120,000
BARKA DESALINATION	29,556	4,263	5	0.140	0.145	0.140	0.144	0.140	0.004	2.857	0.145	0.142	0.146	0.100	10,875,168
OMAN NAT. ENG.	40,992	4,384	9	0.105	0.108	0.105	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.100	14,980,000
HSBC BANK OMAN	101	11	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.108	0.114	0.100	216,033,781
OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,694	1,411	2	0.848	0.848	0.848	0.872	0.872	0.000	0.000	0.848	0.848	0.872	0.100	53,431,800
SMN POWER HOLDING	2,287	107	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.043	0.047	0.100	5,783,995
BANK NIZWA	373,467	35,580	22	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
TAKAFUL OMAN	280	17	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.100	6,800,000
ALBATINAH POWER	98,910	4,940	11	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	33,744,372
AL SUWADI POWER	154,195	7,722	14	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.054	0.100	35,720,317
NATIONAL BANK OMAN	282,000	56,008	7	0.200	0.200	0.198	0.199	0.200	-0.001	-0.500	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.100	323,563,325
MADINA TAKAFUL	131,400	12,357	11	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	16,450,000
GLOBAL INV. H.	70,000	5,250	5	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	15,000,000
OMAN FISHERIES	55,681	6,392	11	0.115	0.116	0.114	0.115	0.117	-0.002	-1.709	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.100	20,939,016
GALFAR ENGINEER	115,044	128,591	49	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.110	0.112	-0.002	-1.786	0.110	0.110	0.112	0.100	22,328,509
PHOENIX POWER	110,640	5,422	8	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.050	-0.001	-2.000	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.100	71,667,472
AL MADINA INV.	20,179	1,453	5	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.072	0.070	0.072	0.100	5,828,143
SEMBCORP SALALAH	6,560,086	460,829	61	0.078	0.078	0.070	0.070	0.077	-0.007	-9.091	0.070	0.070	0.074	0.100	66,820,037
Total	9,171,103	742,777	239												

ARABIAN TRAVEL MARKET

Omran participates in Oman Tourism Forum

DUBAI: Continuing its efforts to stimulate the tourism sector and explore collaboration opportunities with international travel and tourism companies, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group), participated in the Oman Tourism Forum which was launched by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. The forum was held on the sidelines of the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), 2022 exhibition which took place in Dubai from May 9 to 12.

This year's participation of the Group has resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the National Travel and Tourism Operator 'Visit Oman' with Beijing Spring Travel Services, one of China's leading travel and tourism operators. The MoU's terms focused on promoting Oman in the Chinese travel and tourism market; in addition to luring inbound tourism from China. Linking the travel and tourism service providers and commercial customers to the local travel and tourism sector, the Visit Oman



platform will provide the necessary value-added services to give an impetus to the sector.

During the forum, the group's CEO and a number of officials participated in the forum's discussion panels, which highlighted several important themes related to the growth of Oman's tourism sector. Further, many of the group's hotels participated in the Arabian Travel Market exhibition, showcasing products, services and packages.

Dr Hashil Bin Obaid Al Mah-

rouqi, CEO of Omran Group, emphasised the group's continue commitment to building a supportive infrastructure for the sector and said, "Our participation at the Oman Tourism Forum, held on the sidelines of the Arabian Travel Market Exhibition, is part of our goal to boost Oman's tourism and promotion potential to various international markets. It has given us the opportunity to network and engages with regional and international pioneers in the travel and

tourism sector. At the same time, we have also been able to showcase our forward-thinking investment strategies in a sector that's been steadily growing. This participation reflects the Group's efforts to support the nation's desired 'tourism diversification by delivering a broad mix of value-added services.'

Dr Al Mahrouqi participated in a panel discussion on the growth of the hotel sector and partnership opportunities. Eng. Said bin Salem Al Shanfari, CEO of the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, participated in a panel discussion that emphasized opportunities for cooperation in the tourism, business and retail tourism sector. While Shabib bin Mohammed Al Mamari, Managing Director of Visit Oman, was also an active participant in the panel discussion on the role of partnerships in Oman's tourism sector.

The group's participation was part of Oman's tourism sector delegation. It included a number of representatives working in Oman's tourism sector.

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Bank Muscat signs agreement with Lulu for advanced corporate online banking solution

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to enhancing business connectivity and digitalisation for its corporate partners, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has signed an agreement with Lulu Muscat Hypermarket to provide its state-of-the-art corporate online banking solution.

Lulu Group International, a multinational conglomerate is one of the largest retail chains in Asia, operating a chain of hypermarkets and shopping malls. Bank Muscat continues to leverage its technology expertise to provide Lulu Muscat Hypermarket with instant and seamless digital solutions which are customised to their requirements, thus boosting their digital experience.

The agreement was signed by Wafa Ibrahim Al Ajmi, Assistant General Manager - Transaction and Government Banking, Bank Muscat and Shabeer K. A., Regional Director, Oman, Lulu Muscat Hypermarket. Bank Muscat Corporate Online Banking's enhanced 'multi company' relationship feature provides Lulu Muscat Hypermarket with the benefit of accessing the comprehensive banking relationship of its group companies with Bank Muscat through the credentials of a single user. This solution thus provides Lulu Muscat Hypermarket with complete control and access to the accounts of its group



companies. The 'multi company' relationship setup in Corporate Online Banking benefits all large corporate groups with subsidiaries in managing transactions between the company accounts of the group.

Speaking on the occasion, Wafa Ibrahim Al Ajmi, Assistant General Manager, Bank Muscat said: "We are delighted to onboard Lulu Muscat Hypermarket onto our advanced Corporate Online Banking. Our Corporate Online Banking with its 'multi company' relationship setup feature will benefit Lulu Muscat Hypermarket with complete visibility and control over transactions between group accounts accompanied by ease of operation. Bank Muscat believes in leveraging the latest technology to bring in new and improved digital banking solutions to its customers. In

an increasingly competitive and dynamic environment with rapid digital transformation impacting each industry, corporates look towards a banking partner that can offer solutions which keep pace with the dynamic markets and are accessible globally."

Shabeer K.A., Regional Director, Oman, Lulu Muscat Hypermarket, said, "We are proud to partner with Bank Muscat to use the bank's dynamic digital payment solution. The Corporate Online Banking solution seamlessly caters to all our payment requirements in a smooth and frictionless manner, and it helps to greatly improve our operational efficiencies. This is a testament to our constant efforts to incorporate digital transformation in our group to make our business operations further efficient."

Bank Muscat had announced

earlier this year, the launch of its 'Integrated Transaction Banking Platform', as part of the bank's digital transformation plan, which offers a wide range of online capabilities including payments, a consolidated dashboard of bank accounts across all banks, Direct Debit solution, Virtual Accounts and Liquidity solutions. The new digital platform comes from the bank's belief in the importance of achieving the highest level of services provided to its customers in a manner that meets their needs and keeps pace with market changes while providing the highest level of security. The bank's online Corporate Banking platform and the B2B Connect solution also facilitate salary payments for employees through a secure payment channel under the Wages Protection System (WPS) as mandated by the Central Bank of Oman and the Ministry of Manpower.

As the trusted banking partner in Oman, Bank Muscat is committed to supporting corporates to make a mark in digitalisation to create a successful business environment. Bank Muscat provides a complete range of products, services and technology-driven digital offerings catering to Government entities, corporates and SMEs in the area of Payments, account services, Collections and Receivables, Liquidity solutions, Point of Sales (PoS) terminals and Payment Gateway.



The study, which was published in IOS Press in February, offers important insights into information workers who have become increasingly used to and interested in working remotely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMPLOYEE and company resiliency can be enhanced through the opportunity for employees to work remotely during natural disasters and other events that cause workplace displacement, suggests a research team from the Texas A&M University School of Public Health.

The findings were published in the journal Work. The team, which was comprised of Kamrie Sarnosky, Mark Benden, Garrett Sansom, Leslie Cizmas and Annette Regan, worked with a large oil and gas company in Houston, Texas, to analyse ergonomic software data from 264 employees. During the study period, the company was forced to close its offices because of flooding from Hurricane Harvey, which required employees to work remotely for an extended period.

The researchers looked at em-

ployee technology data before, during and after Hurricane Harvey. They found that although total computer use declined during the hurricane, employees' work behaviours during the seven-month period of working remotely returned to pre-hurricane levels. This finding suggests that remote work does not negatively impact workplace productivity.

This study, which was published in IOS Press in February, offers important insights into information workers who have become increasingly used to and interested in working remotely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In the future, there will be a greater percentage of the workforce who is involved in some sort of office-style technology work activities," said Benden, who is director of the school's Ergonomics Centre. "Almost all of the study's employees were right back up to the same level of output as they were doing before Hurricane Harvey. This is a huge message right now for employers because we're having national debates about whether or not employees should be able to work remotely or in a hybrid schedule."

This study is part of a large effort by the Ergonomics Centre that is looking at the health of information workers. Although seemingly less taxing than blue-collar work, information workers are prone to injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome. "The research says that if you work a certain way at a certain pace over a certain duration, you're more likely to become injured from that work," Benden said. "But if

you work a little less or a little less often or break up the duration or have certain other character traits—like posture—then you're less likely to develop a problem from doing your office work."

The Texas A&M researchers believe this information can be used to promote healthy behaviours for employees, including those working remotely, and to inform corporate policies. They also will be looking at tracking the ergonomic environment in employees' home offices. The team believes that tracking this type of data can help companies address remote employee health issues, including stress, depression and substance abuse.

"The question was whether we could track people and rather than letting them stay in a bad place, a bad habit or bad behaviour, could we give them a healthful nudge over the computer to remind them that it was time to take a walk or a break," Benden said. "We as humans are not very good at keeping track of time, especially when we're in the zone. In order to keep us from physically hurting our bodies, we need to have nudges and reminders, which people respond to, and which work really well."

Benden noted that taking breaks does not hinder employees' quality of work.

"The people who took the recommended breaks were more productive overall. They got more done," he said. "We need to learn this about people, we need to teach people about it, and then we need to help people actually do it." -ANI

REMOTE WORK DOESN'T HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PRODUCTIVITY





ROUND-UP



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Mitsubishi unveils free AC check campaign

GAC will also be offering discounts on parts and labour for any work done as part of the campaign

MUSCAT: Summer is already well underway, so General Automotive Company, the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has launched a free air-conditioning check-up campaign for Mitsubishi vehicle owners throughout the country.

GAC will also be offering discounts on parts and labour for any work done as part of the campaign.

Commenting on the campaign, Ashraf Mustafa Oman, the National Service Manager of GAC said, "At GAC, we have always kept our customers at the heart of our campaigns, and as a result, we like to go the extra mile and offer them something of real value. As summer approaches, drivers certainly want their vehicle air conditioning to perform at its peak. This is why we are bringing back our free annual A/C check-up campaign. With the campaign, Mitsubishi owners can now have their vehi-



cle's air conditioning systems professionally checked for free by factory-trained technicians, as well as fixed at a heavily discounted price if necessary."

The complimentary check-up includes a complete diagnostic and general health check of your vehicle's A/C system. As needed, remedial measures will also be sug-

gested to achieve optimum performance and maintain a comfortable temperature. Additionally, GAC is offering discounts of up to 45% on parts, 20% on labour for repair jobs identified during the free check-up and a complimentary car wash during the campaign. Mitsubishi owners are encouraged to get their vehicles checked and can pre-book the

service by phone or by visiting their local Mitsubishi service centre.

"The benefits we are providing with this campaign demonstrate our commitment to customer excellence as well as the total peace-of-mind ownership experience offered by our extensive service network throughout the Sultanate," added Ashraf Mustafa Osman.

PROMOTING RESEARCH AWARENESS



College of Engineering celebrates Research Day

MUSCAT: The College of Engineering, National University Science & Technology celebrated its first Research Day on May 9.

This event was led by the Students' Journal Club operating under a faculty mentor. The objective of this club is to promote research awareness among students through various research activities such as innovative research project presentations, recognising the best research papers in each engineering program, organising awareness workshops on funded Research Opportunities and technical paper writing skills.

The event was inaugurated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr Salim Al Aaraimi, followed by a keynote on "Autonomous Vehicles Concepts and Challenges" by Dr Mohammad Al Dibaja from Advanced Mobility Research Institute, Kanazawa University, Japan. Eight best projects and six best research papers on innovative topics of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Applications in the Oil and Gas Industry, Nanotechnology, Polymer Science, Internet of Things, Microbial Fuel Cell, Waste to Innovative Material and renewable energy modelling were presented by the students during the event.

Overall, the event was a great success and offered an interactive platform for exhibiting the innovative research work carried out by the students at the College of Engineering. The Research and Innovation Committee of the college of engineering chaired by Prof Syed Rizwan, Dr Satish, the chair of the organising committee, Noura Al Balushi, Faculty mentor for the students' journal club along with the other organising committee members were involved in the planning and organising the event. Finally, the event was concluded by thanking the Dean of the College of Engineering Professor Ahmed Hassan Al Balushi for promoting the research and innovation culture in the college.

INTELLIGENT EASY PAYMENT PLAN

Buy now and pay in instalments with 0% interest with BankDhofar



MUSCAT: To further enhance the customer's experience and provide convenient payment solutions, BankDhofar has launched the "Intelligent Easy Payment Plan" (iEPP) for credit cardholders. The plan enables the customers to purchase and pay in instalments with 0% interest and get instant, paperless approval.

Commenting on the plan, Yousuf Ahmed Al Balushi, Head of Payment Hub at BankDhofar said: "We are glad to launch the Intelligent Easy Payment Plan which is in line with our constant endeavour to provide the best payment so-

lutions to our customers. With this scheme, we provide our customers with the option to purchase and pay in instalments without having to pay high-interest rates.

Currently, BankDhofar credit cardholders may benefit from the Intelligent Easy Payment Plan at Home R US outlets. Customers may request for the payment to be through the Easy Payment Plan after purchasing with an amount of not less than OMR 100 and follow the steps. The instalments period may be 3, 6, 9, or 12 months.

In addition to the Intelligent Easy Payment Plan, BankDhofar

offers a wide array of exclusive privileges for BankDhofar's customers through our "My Offers App", as BankDhofar debit and credit cardholders may avail discounts and exclusive offers for over +2000 outlets, in Oman and UAE, including shopping, dining, wellness, lifestyle, entertainment, and many more. Customers may avail of "buy one get one" offers and enjoy a discount of up to 50%.

On the other hand, BankDhofar offers various collections of exclusive privileges for its credit card users, through the wide-ranging Rewards Loyalty Program. With

the Rewards Program, customers can earn points when they use their credit cards. These points can then be redeemed, allowing customers to choose from more than 300 airlines and destinations worldwide. They also have the choice of over 180,000 hotels across the globe to use the points. Additionally, the rewards program allows customers to redeem points at various shopping outlets, restaurants and cafes. Customers may view their points through BankDhofar's Mobile Banking App, or they may visit the website to redeem their points.

PROMOTION



Benefits on i-4WD GAC GS4 SUV

MUSCAT: The powerful, capable and turbocharged i-4WD GS4 SUV is now available with exclusive Ramadan campaign benefits. They include a Manufacturer's Warranty - 5 years/150,000 Kms, Comprehensive Insurance 1 year (Oman & UAE) and a chance to win a Raffle - one GA4 GB 1.3 T. The campaign is valid until 9th June 2022 (Conditions apply. For more details, please visit any GAC MOTOR showroom).

The GS4 i-4WD SUV is purpose-built for Oman. It is engineered for impressive performance on any terrain. The GS4 i-4WD makes a bold and eye-catching statement with its sleek profile that is enhanced with the 'Flying Dynamics' grille design. The new improved design of the headlights, taillights and the alloy wheels makes its overall appeal, contemporary and elegant.

Making every journey outstanding with power-packed moments is the 1.5L, 150 HP, turbo engine. This is paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission. The result is low fuel consumption and quieter transmission power.

The new eagle-eye projector headlights with LED DRLs provide a greater light distribution, resulting in optimum visibility at night. LED DRLs create a better

vision and are comparable to those offered on luxury vehicles. The LED combination taillights are inspired by the arrow fletched with a feathers-like design that makes the GS4 i-4WD easily stand out from the rest.

The interior of the GS4 i-4WD is as interesting as the exterior. A new 10.1-inch HD Touchscreen with Apple CarPlay, Bluetooth Connectivity and other vital features offers a more fun way to stay connected even on the go. The screen is linked to a wide-angle reverse camera assisted with dynamic guidelines that provide greater convenience and makes parking hassle-free.

Exclusive automatic air conditioning with a built-in air quality system with a negative ion air purifier ensures you and your loved ones breathe fresh and purified air. Dedicated rear AC vents along with USB charging ports keep the rear passengers at ease.

The GS4 i-4WD has impressive storage space that is perfect for your short or long journeys. The large 450L luggage compartment encourages you to make the most of your experiences. Besides this, there is 24 well-designed storage space in the car to meet multiple requirements of the passenger.

In terms of safety, the GS4 i-4WD stands out with a list of safety features. The tyre pressure monitoring system helps keep an eye on low tyre pressures and high tyre temperatures too. These assist in safer driving experiences. The electronic stability program assists the driver in safe braking in case of any untoward incidents. It also has safety features to avoid slipping /sliding while driving uphill or downhill at low speeds. The latest intelligent 4WD system maintains excellent composure on harsh terrains and lets you also negotiate off-road drives with full confidence. The Central Differential Lock when activated helps you get further by allowing you to tread on the most challenging surfaces with ease.

95% high strength steel bodywork of the GS4 provides maximum safety and stability. A testament to this is the fact that the roof can bear 4.5 times the roof pressure. This along with its rigid body helps the GS4 i-4WD bag a perfect 5-star C-NCAP crash rating, thus, ensuring the safest drives at all times for you and your loved ones.

In Oman, GAC MOTOR vehicles are distributed by New World Autos and backed by Saud Bahwan Group.

PRANCING HORSE'S ONE-OFF SERIES

Ferrari SP48 Unica: A new one-off from Maranello

MARANELLO: The Ferrari SP48 Unica, the latest addition to the Prancing Horse's One-Off series, was unveiled and joins the most exclusive group in Maranello's entire production: unique, absolutely bespoke cars crafted to the specifications of a single client and designed as a clear expression of their requirements.

The SP48 Unica, designed by the Ferrari Styling Centre under the direction of Flavio Manzoni, Chief Design Officer, is a two-seater sports Berlinetta developed on the F8 Tributo platform. Its taut lines and aggressive stance make it instantly recognisable with respect to the original model, and it is unmistakable too, thanks to its arrow-shaped front profile. Central to achieving this effect was the redesign of the headlights and the subsequent relocation of the brake air intakes.

A pivotal aspect of the design of this unique new car is the extensive use of procedural-parametric modelling techniques and 3D prototyping (additive manufacturing) which enabled the Ferrari Styling Centre designers and Maranello's engineers to completely redesign the front grille and engine air intakes. This advanced production process resulted in perfect 3D grilles that seem carved from a solid volume creating a sense of seamless continuity and dynamic fluidity.

The procedural graphic solutions adopted on the bodywork dialogue directly with the grilles and influence the SP48 Unica's overall design: the transition from black - which includes the windows, roof and engine cover - to the body colour is especially clear. The striking visor effect of the front is further heightened by the reduction in the size of the



side windows and the elimination of the rear screen, highlighting the powerful muscularity of the SP48 Unica which seems sculpted from a single block of metal.

The plan view emphasises the central section of the roof which includes a graphic representation of the air intakes set into the rear part of the carbon-fibre engine cover before the rear wing. This angle allows the viewer to appreciate the styling research that went into the SP48 Unica and reveals the sophisticated interplay of symmetries and intersecting lines created by its forms.

The SP48 Unica's thermal-fluid-dynamic design has been honed and perfected to guarantee it satisfies all cooling requirements in addition to delivering a different aerodynamic balance. The biggest changes compared to the F8 Tributo's styling include the air intakes for cooling flows for the engine on the front bumper and beneath the rear spoiler. Each has a deep procedural grille, every section of which is optimally angled to maximise the amount of air passing through.

The car's configuration also al-

lowed the engineers to locate an intercooler intake immediately behind the side windows, which in turn enabled them to reduce the dimension of the intakes on the flanks.

The longer rear overhang reduces suction from the roof area, boosting rear downforce.

Although the cabin retains the F8 Tributo's technical identity - excluding the rear screen - meticulous development work was lavished on achieving the perfect combination of colour and trim to reflect the SP48 Unica's sleek, sporty and aggressive personality. A good example is the specially developed black laser-perforated Alcantara® used on the seats and most of the cabin trim, beneath which are glimpses of iridescent reddish-orange fabric that match the exterior colour.

Its motif picks up the hexagonal motif of the grilles and the procedural livery on the roof, creating an appealing continuity between the car's interior and exterior. In the SP48 Unica cockpit, the eye is immediately drawn to the polished sill covers with the same laser-embossed hexagonal motif.



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ROUND-UP



OAB launches unique literacy series to promote financial well-being

The series of videos address major financial decisions, such as buying a house, buying a car, getting married, saving, and running a business



MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently launched a unique financial literacy series across all its social media platforms to promote the financial well-being of

Omani youth. The series of videos address major financial decisions, such as buying a house, buying a car, getting married, saving, and running

a business. This initiative by OAB is aligned with one of the bank's sustainability pillars: Financial Inclusion. Commenting on the series,

Leen Al-Atassi, Head of Corporate Communications at OAB said, "Financial inclusion is vital for our economy to flourish and is key to the success of Oman Vision 2040.

Through our research, we have found that one of the biggest obstacles to financial inclusion amongst youth is a lack of understanding of the financial sector and the various services they have at their disposal. Through this series, our objective is to offer Oman's youth guidance and direction on how to manage their finances responsibly." She added, "What makes this series unique is that it addresses real challenges that people face in their day-to-day lives, and it is a testament to our commitment to putting customers at the heart of our business." The episodes were developed with the youth in mind; the content is simple, fun, easy to understand, and locally relevant. Al-Atassiaddded, "At the beginning of their career, people often resort to indulgent spending and borrowing to finance their dream car or house. This often leads to

a cycle of debt that the borrower may find challenging to settle. Through this financial literacy series, we aim to help individuals plan and define their short and long-term goals to ensure financial well-being." The Financial Literacy series will be broadcast across the bank's social media channels and the OAB website. OAB has been promoting financial literacy through workshops with SMEs and various NGOs across the Sultanate since 2019. OAB has also developed a sustainability strategy that is aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). The strategy consists of three pillars: Environmental Responsibility, Community Partnerships and Financial Inclusion. OAB also issued its first GRI-certified Sustainability Report for 2020.

BENEFITS

Mercedes-Benz continues rewarding journey with its Ramadan offers

MUSCAT: Leave a trail of pure excellence and enjoy the benefits of the Ramadan package from Mercedes-Benz Oman. Until 31st May 2022, customers can drive away with one of the latest models and receive a five year/75,000km service package complete with four years of Mobilo on-road assistance service, three years unlimited mileage warranty, registration for the first year all included, alongside a complimentary gift from the Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Collection to welcome customers to their new vehicle. Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman,



said, "We continue to spread the spirits of giving with our customers by offering fantastic benefits on our most sought-after vehicles.

Adding to the sense of style and luxury that comes with owning one of our iconic vehicles, we are delighted to be able to give our

customers even more joy. Visit our showroom where our dedicated specialists will be on hand to help ensure customers drive away with the perfect car to match their lifestyle in every way and enjoy an unmatched driving experience long after their purchase." The exclusive offer extends across the range of new Mercedes-Benz and Mercedes-AMG Cars and SUVs stock range, with the exception of the Mercedes-AMG G-Class. With an uncompromising commitment to style and luxury, Mercedes-Benz Oman makes sure every journey is comfortable and peaceful.

FIFTH EDITION



Zubair Corporation's Ramadan Football League concludes

MUSCAT: The fifth edition of The Zubair Corporation's Ramadan Football League was recently concluded in the presence of Al Zubair bin Mohammed Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation, as well as a member of the management of The Zubair Corporation and its affiliates. The tournament which lasted three weeks began at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan and was held at the Goal One Soccer Centres in Azabiba. The tournament organised by The Zubair Corporation aims to promote the core values of leadership, sportsmanship, goal setting, teamwork and competition among its staff members. The results of the Ramadan Football League were as follows –Oasis Water Company won the League, finishing in the first place, while Bait Al Zubair were runners-up in the tournament, finishing second. With regards to individual awards, Muhannad Al Suliemani from Bait Al Zubair won the award for best player, while Faisal Al Batashi from Bait Al Zubair received the best goalkeeper award. The award for the top scorer of the league went to Khamis Al Shukili from Oasis Water Company. Speaking about the tournament, Al Zubair bin Mohammed Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation said, "We are pleased that the Ramadan League was conducted this month, considering the gap that lasted over two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We congratulate the winning companies and wish the rest better luck next time. This tournament was conducted keeping in mind that

employees are the key to organisational success. Similar to a player in a football team, companies and their employees need to operate as a team to achieve collective goals. With each game, we could see the core values needed for organisational success displayed on the pitch. We are sure this tournament also helped in strengthening the ties between the employees of The Zubair Corporation and affiliated companies." Al Zubair added, "I would like to thank all the participants for the great role they have played with regards to supervision and follow-up and for providing the necessary support to make this annual Ramadan event of The Zubair Corporation a great success." Magbool Al Qaidhi, the tournament supervisor, said, "This year, we witnessed a greater turnout by the companies participating in the tournament. 9 participating companies were divided into two groups. The first group included Oman Oil Industry Supplies & Services Company, Oasis Water Company, Zeenah Group, ELCO and ARA Petroleum B44. Whereas, the second group included ARA Petroleum Exploration and Production, Zubair Automotive Group, Shangri-La, Omani Computer Services and Bait Al Zubair. Each group saw teams playing against each other, with the first and second of each group qualifying for the next round. Tournaments like these are a great way to enhance communication and teamwork between employees. Through these teams, we seek to form a winning eleven team called Al Zubair Corporation team, to participate in the tournaments organised at the company and corporate level".

SMARTWATCH

Here is why Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro is everlasting masterpiece and favourite

MUSCAT: If you are in the market looking to buy a new smartwatch this year, then there are some key features to keep in mind. The design and material used are important factors as they epitomise style and decide wearing comfort. Battery life and charging speeds are crucial because what use is a smartwatch without power? Moreover, the health and fitness tracking features are imperative as they give you timely updates about your health and physical condition. Huawei recently unveiled the Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro which comes in two variants: Titanium Edition and Ceramic Edition delivering a lavish, upgraded, and more convenient user experience. On top of its attractive and fashionable looks, the smartwatch also comes with an up to 14-day battery life with wireless fast charging, professional health management, and new workout modes, in addition to other convenient life assistant features. One of its biggest perks is that it is compatible with Huawei devices as well as other devices running on Android and iOS systems, and that is definitely an advantage if you are using devices from other brands. The Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro is the elegance on your wrist, an everlasting masterpiece, in many ways! The Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro



comes in 46mm and 43mm sizes. The Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro Titanium Edition is equipped with a titanium metal case, sapphire glass lens and ceramic back case. Its premium ID design is clean and elegant appearance is prevalent across a variety of styles each embodying a blend of technology and art, while the Ceramic Edition is soft and elegant. Every detail has been processed with ingenious craftsmanship and fine polishing techniques, making it full of quality and lightweight, yet dazzling. Thus, it brings a soft natural gloss with excellent quality, highlighting its feminine

and elegant features. Its high-end design is complemented by a Moon Phase function that brings to users unique watch faces from which they can observe the different phases of the moon as it changes. The Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro Titanium Edition is equipped with a 1.43-inch AMOLED high-definition colour display, while the Ceramic version comes with a 1.32-inch AMOLED HD coloured display. Both displays adopt 466 x 466 high-definition resolution, for a more delicate display quality performance. Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro Ceramic Edition features a new and exclu-

sively designed flower dial with dynamic effects; the five different dial effects show various shapes of the flower as time goes by. The dynamic flower dial that changes with time embodies design ingenuity with artistry. The vivid blossoming of flowers not only fascinatingly symbolises the passage of time but also adds a fun twist to its presentation. The Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro inherits the ultra-long battery life of the Huawei Watch GT Series. The enhanced battery architecture provides the Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro Titanium Edition with 14 days of battery life and 7 days of battery life in intense usage scenarios while the Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro Ceramic Edition comes with 7 days of battery life in typical scenarios and 4 days battery life in heavy usage scenarios. The smartwatch supports fast and convenient wireless fast charging. It only takes 10 minutes to charge for a full-day use (in typical scenarios). In terms of health, the Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro series supports Electrocardiogram (ECG) data collection, which can accurately provide single-lead ECG measurements, real-time analysis, sinus rhythm and atrial fibrillation detection, and premature atrial and ventricular beat reminders for users and supports arterial stiffness detection, allowing users to actively prevent the risk of vascular diseases.



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ROUND-UP



Jashanmal opens its first department store in Oman

Jashanmal's first department store in Oman is 4200 square feet, offering a consumer-friendly shopping experience with some bestselling brands under one roof

MUSCAT: Jashanmal, carrying its 100 year legacy of trust and quality, is pleased to announce the opening of its first department store in Oman, bringing some of the world's best brands under one roof.

The newly opened Jashanmal Department Store, located at level 3 of the renowned community shopping complex - Mall of Oman in Muscat, offers a remarkable shopping experience for consumers. It is a spacious shop of 4200 square feet, housing a wide variety of products in home appliances, luggage, cookware, porcelain dinnerware, and home fragrances, offering a consumer-friendly ambience at this venue.



Group Chief Officer, Shuja Jashanmal said, "We established our trading company in Oman - Jashanmal Oman in the mid-1990s and are regional distributors for many beauty, lifestyle, luggage, and appliances brands."

"We have already been physically present in Oman with a sales force and a small management team to supply and service the local retailers like hypermarkets, electronics stores, local retail stores and chains."

There is a demand for the quality brands and products that one finds in Jashanmal stores, which significantly enhances the quality of life for consumers.

Jashanmal is retailing many leading, bestselling brands like De Longhi, Kenwood, Nespresso, Blendtec, Jura, Hoover, Bertazzoni, in-home appliances, Porche Design, Victorinox, Piquadro, Echolac, Kipling for travel luggage and accessories and kitchen brands it is Fissler, Le Creuset, Silampos, Berghoff, Dankotwa,



Ozlem Tuna, Regent and Portland. The store also carries leading home fragrance brands like Dr Vranjes, Lochaber Milano, and Tetratro Firenze among several others.

The Group Chief Officer added, "We see ourselves as regional retailers in the GCC countries, and Oman had to be a part of our footprint. Omanis who visit the UAE, Bahrain, or Kuwait recognise us well and are our customers for a long time. We have become seasoned retailers and market leaders in several product categories, so it

was only natural to open a retail presence in Muscat."

"Oman has been one of the steadiest markets in the Gulf region, and we believe this will continue for the years to come. The country's foresighted leadership brings stability to the country and the region. We are highly excited to open our first store and have plans for many more stores in different formats. Oman tourism will continue to develop leaps and bounds, and the country will continue prospering," said Shuja Jashanmal.

ACCREDITATION AGENCY



Bayan College CEO nominated to governing body of ASIC

MUSCAT: Dr Modi Juma Al Ghailani, CEO, Bayan College is nominated to the governing body of ASIC (Accreditation Service for International Colleges) - British Accreditation Agency.

ASIC accredits colleges and universities in the UK and worldwide. ASIC has ISO 9001:2015 accredited certifications in recognition of its commitment to high standards in its accreditation process and internal procedures.

Dr Modi was awarded with Chairman's Outstanding Achievement Award. The award recognises the contribution to the establishment of Higher Education in Oman.

While responding to the new role in the ASIC governing body Dr Modi said that she is looking forward to making qualitative changes in the higher education sector to benefit the future generation of Oman and across the world.

MANAR ALIZZ EVENTS

Alizz Islamic Bank to hold symposium on 'Omani Efforts in Quranic Studies'

MUSCAT: As part of Manar Alizz events, Alizz Islamic Bank will hold a symposium entitled 'Omani Efforts in Quranic Studies' next Monday in Al-Shahba Hall, the University of Nizwa under the patronage of Dr Mohammad bin Saeed Al-Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

Collaboration

This symposium is organised in collaboration between Alizz Islamic Bank and the University of Nizwa to highlight Omani significant contributions throughout history to the leading intellectual and scientific achievements, which had prestigious impacts on science, civilization and history that were highly appreciated by scientists, scholars and researchers.

Moreover, the symposium has several important objectives, including educating the younger generation about Omani achievements in the field of Quranic Studies, in the past and nowadays, highlighting Omani talents that have a pioneering standing among scholars of the Islamic Nation and identifying past and present contributions of Omanis in fields of Quranic sciences, in addition to encouraging researchers to study this issue in detail.

Key themes

The symposium will discuss a number of key themes covering various topics, notably the Omani achievements in the fields of interpretation of the Holy Quran, Quranic readings (Qiraat), narration and knowledge, whether in the past or present, I'jaz al-Qur'an, and in various Quranic sciences. These themes are explained by a number of knowledgeable researchers and scholars in these fields

who have different contributions in this regard.

It should be noted that there are remarkable Omani contributions in different fields of Quranic Studies, so it is a scientific and national duty to identify them and explain such contributions to researchers and scholars. The symposium will also discuss the difference between the ordinal and objective interpretation of the Holy Quran, along with explaining the importance of objective interpretation in the modern age and its relation with modern sciences, in addition to highlighting the role of Omanis in the fields of Quranic sciences and spreading such knowledge to different countries of the world.

The Quranic sciences have played an important role, throughout Islamic history to date, in enhancing the correct understanding and contemplation of Islamic verses and meanings, as well as helping to identify Islamic rulings, and increasing the religious and faith awareness of Muslims, which is a good opportunity to recall the Omani heritage in spreading different sciences all over the world.

Social commitment

The symposium is one of the events organised by Alizz Islamic Bank as part of its social responsibility commitment to promoting religious disciplines to benefit scholars, researchers, preachers and students, and reflects its interest to instill the Holy Quran in the young by experts.

Alizz Islamic Bank will continue its mission under its initiative to spread awareness, "Manar Alizz", by expanding these various events across other governorates and wilayats of the Sultanate as part of its strategy towards intangible assets.

PROMOTION

Own a premium motoring experience with INFINITI SUVs this season

MUSCAT: Continuing with the tradition of rewarding its valued customers, INFINITI Oman has announced special offers across its SUV range of INFINITI QX50, INFINITI QX55, and INFINITI QX80.

Customers who purchase INFINITI SUVs - QX50, QX55 and QX80 during the offer are eligible for free registration, assured gift vouchers, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card, digital promotion, INFINITI loyalty programme, and reference programme.

The special offer will go on till May 19, 2022.

The scheme is applicable to all the customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles for personal use only. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for a taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. The scheme is applicable for retail billing only.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, "This is the perfect time to book one of the versatile INFINITI SUVs - QX50, QX55 and QX80. These incredible performers continue to be amongst the best-selling vehicles in Oman for obvious reasons. They are an excellent choice for anyone looking for powerful performance, safe drive, and comfortable interiors. The models are fitted with smart technologies that adapt to the needs of customers. The SUVs have multiple advanced features to please even the most demanding of lifestyles, such as versatile interior with adaptable seating, cargo space, and the individualised entertainment system."

All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX55, and QX80 in the scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration.

All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX55, and QX80 in



the scheme period will be eligible for Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers. For INFINITI QX50 and INFINITI QX55, it is OMR 200 and for INFINITI QX80 it is OMR 400. Vouchers can be redeemed for vehicle service, purchase of value-added service products at SBA workshop, purchase of parts/accessories at SBA workshop and purchase of service contracts from SBA workshop. VAS vouchers will have to be utilized fully in one go & cannot be fragmented.

Any additional expenses on top of the voucher amount will be paid by the customer separately. VAS Voucher will have a limited validity period & will have to be a consumer before October 31, 2022. VAS Voucher is transferable and will be in the denomination of OMR 50. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the amount cannot be discounted in cash.

Customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX55, and QX80 in the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of two years or 30,000 km (whichever is earlier). This offer excludes bat-

tery and wear and tear components. This offer includes only the Service intervals of 10,000Kms.

All INFINITI vehicles QX50, QX55, and QX80 purchased in the scheme period will have a 3 years / 100,000 Kms Manufacturer's Warranty.

A free AAA / Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI Saloon Cars & SUV vehicles, for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman & UAE.

Two winners from all the social media users who will participate in the Ramadan campaign, Contest and other online challenges on Instagram (@sbainfinitioman) and Facebook (@sbainfinitioman) will get BOSE Ear Buds.

All INFINITI existing owners and their immediate family members [father, mother, son(s) & unmarried daughter(s)] will be eligible for the following additional benefits on the purchase of another INFINITI vehicle. Diamond members will get a loyalty Bonus on the trade-in price of Infiniti vehicle of OMR 300 and platinum will get OMR 400. The special in-

house finance rate for diamond members is 3.75% and platinum is 3.50%. Diamond members will get a special accessories package of window tinting and platinum members will get window tinting and paint protection.

INFINITI will generate references of people looking to buy a car. This reference will be generated from existing INFINITI customers. The same person cannot refer himself but can refer multiple names. If any of the referred persons buy an INFINITI car, then the person who referred him will get OMR 100 gift voucher. This gift voucher can be redeemed during vehicle service at SBA workshop, purchase of consumables from SBA counters, Purchase of parts and accessories from SBA counters. All such gift voucher winners will be declared on an ongoing basis. This gift voucher is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for credit. The gift voucher will be valid for six months from the date of issue. The voucher needs to be redeemed fully all at once. Part redemption will not be allowed.



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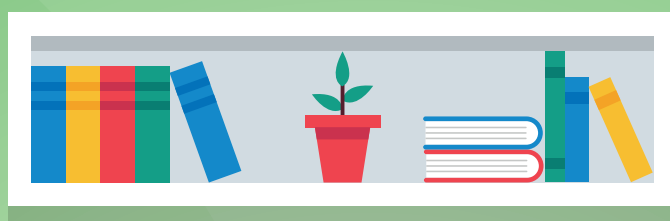


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