

>> PRAYER TIMINGS
Dhuhr 12:13 pm
Asr 3:41 pm
Maghrib 6:31 pm
Isha 7:43 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:33 am
>> IFTAR 6:31 pm



HM'S GREETINGS CONVEYED TO US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

US President Joe Biden received at the White House Moosa bin Hamdan Al Taei, the Sultanate's ambassador to the United States of America (USA), on Friday. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 31 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)

Enjoy exclusive **lifestyle banking** with
Al Jawhar Privilege
Banking from **Bank Muscat**

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday. Terms and conditions apply.

[Know more](#)

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Restauranteur leaves

1 An expat who helped set up some of the top restaurants in Oman heads home. **>A3**

WORLD EU fast-track for Kyiv

2 EC's Ursula von der Leyen presented Ukraine with paperwork for the country to join the European Union. **>A6**

MARKET Pharma unit pact

3 The Pen-G fermentation plant will be the first of its kind in the region. **>B1**

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

38°
MUSCAT

OUT OF THE 11 BODIES OF THE PAKISTANI NATIONALS THAT WERE RECOVERED, NINE BODIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

MOHAMMED IMRAN ALI CHAUDHARY,
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO OMAN

WE ARE COVERING THE COSTS OF TREATMENT TO THOSE WHO WERE INJURED.

HUSSEIN AL KALBANI, GENERAL MANAGER
OF INTERNATIONAL MARBLE COMPANY

WE HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED THE NOC SO THAT THE BODIES OF THE INDIANS CAN BE REPATRIATED.

INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO REPATRIATE VICTIMS OF IBRI ROCK COLLAPSE

11 of the 14 victims of the rockslide were from Pakistan, while the rest were Indians

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Efforts are being made to repatriate the bodies of the 14 victims of a rockslide on 27 March by their employer company and the embassies of the countries they belong to.

Eleven victims of the rockslide that occurred in Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate were from Pakistan while the other three were Indian nationals.

The 14 were among the 55 employed at a marble quarry operated by the International Marble Company in the Al Aridh area in Ibri.

"We are covering the costs of



treatment to those who were injured," said Hussein Al Kalbani, general manager of International Marble Company. "We have also taken care of the expenses involved in the transport of the bodies to their families abroad. We

EXCLUSIVE

also plan to compensate the families of the deceased and the company will take a decision in this regard soon."

Mohammed Imran Ali Chaudhary, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, said: "Out of the 11 bodies of the Pakistani nationals that were recovered, nine bodies have already been repatriated to the families of the victims. The re-

maining two are in the process of repatriation."

Indian, Pak embassies

Two officers from the Embassy of Pakistan in Muscat were sent to Ibri immediately after they were informed about the accident. Another Pakistani national is injured and undergoing treatment.

According to the Ambassador, more than 140 Pakistanis are employed at the marble quarry, some of whom are associated with the company for the last 20 years.

An official from the Embassy of India in Muscat said: "We have already provided the NOC so that the bodies of the three Indians can be repatriated. One body has already been airlifted and procedures are underway for the other two.

Fully cooperating

"Our officials are fully cooperating with the government organisations and company representatives to provide all assistance," he further added.

>A5

Subscribe to the future.

4 OMR

5GB RED Advance

- 5 GB Local Data
- 150 Calling Minutes
- Great Value Add-ons

16 OMR

35GB RED Elite

- 20 GB Local Data
- 10 GB Social Pass
- 5 GB Entertainment Pass
- Unlimited Minutes & SMS
- Take Your Home Tariff Abroad
- 60 International Minutes

8 OMR

15GB RED Premium

- 10 GB Local Data
- 5 GB Social Pass
- 300 Calling Minutes
- Take Your Home Tariff Abroad

Download My Vodafone App now

[Download on the App Store](#) [GET IT ON Google play](#)

For more information, visit [www.vodafone.om](#)

Together we can



OMAN



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om

Improving investment climate an essential objective of MOCIIP

The ministry seeks to support a knowledge-based economy and create an attractive investment setup by providing the necessary facilities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Initiatives being taken in the sectors of trade, industry, specifications and standards, investment promotion, competition protection and ant-trust measures



PROMOTING INVESTMENT: The event will be attended by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Dr Saleh bin Saeed Masan, Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry at MOCIIP and Aseelah bint Salem Al Samsamiyah, Undersecretary for Investment Promotion.

will be unveiled by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP) during its annual media meet on Monday.

At the meeting, the ministry will also share its achievements over the past year and the initiatives it intends to take in 2022 to facilitate

and promote Oman's investment environment, including the steps to bring in more foreign investment and improve incentives for

overseas investors and businesses.

The ministry also seeks to promote a business environment that supports a knowledge-based economy and create an attractive investment setup by providing the necessary facilities and upgrading existing services.

The event will be attended by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Dr Saleh bin Saeed Masan, Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry at MOCIIP and Aseelah bint Salem Al Samsamiyah, Undersecretary for Investment Promotion.

Also in attendance will be Mohsen bin Khamis Al Balushi, advisor to the ministry alongside a number of MOCIIP representatives.

Ramadan evening

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will hold its second

Ramadan evening. The topic of discussion is 'Economic diplomacy and its role in attracting investment and promoting Oman'. The event is sponsored by Dr Saeed bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

Themes at the event will focus on the importance of the economic role played by Oman's diplomatic missions in various countries of the world and the need for coordination and integration with various stakeholders to strengthen the local economy to achieve the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Furthermore, during the course of the evening, participants will also discuss how economic development in Oman can benefit other countries across multiple economic sectors by attracting and encouraging foreign investment, stimulating trade and strengthening bilateral and multilateral economic ties.

MISHAP

< FROM A1 Efforts underway to repatriate bodies of Ibri rockslide

"We have our social workers in Ibri and they were deployed to the accident site the moment we got to know about the incident. Our officials are fully cooperating with the government organisations and company representatives to provide assistance."

Ambassador Chaudhary added that the Oman authorities left no stone unturned when they learned about this incident.

They had deployed heavy machinery, sophisticated cameras and sniffer dogs for the search and rescue operations, as well as expert geologists who provided technical support to the operations.

Recalling the incident, Al Kalbani said he rushed to the scene after

he was informed about the rockslide. On arrival, he saw a lot of rubble and thick clouds of dust and approached one of the workers to ask if anyone at the site had been injured.

"He told me: 'Yes, we have many who are injured and missing.' I rushed towards the accident site to get a closer look for myself and to see if I could help them," recalled Al Kalbani. "The view was very poor, however, because the rubble and large rocks made it very difficult to get to those who were trapped underneath."

After making sure the injured were ferried to hospital, a distress call was made to the CDAA. Company officials stayed with emer-

gency personnel throughout the rescue operation, and put at their disposal all of the heavy machinery and tools the company had, should rescue teams need them to extract the workers from under the rock.

Rescue teams

Although rescue teams had reached the site, it was quite clear that the rockslide hadn't fully ended: Rocks continued to slide for a while afterwards, hampering rescue and extraction efforts. Because of the size and extent of the collapse, CDAA teams had set up a forward operations centre at the site to better handle and coordinate their response.

We stayed at the site of the ac-

cident from the first hours of the collapse, until the last body was pulled out from under the rubble," revealed Al Kalbani. "We didn't go too far away from the site, because we never stopped searching for survivors under the rubble, and this required continuous efforts from all of us.

"Because there were subsequent rockslides at regular intervals, we could not work any faster to search for survivors," he admitted.

"The rocks were also very big and hard, so to break them down and transport them was very difficult. Time was running out, and with each passing minute, little by little, the hope of finding survivors was fading. The work continued

with no break, and whenever we removed one of the missing people who was found dead, I felt a great sadness for them."

Six of the people who sadly died in the accident were found dead on arrival, while Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) services needed to extract another eight people from the rubble, and were pronounced dead once they had been rescued.

A further five were sent to hospital to recover from their injuries.

Despite the occurrence of the accident, Al Kalbani said that the company posts safety and security officers at all of their sites.

Furthermore, International Marble Company operates in ac-

cordance with preset security and safety standards, and is certified under ISO certificates for both quality and the environment. It is also affiliated with the American Institute of Marble, considered one of the largest international institutes in the world for marble companies.

"We accordingly work according to very high safety and security standards," added Al Kalbani.

It took Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority personnel seven days to extract all of the victims trapped under the rubble, using plenty of search and rescue teams, as well as sniffer dogs and advanced equipment such as thermal imaging to locate the bodies.

0% Interest

this Ramadan with Mitsubishi



LAUNCH OF

All-New Outlander



0% INTEREST RATE UP TO 2 YEARS*

CASH BACK FROM RO 1,438 TO RO 3,762*

2 Years / 30,000 KM Free Service*

1 Year Free Insurance* and Registration*

Free Llumar Window Tint*

6 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty

6 Years Roadside Assistance

PRE-BOOK* NOW

For more information call 24 500 500 or WhatsApp/SMS 93800925

@mitsubishiMotorsOman

mitsubishi-motors.com.om

Muscat | Sohar | Nizwa | Ibri | Barka | Sur | Jalan Bu Ali | Salalah



مرکز الفيتار

GRAND MILLENNIUM

MUSCAT

Grand

IFTAR BUFFET

Ramadan is a time for families and friends to come together and celebrate the spirit of togetherness and create unforgettable memories.

Indulge in our hearty selection of signature Ramadan dishes and utmost elegance and comfort, Iftar buffet featuring a unique blend of Arabic specialties and Ramadan favorites.

GROUPS GATHERING OFFER

For every 9 paying adults, the 10th person is complimentary

OMR 18 NET PER PERSON

OMR 9 net for 6 - 12 years old

Free of charge for below 6 years old

Iftar Buffet Served in Taybat Restaurant

2nd April | Sundown to 9.30 PM

Advance booking is required | Not applicable to any other promotions or discounts | Terms & Conditions Apply

To order or reserve a table, dial +96897433203






Topfruit®

رمضان مبارك

RAMADAN MUBARAK

Call Center Number

24 596 999



YOU ORDER WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN



MEET YOUR PERSONAL FINANCE NEEDS

with Maisarah Personal Finance

Offer is valid till 31 December 2022 and is applicable for new, additional & takeover finances from other banks.

For more information, please scan the QR code



Competitive profit rates starting from **4.99%**



making life easy

الخدمات المالية الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

EXPAT LIFE

Expat who helped set up some of Oman’s best restaurants heads home after 45 years

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Indian expatriate who spearheaded efforts to set up some of Oman’s most well-known restaurants is heading back home with a lifetime of memories, after 45 years in this country.

Yogesh Shah, who recently retired as the head of the Khimji Ramdas restaurants division, was integral to bringing brands such as Taco Bell, Fuddrucker’s, Café Vergnano and Laderach to Oman. The biggest impact of his legacy, however, is the arrival of Pizza Hut into the country.

Initially headhunted by Khimji’s to open two outlets in Oman – one in Muscat and the other in Salalah – Pizza Hut currently has 45 restaurants across the country since its arrival in 1988. Yogesh was also integral to the opening of The Indus, a well-known upscale restaurant at the Galleria attached to the Royal Opera House Muscat.

“I was presented with the right opportunity to explore the F&B industry in Oman,” recalled Yogesh. “I relied on my instincts at that time and decided to take the plunge and God has been kind that I got to live here for 45 long years!”

“I first arrived in Muscat in 1980 when Oman was undergoing major developments,” he added. “Muscat back in the day was quite different. There were very few roads with only a few pockets of residential areas and no malls or supermarkets. For entertainment, there was just one theatre.”

“I remember very often standing in the heat at the public phone, having to shell out so many coins to make a single call that would last for a few minutes,” he said. “I would post handwritten letters to my family, which would reach Mumbai only after a month, and by the time they received them and replied, it would take another



ADIEU: Yogesh Shah, who recently retired as the head of the Khimji Ramdas restaurants division, was integral to bringing well known brands to Oman.

month for their responses to come here. Life then was very different. Of course, with time, technology grew and life evolved.”

Mumbai to Muscat

Yogesh first heard of Muscat when a Lebanese gentleman visited the Oberoi Sheraton in Mumbai in 1979, where he was employed at the time. While interacting with Yogesh, he mentioned to him that he was looking to set up a five-star hotel in Muscat and was looking for someone with a good hospitality background. It was destiny that brought Yogesh to Oman as one of the seven people recruited to work at Gulf Hotel, which is today known as Crowne Plaza Muscat.

Even so, when his first stint in Oman ended in 1985, he thought he was done with the country, knowing little that he would be brought back just three years later, with his family in tow.

“If there’s one thing that best describes Oman and its people, it is their kindness and their humble attitude towards everyone,” he explained. “I have had the pleasure to work alongside many Omanis for many years and their

kindness and generosity inspire us daily. Not once have we ever felt like this place is not our home, and we have always felt so welcome. It is as if we are part of their family. Oman is such a peace-loving society and its willingness to learn and grow is very inspiring.”

Peace-loving country

It is this friendly attitude in the country – along with many other desirable traits – that made Oman a country where Yogesh wanted to raise his family and give them a good life.

“When it comes to world rankings, Oman often ranks at the top as one as the most peaceful, cleanest and safest countries to live in,” he added. “Oman is truly the best example of a multi-cultural society where people from different countries live together in harmony.”

“The roads and the infrastructure and the lifestyle here are unparalleled. And of course, for nature lovers, this place is truly a paradise. There’s so much to explore within Oman that no amount of time spent here will ever be enough!”

SUBSCRIBE

To the Times **Eshaar** Classified advertisement services

Start receiving regular discount deals and detailed information on products, services, used vehicles and much more

Whatsapp your name to **+968 93388405**

and also stand to **WIN** exciting gifts



Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

66,005 REACH

Andi who was a significant constituent of a ten-member team devised a unique device.

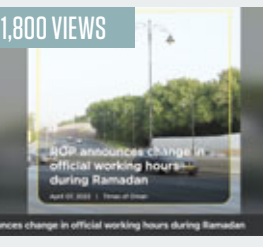


Story on ISG student contributes to history in the making

A story on ISG student contributes to history in the making reached 66,005 people and had 2,728 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,800 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video

The Maghrib Minute video had 1,800 views and reached 10,100 people on Facebook.

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,158 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi had 1,158 views and 49 likes on Instagram.



شركة تأجير المركبات ش.م.م
Vehicle Leasing Company (LLC)



SUVs starting From OMR 8 per day

EXPLORE OMAN ON ROAD & OFF ROAD WITH VLC

Price starting From OMR 18 per day  TAHOE	Price starting From OMR 16 per day  TRAVERSE	Price starting From OMR 9 per day  CAPTIVA	Price starting From OMR 8 per day  GROOVE
---	---	--	---

* Terms & Conditions apply - Price excludes VAT



Branches:
Ghala : 95500295, Sohar : 95345334
Duqm: 96790968, Salalah: 95421249, Wattayah : 95332896

For more details, contact:
94394301 / 95692420



» IFTAR TIMING

6:31 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:13 pm
Asr	3:41 pm
Maghrib	6:31 pm
Isha	7:43 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:33 am



» IFTAR RECIPE

GRILLED CAULIFLOWER STEAKS WITH PECAN BASIL PESTO



SERVES 8
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

- INGREDIENTS
- 2 heads of cauliflower, cut into 8 1-inch cauliflower steaks
 - 1 tablespoon pecan, avocado or olive oil
 - Salt and pepper, to taste
 - For the pesto:
 - 2 cups fresh basil
 - 1/4 cup raw pecan halves
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 garlic clove
 - 1 teaspoon lemon zest
 - 1/2 cup pecan or olive oil
 - 1/3 cup shredded parmesan cheese

- PREPARATION
1. Preheat the grill to medium high heat, about 375 to 400 degrees F.
 2. Brush sides of cauliflower steaks with oil and add salt and pepper.
 3. Grill each side of steak for 4 minutes.
 4. Remove from the grill and let rest.
 5. Make the pesto: in a food processor, pulse the basil, raw pecans, garlic, salt, pepper and lemon zest until finely chopped. Add olive oil and blend.
 6. Transfer pesto to a bowl and add parmesan cheese.
 7. To serve, top cauliflower steaks with pesto.

» HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

FASTING HEALTH TIPS

Avoid excessive salt in your food, especially during Suhoor. Sodium makes you thirsty and it will become very difficult to control the urge to drink water. Also avoid spicy and extremely sweet food for the same reason. The most difficult part about fasting is to control the water temptation so do everything you can to minimise it.



» GOOD DEEDS

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR LOVED ONES



There is something spiritually unparalleled and quite peaceful about Ramadan that makes for a pleasant experience.

Ramadan is the one month that brings families together, especially in today’s society when everyone is busy on their own. After Iftar and prayers, spend time with your loved ones.

And if you are far from your loved ones technology is a great way of reducing the distance. A video call or a text message can make a difference. Whether it’s in person or virtual, stay connected with your loved ones.



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN



order now

99217943

80076006

Download Salsabeel App

App Store

Google Play

FREE DELIVERY

1st

5GB BOTTLE IN
OMAN



Follow us for more offers



BILATERAL RELATIONS

His Majesty’s greetings conveyed to the US President Joe Biden

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden received at the White House on Friday Moosa bin Hamdan Al Taei, the Sultanate’s ambassador to the United States of America (USA).

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed sincere greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik along with His Majesty’s wishes to the president and to his country’s people further progress and prosperity and for the relations between the two countries further development and success.

In his turn, US President asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and wishes to His Majesty the Sultan, the government and the people of the Sultanate, wishing the bilateral relations between the two countries further development and success. — OMA



MUSCAT YOG MAHOTSAV



Muscat to witness 75 days of yoga to coincide with International Day of Yoga

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Seventy-five yoga events will be organised in Muscat over the next 75 days as part of the celebrations launched to mark the 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY).

Titled the ‘Muscat Yog Mahotsav 2022’, the celebrations are being organised by the Embassy of India in Muscat, and will continue until 21 June. This yoga festival will include events in both online and offline modes at different locations in Muscat, and also across many cities in Oman such as Salalah, Sohar and Sur.

All Yoga enthusiasts, including Indians, Omanis and friends from other countries residing in Oman are invited to participate in this first-ever yoga festival of health and well-being. The weekly schedule of events under the Yog Mahotsav will be uploaded along with details on the embassy’s social media pages.

The main celebration of the 8th IDY on 21 June 2022 is to be held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre with the support of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, yoga organizations, the Indian Social Club, Indian schools in Oman and Oman-based yoga practitioners.

Yoga symbolises a journey for universal health and well-being. Attesting to the global appeal of yoga, the United Nations declared 21 June as the ‘International Day of Yoga’ in 2014. The International Day of Yoga (IDY) has over the years morphed into a global movement for holistic health and well-being.

Yoga popular in Oman

“Yoga is quite popular in Oman



Yog Mahotsav launched

The ‘Muscat Yog Mahotsav’ was launched on the morning of 8 April at the embassy premises. It was attended by Indian Social Club representatives and members of several yoga organisations in Oman. The event started with a ceremonial lamp lighting by Divya Narang, Ambassador Amit Narang briefly addressed the gathering and stated that yoga connects us to our inner self and acts as a catalyst for overall health.

A Tanjore painting made by Kavitha Ramakrishna depicting one of the most powerful and versatile Yoga movements – the sun salutation – was also unveiled by the Ambassador to mark the formal start of Yog Mahotsav in Oman.

After the brief formal programme, the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) was performed by all the participants, which was demonstrated by Yoga experts from Sanskriti Yoga, Art of Living, Yoga Shala and Yoga City.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES



Al-Rahma Association begins donation campaign to collect OMR1 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al-Rahma Association has organised one million rials campaign, which aims to collect donations amounting to OMR1 million during the Holy Month of Ramadan, to build Al Rahma Charitable Endowment Centre in the Wilayat of Seeb.

The centre is one of the plans of the Lady of Giving, Rahima Al-Musafer, who passed away last February.

This is the largest sustainable project in the charitable activities of the association.

Community challenge

The “Your Riyal One Million” campaign is a charitable community challenge that aims to collect donations of up to one million Omani riyals by donating only one riyal as a minimum, with the aim of collecting donations for charity account of the Al-Rahma team to contribute to the construction of the Al-Rahma Charitable Centre

So far, the campaign has collected OMR21,334, and the remaining amount is OMR978,665.

project, as the proceeds of this project will contribute In financing various programmes and assistance provided by the association to the groups sponsored by it, which reach more than 1,700 families.

So far, the campaign has collected OMR21,334, and the remaining amount is OMR978,665. People can donate to the initiative through the online donation portal donate.om or through the association’s bank account.

ARAB FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

AMF board meeting held in Jeddah

JEDDAH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, on Thursday headed the annual meetings of the joint Arab financial institutions and the 45th meeting of the Arab Monetary Fund’s (AMF) Board of Governors, being held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

— OMA

Ramadan Iftar Program



The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1443 AH AD 2022

You can donate through the following :

National Bank of Oman

1049337798001

donate via devices automated payment of a company "ONEIC"

Bank Dhofar

01040609090001

Electronic Donations Portal www.donate.om

OCO Headquarters : Muscat Governorate , Al Khuwair 33 , Street No. 47, next to Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque, or one of its branches :

South Al-Sharqiyah Governorate
25541087
Sur / Al-murtala

North Al-Batinah Governorate
26864241
Sohar / Al-Hambar

Musandam Governorate
26731588
Khasab / Al-Shaebah

Dhofar Governorate
23234735
Salalah / Al-saada

OCOOMAN

charity@oco.org.om



www.oco.org.om

24297960

24297961

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen offers Kyiv fast track to membership

Von der Leyen travelled to Ukraine with her deputy Josep Borrell, who is also the bloc's commissioner for foreign and security affairs

KYIV: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Kyiv on Friday presented Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with paperwork for his country to join the European Union.

Handing over a document at a joint press conference, she said: "This is where your path towards the European Union begins."

"We stand ready to support you in filling out this questionnaire," von der Leyen said, adding: "It will not be, as usual, a matter of years, but rather a matter of weeks" to complete this step.

The questionnaire, she explained, forms the basis of an opinion that gets passed on to the European Council.

Von der Leyen said she intended to, "present Ukraine's application to the [European] Council this summer."

During the joint press conference von der Leyen said: "Russia will descend in economic, financial and technological decay while Ukraine is marching to-



EU MEMBERSHIP: Von der Leyen said she intended to, "present Ukraine's application to the [European] Council this summer".

wards a European future."

Von der Leyen in Bucha: 'Humanity was shattered'

Von der Leyen traveled to Ukraine with her deputy Josep Borrell, who is also the bloc's commissioner for foreign and security affairs. During the trip, the first by high-ranking EU officials since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, von der Leyen traveled to the city of Bucha. Because in Bucha our humanity was shattered."

On Twitter, she wrote, "It was important to start my visit in Bucha. Because in Bucha our humanity was shattered."

Among the delegation visiting Kyiv is Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger, who announced that his country was donating its Soviet-era S-300 air defense

system to Ukraine.

EU's envoy to Ukraine returns

Borrell announced in Kyiv that the European Union was returning its delegation to the Ukrainian capital. The head of the EU delegation to Ukraine, Matti Maasilta, was accompanying Borrell and von der Leyen.

The EU representation was completely evacuated one day after the start of the war.

The envoy's return will help ensure that the European Union and the Ukrainian government can work together closely and directly, Borrell said.

"Ukraine is not a country invaded, dominated. There is still a government [which] receives people

from outside, and you can travel to Kyiv," Borrell said.

EU to outline its measures to 'isolate Russia'

Borrell said one topic on the agenda of talks with Zelenskyy was possible further sanctions to "isolate Russia."

It comes as a new sanctions package, including an EU embargo on Russian coal imports, is set to be formally implemented on Friday after the bloc approved the measures.

Borrell also said the EU would supply €7.5 million (\$8.2 million) to train Ukrainian prosecutors to investigate war crimes, which Russia is accused of committing in the country. **bw**



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



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

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

OSCAR BAN

Will Smith gets 10-year Oscars ban for slapping Chris Rock

CALIFORNIA: Hollywood star Will Smith will not be allowed to attend the Oscars for a decade, the Academy's board announced.

The latest announcement comes weeks after Smith struck comedian Chris Rock across the face on stage. Rock had made a joke about the appearance of the actor's wife.



What did the Academy say?

The decision to temporarily ban Smith from further events came after a meeting of the Academy's board of governors.

"The 94th Oscars were meant to be a celebration of the many individuals in our community who did incredible work this past year; however, those moments were overshadowed by the unacceptable and harmful behavior we saw Mr. Smith exhibit on stage," the academy said in a statement.

The 10-year ban extends to the Academy Awards, known as the Oscars, as well as any other academy event.

The academy also apologized for its handling of the incident, after Smith was allowed to stay at the ceremony after the slap.

Smith later received the "Best

Actor" award for his role in "King Richard."

The academy said it "did not adequately address the situation in the room" but said they were "unprepared for the unprecedented."

How has Smith responded?

Smith resigned as a member of the academy last week in the run-up to Friday's meeting.

He released a short statement after Friday's announcement, saying: "I accept and respect the Academy's decision."

During the Oscars on March 27, Smith strode from his front-row seat onto the stage and slapped Chris Rock across the face for making a joke at the expense of Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Rock — who was appearing as a presenter — joked about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head. **bw**

EMERGENCY OPERATION

UN seeks \$80 million to prevent 'imminent' Yemen oil spillage

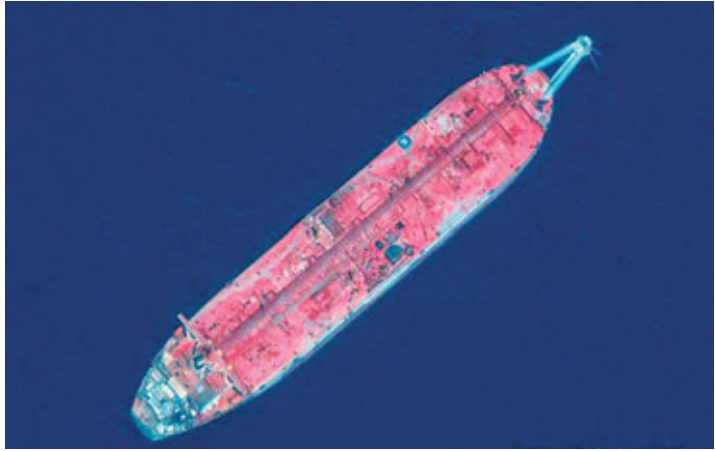
SANAA: The United Nations is seeking nearly \$80 million from donor nations for an emergency operation to remove a million barrels of crude oil from a tanker anchored off the coast of war-ravaged Yemen and avert a catastrophic oil spill in the Red Sea.

FSO Safer is a 45-year-old vessel that was sold to Yemen in the 1980s and has been used as a floating oil storage platform. It has 1.1 million barrels of crude oil on board.

Since 2015 the tanker has been moored off the Yemeni port city of Hodeida — held by Houthi rebels — without being serviced.

UN warns of ecological 'time bomb'

David Gressly, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, said on Friday that the tanker is "a time bomb" because a major oil spill "would unleash a massive ecological and humanitarian catastrophe centered on a country already decimated by



more than seven years of war."

"Without funding over the next six weeks or so the project will not begin on time, and this time bomb will continue to tick," he added.

There are fears that the tanker could explode or leak causing a major environmental disaster in the Red Sea and beyond.

Following years of talks, the

United Nations and Yemen's Houthi rebels signed off on a memorandum of understanding in March this year, authorizing a four-month emergency operation to tackle the immediate risk which involves transferring oil on the Safer tanker to another vessel.

The MOU, in the long term, urges replacing the tanker with another vessel within 18 months. **bw**

TAX EVASION

British finance minister's wife Akshata Murthy rejects charges of tax evasion

LONDON: After reports of her non-domicile status and alleged tax evasion, Akshata Murthy, the wife of British finance minister Rishi Sunak, claimed that she has been paying all taxes.

Her spokesperson said that Akshata Murthy "has always and will continue to pay UK taxes on all her UK income". The clarification came amid reports that Akshata Murthy holds a non-domicile status and has evaded paying taxes on her UK income as recently as April 2020, when her husband was already Chancellor of the Exchequer, reported SKY News.

Indian-born Murthy is the daughter of Narayana Murthy, the billionaire co-founder of tech giant Infosys and has a 0.9 per cent stake in the company worth hundreds of millions of pounds according to its latest annual report.

Her spokeswoman said: "Akshata Murthy is a citizen of India,



the country of her birth and parent's home". She also stated that India does not allow its citizens to hold the citizenship of another country simultaneously.

"So, according to British law, Ms Murthy is treated as non-domiciled for UK tax purposes. She has always and will continue to pay UK taxes on all her UK income," clarified the spokeswoman.

The revelations have also taken

a political turn as the UK opposition party is asking the Chancellor to clear the air amid intensified allegations against his wife.

The opposition Labour Party in the UK asked Sunak to explain the allegation of tax evasion. Labour's shadow economic secretary to the Treasury, Tulip Siddiq, said, "Rishi Sunak must now urgently explain how much he and his family have saved on their own tax bill while he at the same time was adding on to tax burdens of millions of working families, reported the news channel.

The Liberal Democrats added that the Chancellor "needs to come clean about which country his family pays tax in abroad and if it is a tax haven".

According to a poll, the Chancellor's popularity had plunged taking his popularity below that of Sir Keir (Labour Party Leader) for the first time. **ANI**



اسم يمكنك الوثوق به | A name you can trust

THIS RAMADAN, SHARE THE GOODNESS OF A'SAFFA

The best meals are those shared with loved ones. This Ramadan, let us help you share the joy of wholesome, delicious meals with your family and friends by choosing our range of healthy chicken products. May each of you have a happy, safe, and blessed Ramadan.

Share the joy with Oman's #1 choice.

#ShareTheJoy





SPORTS



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



GUILTY

Boris Becker found guilty of four charges after bankruptcy trial

LONDON: Retired German tennis star and three times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker was found guilty of four charges under the Insolvency Act related to his 2017 bankruptcy on Friday.

The 54-year-old German was accused of hiding millions of pounds worth of property, including two Wimbledon trophies, to avoid paying his debts. A London court found him guilty of removal of the property, two charges of failing to disclose property and hiding debt.

He was acquitted on a further 20 counts. According to Sky Sports, the six-time grand slam winner was declared bankrupt in 2017, over an unpaid loan of more than £3 million on his property in Mal-

lorca, Spain. He also allegedly failed to disclose two German properties, as well as his flat in London.

The former world number one, who was acquitted of 20 counts, was bailed ahead of sentencing at the Southwark Crown Court on April 29.

Becker was 17-year-old when he stunned the tennis world by claiming his first Wimbledon title in 1985 to become the youngest men's singles champion. The golden period of his career saw him claim the French Open in 1987, 1989 and 1991, the US Open in 1989 and the Australian Open in 1991. Becker won his last Grand Slam crown in Melbourne in 1996 before retiring on June 25, 1999. **ANI**





We buy cars for Cash



BEST CARS
www.bestcars.om
Call 92822581 92159512

ADVERTISEMENT

DARSAIT

Ramadan softball cricket back at Pakistan School

Times News Service

MUSCAT: For the delight of all cricket lovers in Oman, Pakistan School announces the resumption of Ramadan Soft Ball Night cricket tournament at PSM lush green ground in Darsait.

The tournament is expected to start from 2nd week of April 2022 which is one of the most

sought event in the Muscat cricket calendar.

The entry forms can be collected from Pakistan School with an entry fees of OMR50. All valid resident card holders can play in it. Last date for submission of entries is April 12 at PSM Office Muscat from 8AM till 1PM. The tournament is open to all nationalities in Oman.

'HAND OF GOD' SHIRT

Maradona's daughter claims his 'Hand of God' shirt, up for auction, is 'not the one'

BUENOS AIRES: Football legend Diego Maradona's daughter claimed that her father's 'Hand of God' shirt, which is up for auction, is not the one that the Argentine wore during his infamous goal against England at the 1986 World Cup. The jersey which is up for auction was reportedly worn by the iconic No 10 when he scored his infamous "Hand of God" goal against England at the 1986 FIFA World Cup. England's Steve Hodge became the lucky player who swapped the jersey with the Argentinean great, after the match. The shirt has now been put up for auction by the former Nottingham Forest, Tottenham and Aston Villa midfielder Hodge and is expected to fetch £4 million (USD5m).

But now, Maradona's family have suggested that the shirt worn by the legendary figure during the second half of an iconic fixture in Mexico is actually in the possession of somebody else.

"It's not the shirt my father wore in the second half. I'm sure Hodge doesn't have it, and I know who does. I don't want to say who has it, because that's crazy," Goal.com quoted Diego Maradona's daughter, Dalma as saying.

"It's our word against that ex-players. I don't think he needs the money either unless he auctions it off for a good cause. It would be good if the Argentine Football Association bought it," said Maradona's ex-wife, Claudia Villafane.

Meanwhile, Hodge has said of auctioning the shirt off: "I have been the proud owner of this item for over 35 years since Diego and I swapped shirts in the tunnel after the famed match. It was an absolute privilege to have played against one of the greatest and most magnificent football players of all time."

Diego Maradona passed away on November 25, 2020. He was 60 when he breathed his last. **ANI**

CRICKET

OCT Ruwi, OCT Al Amerat emerge victorious

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Turf 1 of the Oman Cricket Academy played host to a thrilling encounter between OCT Al Hail 'A' and OCT Al Amerat in the All-Omani Tournament on April 8, 2022.

Electing to bat first in their first game of the competition, OCT Al Hail 'A' were bowled out for 112 in 19.2 overs. Opener Faris Said Al Zadjali top-scored for his side with a 22-ball 25. Waleed Rahim Al Balushi, Nadhir Ghulam and Abdul Ghani Al Balushi were the others with notable contributions.

Anaya Allah and Khalid Moosa Al Balushi were OCT Al Amerat's top performers with the ball and combined to pick up 7 wickets. Sulaiman Haider Al Balushi and Nasser Haider Al Balushi claimed the remaining ones.

In response, OCT Al Amerat lost both their openers early, but Ateel Yousuf Al Balushi and Sulaiman Haider Al Balushi steadied the innings with a 32-run partnership. Their dismissals in



back-to-back deliveries of the 10th over very nearly proved terminal to their side's hopes of progressing in the tournament.

However, Rafeeq Mohammed Siyad Al Balushi and Said Haider Al Balushi played mature knocks to keep the contest alive. Their scoring rate was slow, but the pair hung in the middle at a time when any further wickets would have served to derail the run chase completely.

With 9 runs needed off the final over, the first five balls produced 6 but Said Haider turned match-winner in the final delivery, depositing it in the stands to hand OCT Al Amerat a 5-wicket

victory. Rafeeq and Said finished on individual scores of 32 and 22 respectively.

Waleed Rahim Al Balushi was the only bowler for OCT Al Hail 'A' with more than 1 scalp to his name.

On the other ground, OCT Ruwi clinched a much more comfortable victory against OCT Al Mabela. They came out on top by a 71-run margin.

Electing to bat first, OCT Ruwi posted a first innings total of 188/2 - the highest in the tournament till date. That score was powered by the highest individual tally of the tournament - Mohammed Al Balushi's unbeaten

67-ball 91.

Alongside Shuaib Ismail Al Balushi, who made 56 runs himself in the match-defining 115-run partnership, Mohammed took the game away from OCT Al Mabela in brutal fashion.

Nabeel Mohd Boota and Asif Al Balushi accounted for the two wickets that fell over the course of the first innings.

In response, OCT Al Mabela folded for 117 with 2 balls to spare. Opener Zafarullah Al Balushi led the scoring with 34 runs, with Abdullah Al Balushi, Shareef Al Balushi and Asif Al Balushi chipping in with scores of 19, 12 and 12 respectively.

OCT Ruwi were dominant with the ball too, and their star in the second phase of play was undoubtedly Zubair Ali Akabr Al Balushi. He picked up 5 wickets in his 3.4 overs to go with a 23-run first innings cameo. Khalid Pir Baksh Al Balushi, Shuaib Ismail Al Balushi, Wasim Ismail Mohamed Al Balushi and Imran Al Balushi claimed the remaining ones.



DO MORE

FESTIVAL of WINNING

BUY ANY OF MG'S STUNNING 2022 MODELS AND WIN BIG

WIN YOUR CAR BACK EVERY WEEK

SCRATCH & WIN
MOBILE PHONE BUNDLE OR FUEL CARD
— and —
30K UP TO 200K SERVICE PACKAGES

FREE INSURANCE REGISTRATION



Offer valid from 22/3/2022 to 20/5/2022 only for customers buying MG 2022 vehicles from MHD dealership. Free Insurance 1st year (Oman & UAE). Free 1st year Registration. Scratch & Win Service - Customer entitled to win from 30,000 KM up to 200,000 KM Service. Scratch & Win Gift - Customer entitled to win Huawei mobile phone including, Huawei Freebuds 4, and GT3 Watch or Fuel card worth RO. 100. Win your car back is for the vehicle purchased by the customer. There will be a total of 8 draws (1 vehicle each) on 28/3, 4/4, 11/4, 18/4, 25/4, 2/5, 9/5, & 23/5. Images used for illustrative purposes only.

CR No. 1001990



Highlighting the far-reaching financial and societal benefits of integrating sustainable finance into business, Bank Nizwa recently signed its first sustainable finance agreement with Shanfari Special Projects.

Pact inked to establish Oman's first pharma manufacturing facility

The Pen-G fermentation plant will be the first of its kind in the region and has been initially designed to have two blocks for the manufacture of Penicillin-G and 6-APA respectively

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), one of the largest and pioneering business houses in Oman, has signed an agreement with Ali Moosa Al Bulushi, National Bank of Oman (NBO), and Sohar Freezone for the establishment of a first-of-its-kind pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region – Penicillin General Integrated Industrial Company (Pen-G).

Under the agreement, Pen-G will be jointly owned by MHD and Ali Moosa Al Bulushi and will establish a state-of-the-art fermentation plant for the manufacture of key pharmaceutical start-up material at the Sohar Freezone. NBO will be participating as the primary bank through which the project is being financed.

The signing ceremony took place recently at the Pen-G head office in Ghala. Present at the signing ceremony were Ali Moosa Al Bulushi; Mohammed Abdullah Al Kharusi - Chief Executive Officer, MHD; Abdullah Zahran Al Hina.



SIGNING CEREMONY: Ali Moosa Al Bulushi, Mohammed Abdullah Al Kharusi - Chief Executive Officer, MHD; Abdullah Zahran Al Hinal, Chief Executive Officer, National Bank of Oman; and Omar bin Mahmood Al Mahrizi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Freezone and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Port were present at the signing ceremony. Other members of the executive and senior management of each of the four companies also attended the ceremony. - [Supplied picture](#)

Chief Executive Officer, National Bank of Oman; and Omar bin Mahmood Al Mahrizi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Freezone and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Port.

Also in attendance at the event were other members of the executive and senior management of each of the four companies.

Commenting on the project, Mohammed Al Kharusi said, "As of 2020, the global pharmaceutical industry generated revenues of \$1.27 trillion, representing significant growth over the past two decades. Our objective with Pen-G is twofold. First, we would like to officially put Oman on the world map for raw materials for start-up medicine and enter this lucrative industry, and second, we would like to further our goal of establishing ourselves as a key contributor to Oman Vision 2040 and, by extension, to the government's

national diversification efforts. Furthermore, our location at the Sohar Freezone, right next to the largest industrial port in the country, provides us with ready access to global trade routes between Asia and Europe for both acquisition of raw materials as well as export of our product.”

The Pen-G fermentation plant will be the first of its kind in the region and has been initially designed to have two blocks for the manufacture of Penicillin-G and 6-APA (Amino Penicillanic Acid) respectively. These are key start-up materials for the most widely used group of antibiotics, penicillin, and cephalosporins.

There are also plans to eventually add a further block for the manufacture of key start-up materials for Erythromycin. Furthermore, the plant has been designed from the ground up to comply wholly with Good Manufacturing Prac-

tices (GMP) regulations, ensuring all products manufactured are to global standards.

The project was the brainchild of Ali Moosa Al Bulushi, a proven, dynamic, multi-disciplined project director and program manager. He has been a banker for close to two decades before he plunged into the pharmaceutical business, implementing, and providing complete project life-cycle management services for various pharma projects in India and Oman. Commenting on the Pen-G project, he said, "This project is a core part of my constantly evolving dream to build value in Oman in the Pharma sector. Penicillin G represents value addition at the raw material stage of antibiotic medicine manufacturing – an area currently dominated by China. Once completely operational, this plant will cater to the demand for Penicillin GK raw material amounting to nearly 10%

of the world's consumption."

Omar bin Mahmood Al Mahrizi said, "The growth of the Sohara pharma cluster is an important step forward in the development of the Port and Freezone with far-reaching benefits to the local community, both in terms of investment and access to the finished product. This pharma project, the second project after our animal vaccination facility, will add significant value to all three of our objectives. We are confident that the plant operated by Penicillin General Integrated Industrial Company will provide the impetus for further investment in the pharmaceutical industry and the potential for Sohara to become the main hub for the industry in the region."

Abdullah Zahran Al Hinai said, "The pharmaceutical industry has endless potential to transform Oman's national economy and we welcome the first major project

at Sohar. It is a proud moment for the bank to be able to support the development of a new high-growth sector and enable Penicillin General Integrated Industrial Company to move forwards with its pioneering plans. NBO is a firm believer in the power of technology and innovation, and a regular investor in projects which leave a lasting legacy and more importantly impact on the country, its economy, and its people."

“With MHD – one of the foremost business houses in Oman, Sohar Freezone – the largest and most prominent free zone in the country, and NBO – a market-leading bank, I could not ask for better, more experienced partners to bring this dream to life.

"My sincere thanks to each of them and I look forward to a long and fruitful partnership for the foreseeable future," concluded Ali Moosa Al Bulushi.

TOYOTA

THE BIGGEST EXCITEMENT

SERVICE**

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

UP TO **8 YEARS / 80,000 KMS**
(whichever is earlier)

GRAND RAFFLE^

SUPRA

WALK IN & WIN^s

Apple Airpod 2

Laptop

iPhone 13

Apple Watch Series 5

Fuel Card

Apple Watch Series 5

SCRATCH & WIN^u

Campaign Period: 20.03.2022 - 19.05.2022. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance" Cash Gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses Insurance (as applicable), he/she will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. Cash Gift in lieu of insurance can also be used as part of down payment. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only, excluding diesel grades) on 20YM / 19PLT: Yaris HB, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Supra, 20YM / 20PLT: Yaris HB, Yaris SD, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, Auris, Fortuner, Highlander HEV & Hilux 4x2, 21YM / 20PLT: Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4, 21YM / 21PLT: Yaris SD, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4, 22YM / 22PLT: Yaris SD, RAZE, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla Cross, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, CHR, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per Insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. **2 Years / 20,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 2 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on all Toyota models excluding Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Auris (excluding 21YM), Supra, Fortuner, Highlander HEV, Hiace, Granvia and Coaster. **3 Years / 30,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on models RAV4, FJ Cruiser. **4 Years / 40,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 4 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on models RAV4, FJ Cruiser. **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on 21YM LC WGN (LC200) 5.7L. **8 Years / 80,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 8 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all models of 20 YM Corolla 1.8 HEV models. ^ Grand Raffle: 1 unit of 20YM / 19PLT SUPRA as Grand Raffle. The Raffle will be applicable for all Toyota customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. Raffle date 25.05.22. \$ Walk-in & Win Raffle: Raffle of five units of Apple Air Pod 2 and two units of Apple Watch Series 5, for all individual customers who walk-in for enquiry of Toyota vehicle. Raffle date 25.05.22. # Scratch and Win: Every customer who buys a vehicle will be eligible for one Scratch & Win card, gifts include Fuel cards, iPhone 13 128GB, Dell Laptop (3 Pentium, 4GB Ram, 500GB), Apple Watch Series 5. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

Saudi Bahwan Automotive LLC
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED C.R.NO:1703417

Facebook.com/toyotaoman

@toyotamaneofficial

YouTube.com/toyotaoman

www.toyotaoman.com



MARKET



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



Bank Nizwa signs first sustainable finance agreement with SSP

Bank Nizwa’s sustainable finance agreement will play an instrumental role in supporting Shanfari Special Projects (SSP) to source its requirements from Rapiscan, the chosen vendor for the solar-powered integrated inspection facility project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Highlighting the far-reaching financial and societal benefits of integrating sustainable finance into business, Bank Nizwa recently signed its first sustainable finance agreement with Shanfari Special Projects (SSP).

With Hutchison Ports Sohar commencing construction work to develop its new solar-powered integrated inspection facility, SSP was trusted with the responsibility of installing the scanning equipment for the project.

Bank Nizwa’s sustainable finance agreement will play an instrumental role in supporting SSP to source its requirements from Rapiscan, the chosen vendor for the project.

The agreement was signed by Khalid Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa and Sheikh Nizar Al Shanfari, Chairman of SSP in presence of R. Narasimhan, General Manager Wholesale at Bank Nizwa and Khalid Al Barwani, Deputy General Manager Wholesale Banking

among other senior officials.

An integral component of the project is the installation of a solar energy system on the new infrastructure, the existing buildings, and the car parking areas. This will be done to supplement the power requirements and will result in the reduction of approximately 5,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. This is a significant step towards achieving the sustainable development goals of the country.

“As a sister company of the Shanfari Group of Companies, SSP has been a significant contributor to the nation’s goals and mirrors values that are quite similar to ours. We are indeed delighted to join hands with such a reputable company to promote the logistics sector through sustainable financing solutions. The project’s green concept of supplementing its energy requirements through renewable, clean sources of energy is in line with Oman Vision 2040. As such, Bank Nizwa is deeply invested in its success,” said Khaled Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa. “With



COLLABORATION: The agreement was signed by Khalid Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa and Sheikh Nizar Al Shanfari, Chairman of SSP in presence of R. Narasimhan, General Manager Wholesale at Bank Nizwa and Khalid Al Barwani, Deputy General Manager Wholesale Banking among other senior officials. - Supplied picture

the country’s renewed commitment to achieving net-zero emissions and the continuous endeavours to foster a green and circular economy, sustainable financing is gaining increasing traction in the market. As a Sharia-compliant bank that places immense importance on inclusivity, ethicality, and transparency, Bank Nizwa has remained ahead of the curve to spearhead sustainable finance initiatives in the country.”

Embracing the latest advancements in innovation and container scanning capabilities, the modern inspection facility, valued at \$30 million, will be a part of the terminal development plans to enhance the inspection services for inbound and outbound containers and provide transformational clearing

processes. The project will facilitate the quicker clearance of both normal and refrigerated containers and aid in the express movement of goods. This will also boost Oman’s ranking in the Logistics Performance Index while contributing to the ongoing development of the national economy.

Sharing his comments, Sheikh Nizar Al Shanfari, said, “At SSP, we endeavour to be able to offer exceptional service, dependability and quality to our customers around the world. Our projects exemplify this commitment and we continue to move forward with conviction to deliver modern-day solutions that support the environmental, and sustainability goals of the Sultanate. We are thankful to Bank Nizwa for supporting us in this journey as

we aim to emerge as one of Oman’s largest industrial and services conglomerates, and a valuable contributor to the development of the nation’s infrastructure.”

The scanning systems supplied by SSP are ideally suited to help customers fight trade fraud and drug smuggling and to combat terrorism. High-quality X-ray imaging creates detailed images of dense and cluttered cargo to increase the efficiency of scanning operations. The screening system is high penetration and high wire resolution resulting in clear images that provide deep insight into the contents of cargo containers. The scanners are a high-energy X-ray, drive-through portal cargo inspection system for fast, accurate and efficient cargo screening.

Its ability to rapidly scan trucks supports inspection at critical facilities, seaports and border crossings. The X-ray beam is automatically activated after the truck cab passes through the portal so that the occupants are not exposed to an unsafe dose of radiation.

Bank Nizwa’s involvement in this project is a testament to its commitment to achieving the goals outlined in the Sultanate of Oman’s Logistics Strategy (SOLS) 2040. It also cements its position as a leading Islamic bank that contributes to the local sustainability ecosystem. Through partnerships like these, the bank will continue to extend its support to key national projects and aid in the socio-economic development of the country.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Recovery in air travel is gathering steam: IATA

GENEVA: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that air travel posted a strong rebound in February 2022 compared to January 2022, as Omicron-related impacts moderated outside of Asia.

Total traffic in February 2022 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) was up 115.9 per cent compared to February 2021. That is an improvement from January 2022, which was up 83.1 per cent compared to January 2021. Compared to February 2019, however, traffic was down 45.5 per cent.

February 2022 domestic traffic was up 60.7 per cent compared to the year-ago period, building on a 42.6 per cent increase in January 2022 compared to Jan-



uary 2021. There was wide variation in markets tracked by IATA. Domestic traffic in February was 21.8 per cent below the volumes of February 2019.

Middle Eastern airlines’ traf-

fic rose 215.3 per cent in February compared to February 2021, well up compared to the 145.0 per cent increase in January 2022, versus the same month in 2021. February capacity rose 89.5 per cent versus

the year-ago period, and load factor climbed 25.8 percentage points to 64.7 per cent.

International RPKs rose 256.8 per cent versus February 2021, improving from a 165.5 per cent year-over-year increase in January 2022 versus the year-earlier period. All regions improved their performance compared to the prior month. February 2022 international RPKs were down 59.6 per cent compared to the same month in 2019.

“The recovery in air travel is gathering steam as governments in many parts of the world lift travel restrictions. States that persist in attempting to lock out the disease, rather than managing it, as we do with other diseases, risk missing

out on the enormous economic and societal benefits that restoration of international connectivity will bring,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director-General.

“As the long-awaited recovery in air travel accelerates, it is important that our infrastructure providers are prepared for a huge increase in passenger numbers in the coming months. The peak Northern summer travel season will be critical for jobs throughout the travel and tourism value chain. Now is the time to prepare. Governments can help by ensuring that border positions are staffed adequately and that background security checks for new staff are managed as efficiently as possible,” said Walsh. -WAM

DATA

India’s exports rise by 37.57%

NEW DELHI: India’s exports surged to \$9.32 billion in the first week of this month, posting year-on-year growth of 37.57 per cent, the government data showed on Friday.

Export excluding Petroleum, has increased in this period by 24.32 per cent over same period of 2020-21 and up by 392.46 per cent over same period of 2019-20. The value of Import during 1st week of April is rose to \$10.54 billion, increased by 8.29 per cent over the same period of 2020-21 (\$9.73 billion) and up by 275.53 per cent over same period of 2019-20 (\$2.81 billion), as per data available with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. -ANI



oman OASIS
SOURCED DIRECTLY FROM THE SOURCE

Ramadan & Eid Offer

40 REFILL COUPONS
• Hot & Cold Dispenser
• 2 Full Bottles

RD 50 ONLY

15 REFILL COUPONS
• White Tap Dispenser/ Tap Dispenser/ Manual Water Pump/ Cradle with Tap
• 2 Full Bottles

RD 20 ONLY

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

OASIS WATER COMPANY SAOC
P.O.Box: 87, Rusayl 124, Sultanate of Oman.

Offer valid from 1st April to 30th June 2022

MM No.: 07/302/2022 C.R.No.: 1365452



GROCERY SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Shahi Foods and Spices opens Oman’s first buy and mill food mart in Sohar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Shahi Foods and Spices has recently launched its flagship food mart - ‘Mashhoor’ in Sohar, under the auspices of Shaikh Saif bin Muhanna bin Said al Hinai, Wali of Sohar.

The store is Oman’s first buy and mill food mart that aims to elevate the grocery shopping experience in the country.

Located centrally near the Sohar Intersection, and spread over an area of 500-square-metre, Mashhoor is the result of Shahi’s continued efforts to improve customer experience in the arena of food and spices. The main factor that differentiates the food mart from others is the in-house custom milling and roasting facility.

Customers can choose from a range of top-grade Whole Spices and Whole Grains sourced by Shahi from across the world and get it milled according to their preferred consistency. Mashhoor is equipped with the latest, top of the class milling technology that has water-cooled grinders to ensure zero per cent loss in flavour and nutrients, enabling customers to get the perfect blend with its authentic aroma intact. Customers can also blend spices and grains as per their requirements.

Shahi has the Middle East’s largest coffee processing facility and produces the best kahwa blends in the region. At Mashhoor,



coffee aficionados can custom roast and blend their favourite coffee. Choose from the range of top-grade coffee beans sourced by Shahi from major coffee-producing countries in the world.

The store provides some of the best blends of coffee by Shahi, moreover, the beans can be roasted to the customer’s preference - light roast, dark roast, extra dark roast, fine powder or coarse powder. And get it blended with spices like cardamom, saffron, cloves, and cinnamon.

Mashhoor also stores the whole range of Shahi products - spices, pulses, lentils, nuts, dates and dried fruits - premium quality meats and poultry products, confectioneries, beverages and other general grocery items.

Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of the store, Ibrahim

Mohammed Nasar Al Rawahi, the Chairman of Shahi Foods and Spices mentioned, “We’re incredibly proud that the quality of our products and trust in our brand has culminated in the opening of our flagship mart ‘Mashhoor’ in Sohar. Alongside fresh produce and everyday grocery items, it is the store’s custom grinding and roasting facilities that are going to provide an elevated experience to those residing and working in the Sohar vicinity. A boon to have in any neighbourhood, ‘Mashhoor’s’ focus is and will continue to be to maintain a wholesome reputation like our leading food and spice brand Shahi.”

Mohammed Ashraf Mulamparambil, the managing director of Shahi Foods and Spices elucidated: “In continuing the legacy of our brand Shahi, ‘Mashhoor’ aims

to expand further in the coming years, bringing those residing and working in the Sohar community and adjoining areas the goodness of fresh grocery essentials conveniently via the store. One of ‘Mashhoor’s’ biggest unique selling propositions is our brand Shahi itself. Every product goes through rigorous quality control in our state of the art in-house laboratory. Shahi is the only company in this sector that has a fully-equipped quality control facility. I oversee procurement to ensure that every product that enters our factory is brought from the best sources. When one opens any Shahi product, one finds a distinctively fresh aroma and texture, as every item under the umbrella has been freshly roasted, milled, pounded and packaged.”

A flagship retail outlet from the house of Shahi Foods & Spices, ‘Mashhoor’ is the brainchild of Mohammed Ashraf Mulamparambil and Ibrahim Al Rawahi. Founded in 1986, Shahi Foods & Spices has a legacy spanning over 35 years and is Oman’s leading brand in the categories of pulses, lentils, spices, nuts, dry fruits and Arabic coffee. Through the launch of ‘Mashhoor’, it is the company’s mission to uplift the sultanate’s shopping experience in the fresh spice, coffee, wheat and grocery industry in particular, while enhancing the overall customer experience in general.

LIFESTYLE

VIRTUAL COOKING CLASSES CAN IMPROVE CHILDREN'S NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE

Amid parental concerns regarding poor nutrition and lack of cooking skills among youth in Flint, Michigan, a team of local dietitians, chefs, and researchers in the US created Flint Families Cook during the COVID-19 pandemic, a programme for families with children ages 8-18 years old, delivered virtually to children and families in their homes.

The findings of the study were published in the 'Journal of Nutrition Education and Behaviour'.

The Flint Families Cook has demonstrated success in reaching youth from families with low income and improving self-efficacy, nutrition knowledge and self-efficacy for consuming fruits and vegetables among young participants.

It has encouraged families to cook healthy meals together at home, using local ingredients. Through 7.5 hours of live, virtual instruction over five consecutive weeks, children and families have learnt proper techniques for using knives, measuring, sauteing, roasting and baking from a chef, while dietitians have focused on nutrition and health benefits of specific food groups and nutrients.



"One very important part of the class that is happening because of the virtual platform is that families are participating in the classes together as opposed to children participating in the class individually, apart from their family. We started to see parents becoming much more involved in the education and sitting at the table once the meals were prepared for a family dinner," said Amy Saxe-Custack, PhD, MPH, RD, Department of Paediatrics and Human Development, Division of Public Health, Michigan State University-Hurley Children's Hospital Paediatric Public Health Initiative, Flint, MI, USA.

The family-based, virtual format has directly engaged families in cooking healthy meals together and expands the programme's reach to entire households, as well as extended family and friends.

In addition to holding a growing waitlist of eager families, Flint Families Cook has also addressed challenges with preparing and consuming healthy foods at home. Such programming was feasible and attractive to communities with similar concerns about child nutrition. - AMI



IN PICTURES





Scenery of paddy fields in south China's Guangxi

Aerial picture shows the scenery of a planting base of selenium-rich rice in Longkou Village of Dahua Yao Autonomous County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **Xinhua**



US launches first private astronaut mission to space station

A SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket carrying the Crew Dragon spacecraft is launched at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, the United States. NASA, Axiom Space, and SpaceX launched a first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station on Friday. **Xinhua**



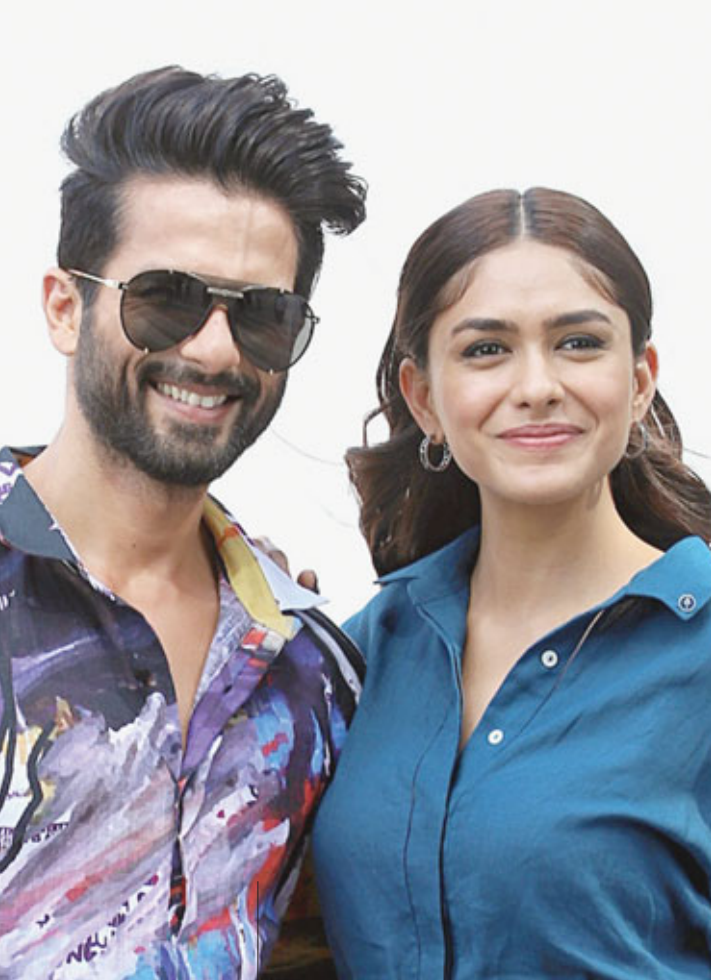
People visit Romics in Italy

People visit Romics, a four-day international festival of comics, animation and games in Rome, Italy. **Xinhua**



New Zealanders tighten purse strings amid rising inflation

People shop at a supermarket in Wellington, New Zealand. **Xinhua**



Shahid Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur at the promotion of their upcoming film 'Jersey'

Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor and actress Mrunal Thakur pose for a photo during the promotion of their upcoming film 'Jersey', at Le Meridien, in New Delhi. **ANI Photo**



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

ROUND-UP



Unbeatable Ramadan offers from Mitsubishi

GAC will be offering its customers a wide range of benefits that include cash gifts of up to OMR3,762, 0% financing for up to two years, free insurance, free registration and more

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has announced the launch of its highly anticipated Ramadan offer. This year, GAC will be offering its customers a wide range of benefits that include cash gifts of up to OMR 3,762, 0% financing for up to two years, free insurance, free registration and more.



Commenting on the new Ramadan Offer, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, "As with every year prior we have carefully developed this year's promotion to offer our customers exceptional value. As a result, this year's Ramadan offer truly stands out as one of the most exciting and is guaranteed to take ownership of any new Mitsubishi a particularly rewarding experience regardless of the model you select."

Customers who purchase any Mitsubishi during the Ramadan Offer period, before it ends on 31 May 2022, will enjoy a range of benefits including cash gifts ranging from a minimum of OMR1,438 up to OMR 3,762 and 0% interest financing for up to two years. All vehicles sold will also include free registration and free Insurance for the first year; free Llummar window tint, and a 2-year/30,000km free service package. All vehicles will also come with six years/unlimited kilometres warranty and roadside assistance.

"As a bonus, Mitsubishi fans will have an opportunity to see the highly anticipated all-new Outlander in person at our showroom in Muscat for the entire duration of the promotion. Interested buyers can even place their name on the pre-order list if they are interested," added Manoj Ranade.

CULINARY INSPIRATION

Grand Millennium Muscat brings home inspired Iftar offerings

MUSCAT: Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is upon us and is observed by Muslims worldwide with fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Iftar as a form of social gathering amongst families and friends is frequent, where traditional dishes are served, particularly those made only during Ramadan. Looking forward to this month with pride and delight are our Omani Chefs in Taybat Restaurant. Drawing culinary inspirations from their very own experience as youngsters where they look forward to every Iftar preparation of their respective "Ummahat" or mothers in English. The centrally located Grand Millennium has been a preferred Iftar venue for staying true to its food offerings. Bringing you home



inspired dishes, Taybat restaurant will showcase the best array of food and your all-time favourites including an Ouzi live station with dry fruits and oriental rice. Priced at OMR 18 per person with a special discount for groups of 10. For every 9 paying guests, 1 person will be complimentary. More reasons to be part of this Iftar as you stand a chance to win some amazing raffle draw prizes. The daily winner will get a complimentary 1 night's stay in a Classic room with Suhur or Breakfast for two adults. Weekend Winner will

take away the mega prize of a private villa with a pool with Suhur or Breakfast for two adults. Luca Medda, Cluster General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat and Millennium Executive Apartments, says, "Taybat Restaurant, from the time we opened the hotel, has been focused on offering an excellent dining experience. From high-quality food offerings to providing a memorable level of service. "This year is no different from previous years as we carry that traditional spirit in offering the community a genuine gastronomical journey. Our focus has always been on the guest experience, and our colleagues are the driving force in ensuring our guests are delighted while maintaining the cuisine's authenticity."

PROMOTION

Scratch and Win Kia Cerato this Ramadan

MUSCAT: Own a Kia Cerato and get a rewarding opportunity to scratch and win 2 Kia at one time. Additional scratch & win prizes include Win your purchased Kia back, Win all-new Sportage, Win up to 20 per cent on display price, Win periodic service up to 100,000 km and VAT is on us. The campaign is valid until 1 May. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Kia showroom for details.) Eye-catching from any angle, the Cerato Supreme utilises full LED headlights which appear as slender lines with the radiator grille to underline the redesigning of the face of the model, defining the car's sporty exterior. At the rear, strong horizontal lines add a bold appearance with depth to the fluid exterior design. Take the wheel of the stylish new Kia Cerato and start your day feeling invigorated, relaxed and capable of anything with a powerful 150 HP 2.0L Euro 4 engine that is paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission. The Cerato is also available with 1.6L, 126 HP Euro 4



engine which is paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission. Inside, the Cerato exhibits modern simplicity and practical luxury with a range of features that include a high-resolution 8-inch display screen and a 4.2-inch colour TFT LCD cluster for an improved, convenient driving experience. The model also features rear AC vents, Alloy Pedal, Paddle Shifter, Power Sunroof, Remote Engine Start, providing advanced solutions to everyday inconveniences. As a key priority in its design, the Cerato's Advanced Safety technologies satisfy the need for both safety and convenience with best-in-class features to support drivers in life. The latest model incorporates its new Electronic Parking Brake and Auto Hold braking systems to support secure parking. Equipped with Electronic Stability Program, Anti-Lock brake System, Driver & Front Passenger Airbags, Rear Parking Assist System, Tyre Pressure Monitoring System and more to ensure a smooth driving experience on the road.

HOLY MONTH



Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah unveils magical dining experiences

MUSCAT: Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, Muscat welcomes the holy month of Ramadan with traditional Iftar and Suhour dining experiences, paired with an elaborate traditional setup to mark the blessed and generous season.

Sumptuous Iftar buffet at Al Tanoor Located in the Al Bandar hotel wing, Al Tanoor restaurant is serving a delicious Iftar buffet, offering the best of traditional Ramadan delicacies inspired by local, regional, and international cuisines, from Maghrib prayer onwards. Available after sundown until 10:30 pm daily, Iftar is priced at OMR 20 net per person. The extensive buffet spread will showcase hot and cold mezze, Omani specials, a variety of regional dishes, mixed grill, and classic desserts, along with traditional Ramadan beverages and live entertainment.

Layalina Tent and Lounge Set on the resort's private beach, "Layalina Tent & Lounge" extends unforgettable Suhour experiences to guests and residents of Muscat who can enjoy a relaxed elegant, air-conditioned ambience, or a captivating setting by the outdoor lounge. Layalina presents an à la carte selection of local delights, hot and cold mezze, traditional Ramadan juices and sumptuous grilled food to the sounds of traditional Arabic artists. Open daily from 8pm until 2am, Layalina Tent & Lounge is available for a minimum spend of OMR10 per person.

Ramadan at Home by Shangri-La Guests can also experience Ramadan at Home by Shangri-La with a sumptuous family and friends iftar featuring a bespoke menu where guests can choose one

selection of main: Omani Lamb Shuwa, Lamb Ouzi, Persian Grill or Saffron Turkey Biryani – all accompanied by a variety of Ramadan delights along with a selection of hot and cold mezze and more, all served family-style for sharing for OMR 87, serving up to 6 people. Pickup and delivery options are available. During the holy month of Ramadan, Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah will be unlocking the all-new rewards programme Shangri-La Circle, with a host of new and enhanced offerings for guests and Muscat residents. A transformation of the award-winning Golden Circle loyalty programme, Shangri-La Circle is officially launching in April 2022 as an aspirational travel lifestyle platform that connects all of Shangri-La's brands, hotels and restaurants all around the world. In keeping with the Ramadan spirit of giving and sharing, all guests dining at Al Tanoor for Iftar and in Layalina Tent and Lounge for Suhour will stand a chance to be amongst more than 10 winners every week including stays at Jeddah's newest luxury landmark along the waterfront; Shangri-La Jeddah in addition to Shangri-La Dubai, Oman Air Return Tickets from Muscat to Dubai and a Grand Prize of 75,000 Shangri-La Circle Points (Worth 7 nights at Shangri-La Al Husn, Muscat). With several private venues across the resort, a variety of options are also available to groups wishing to experience the Holy Month with their families and colleagues and business partners including Barr Al Jissah Ballroom, Al Tanoor Restaurant or Layalina Tent and Lounge. Ramadan offers are available for groups of 12 guests and above at prices starting from OMR 18 net per person.

JEWELLERY

Gold rate protection with 10% advance at Joyalukkas

MUSCAT: World's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas is offering its patrons a golden offer to protect them from the fluctuating gold prices. Customers can now pay just a 10% advance and get assured gold rate protection at all Joyalukkas showrooms. This exclusive offer enables patrons to get assured rate protection in case gold rates increase. Moreover, if gold prices drop, they can enjoy the lower rates as well. This attractive scheme is to provide customers peace of mind and the convenience to shop for gold jewellery without worrying about the gold price. Announcing the offer, John Paul Alukkas, Managing Director -International Operations Joyalukkas Group, quoted, "We are always delighted to present our customers with the finest of offers and experience. "To make shopping exciting and rewarding for our customers, we are pleased to offer them this exclusive offer. "Customers can get assured gold rate protection till the scheme end by paying only a 10% advance. You can avail this scheme across all the Joyalukkas showrooms of international operation still May 7."



LONDON لندن

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

حان الوقت لنلتقي مجددا
TIME TO MEET AGAIN

 TURKISH AIRLINES



WASHINGTON واشنطن



ROUND-UP



Attractive Ramadan promotional offers on Changan range of vehicles

The ‘Driving Forward This Ramadan’ offer is available on models including CS95, CS75 Plus, CS85 Coupe, CS35 Plus, EADO Plus, Alsvin and Hunter



MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), part of Bahwan International Group, has announced an attractive offer on a range of Changan model variants and its part of its exclusive Ramadan promotion to mark the holy month.

The ‘Driving Forward This Ramadan’ offer is available on models including CS95 (2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 6-speed AT, 4 WD, seven seater) CS75 Plus (2.0 L Turbo Engine, 220 hp, 8 speed AT); CS85 Coupe (2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 8 sped AT); CS35 Plus (1.4 Turbo, 155hp) EADO Plus (1.4 Turbo, 155hp and 1.6L Engine, 116 hp) and Alsvin (1.5L Engine, 105 hp), Hunter.

The Ramadan offer which the customers can avail during the period includes free service (2years/35,000 km to 3 years/55,000 km), free insurance, free registration, Manufacturer’s warranty (6 years/2,50,000 kms) and assured fuel card to all customers buying Changan model variants in addition customer purchasing CS95 4WD, CS85Coupe and CS75 Plus will get exclusive gift of Apple Watch 41mm 7 series till May 20, 2022 and this special Ramadan promotion is exclusively designed for individual showroom customers not applicable for Fleet /Corporate buyers.

A senior official for AGAE said, “We would like to underline that the Holy Month of Ramadan is the best time to buy Changan vehicles and retail customers stand to benefit enormously from the Rama-

dan promotion. We would like to appreciate our valued customers for their trust in the brand through this special scheme. We are happy to offer the best for our customers.”

All customers purchasing Changan vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for free 1st year Vehicle registration for private registration only. (Yellow Plate). All customers purchasing Changan models during this Scheme period will be eligible for free 1st year vehicle Insurance. (Oman & UAE) for private registration only. Assured Free Service Package (Periodic Maintenance Service Only)

All Changan vehicles purchase customers will get Free Service package as mentioned below, in which no wear & tear parts covered. Service proposed are Periodic Maintenance Service as per manufacturers recommendation 10,000 km Service Intervals.

Customer Purchasing Changan ALSVIN model variants to get assured 2years or 35,000 km service. (Periodic Maintenance Service Only). Customer Purchasing Changan EADO PLUS, CS35PLUS, CS75 PLUS , CS85 COUPE, CS95 4WD and Hunter Pickup model variants to get assured 3 years or 55,000 km service. (Periodic Maintenance Service Only).

Assured Free Gift on every purchase: (Fuel Card worth OMR50)

Assured Gift: OMR 50 Fuel Card on all Changan vehicles model/variant purchase.

Exclusive Gift on Changan CS75 PLUS/CS85/CS95-7seater every

purchase: Apple I-watch. During the above said Ramadan offer period – Exclusive gift (Apple I-watch 41mm, 7 series) is been offered to CS75 PLUS, CS85 COUPE & CS95 4WD-7seater vehicle purchaser.

All customers purchasing Changan Range of Passenger Cars, Crossover and SUV vehicles will be eligible for 6 years /250,000 kilometres Manufacturer’s Warranty and 5 years or 150,000 km for Hunter pickup only on 2022 model year model variants.

CS95: Seven-seat 4WD SUV

Changan’s high-performance full-size SUV CS95 is a seven-seater SUV 4WD which amplifies driving experience with sophisticated luxury and superior comfort has been designed to stir the driving emotions. With a commanding presence and muscular stance, Changan CS95 is designed to demand attention wherever it goes. With meticulously crafted details complemented by convenient technology, the CS95 ensures refined luxury in every drive for up to seven passengers.

With a range of innovative driving technologies, the CS95 delivers an assured sense of confidence and control to the driver. Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides owners with a highly efficient and energy saving performance. Under the hood is a Blue Core 2.0L turbocharged engine mated with a six speed AT which produces a 233 horsepower and a 360 Nm of torque. CS95 is

packed with endless features and has numerous advantages over its segment competition.

Changan CS85 Coupe

Changan CS85, the luxurious crossover coupe combines the dynamic handling of an SUV with the sporty aesthetics of a coupe to give owners the best of both worlds. Packed with a 2.0L turbocharged engine which produces 233 horses and 360 Nm of torque, an 8 speed AT Changan CS85 Coupe redefines the definition of smoothness. Positioned as a premium coupe SUV, the model stands out from its counterparts by its sleek appearance, focus on the high quality and application of latest technology in the vehicle’s many features. Changan CS85 Coupe is a sporty coupe designed SUV which reflects one’s personality. Style and fashion will be the new constant in your life once you own this sporty coupe. Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides highly efficient and energy saving performance.

Changan CS75 Plus

With its premium design, comfortable automotive interior, and highly intelligent configuration, the compact crossover Changan CS75 Plus which comes in luxury and sport variants offers a host of special features.

The Changan CS75 Plus 2WD features a more sloped roofline and more power. Under the hood, it has a 2.0-litre turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, mated to an 8-speed

automatic transmission with a power of 224 hp and torque of 360 Nm. With a wheelbase of 2710 mm, and it measures 4700 mm in length, 1865 mm in width and 1710 mm in height.

Changan CS35 Plus

Changan’s CS35 Plus, a sporty new-gen crossover equipped with state-of-the-art technologies is popular for its unparalleled driving experience. Energetic like the youth, it is packed with a 1.4 litre Turbo charged engine which produces 156 hp and 260 nm of torque and fitted with a seven-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) to always keep you ahead of the segment competition.

CS35 Plus possesses fashionable appearance, strong power and good entertaining features. Developed by the global research and development team of Changan Automobile, it integrates all comprehensive functions: high-quality performance, comfortable driving experience, large internal space and abundant configurations of entertainments. Vibrant in style and sporty in design, the All-new CS35 Plus gives a robust presence on the outside while the beautifully crafted interiors gives a first-class feel inside. It’s vibrant and energy filled design appeals to the youth and tech savvy. It is a youthful SUV for younger generation who are spirited, passionate, social and want to become the influencers of their time.

Changan EADO Plus

Changan EADO Plus is a compact yet aggressive family sedan with premium styling, luxurious interior, and plenty of safety features. With intelligent safety features to assist, EADO Plus lets drivers be at peace when on the road. Taking from the inherent design language, EADO Plus ups the ante with a crisply styled exterior that emphasises a strong sense of sportiness. With an engine of 1.4 Turbo, the Changan EADO Plus sport edition offers power of 155 hp, Nm torque and transmission of 7 speed DCT. The model offers a dimension of 4730x1820x1505 mm (LxWxH), a wheelbase of 2700 mm, fuel tank of 53 litres and excellent fuel economy of 18.3 km per litre as per GSO. Also EADO PLUS available in 1.6

litre engine coupled with CVT.

Changan Alsvin

Bearing a streamlined body design, exquisite interior design, and impeccable energy-efficient engine, the Changan Alsvin allows owners to exceed their everyday expectations. The 1.5L 5-speed dual clutch automatic transmission car truly brings unparalleled value to customers and offers an excellent fuel economy of 18.3 km per litre. Changan Alsvin brings features and technology to the customers in the segment that they could previously only have dreamt of. The additional features offered in the 1.5L DCT are comparable to the highest price of comparable alternate cars in this segment such as moon roof, cruise control, TPMS, start-stop technology and heated side mirrors. Measuring 4390mm x 1725mm x 1490mm, Changan Alsvin’s boot capacity is an adequate 390 litres. Styling is contemporary for this entry level four-door segment with sleek and swoopy lines. Alsvin’s front end is dominated by a large grille that extends below the bumper line and its interior is modern with a dashboard that features a floating infotainment touch screen that is much in demand now. The Changan Alsvin with a 1.5-liter inline-4 motor engine puts out 105hp and 145Nm of torque.

Changan Hunter: Pickup

Equipped with safety features and modern driving systems, Changan Hunter pick-up with two engine variants – 2.4 turbo gasoline (available in manual and automatic transmission) and 1.9 turbo diesel engine (manual transmission) ensures great performance. One of the greatest facet of the Changan Hunter is its pick-up capabilities and usage. Being a heavy-duty pickup for loading, it is sturdy, spacious and of high quality, and is suitable for various load and road conditions. Boasting of class leading power and excellent ground clearance, it delivers an unmatched level of supremacy and capability especially for the farm and construction sector. Offering excellent seating comfort, SUV like interiors and manifold features, Changan Hunter ensures a pleasurable and comfortable drive for the passengers.

JOYOUS OCCASION

W Muscat celebrates its 3rd birthday by embracing spirit of Ramadan

MUSCAT: A hotel that embodies a truly bold, vibrant, and unique design and is revered for mirroring the country’s keen sense of hospitality, the W Muscat has proven its excellence in all areas of operation, embraced customer-centricity, and demonstrated a strong business ethos.

Setting a new milestone in its success story, the hotel is now celebrating its third birthday in style. To express gratitude to its guests for their unfaltering patronage over the past three years while simultaneously keeping with the spirit of Ramadan, the hotel is conducting an exclusive Ramadan raffle in an endeavour to share the joy and spread the goodwill that makes up the essence of the holy month. All diners who have enjoyed the Iftar buffet at Harvest stand a chance to win in the Ramadan raffle.

Gerald Chevasson, General Manager at W Muscat said, “We are delighted to announce that we now complete three years in this beautiful country. During this time, we have been able to win the



trust, loyalty, and most importantly, the hearts of our guests, which is the greatest reward for an establishment. On this joyous occasion, the Ramadan raffle is our way of saying thank you to our guests and ensuring that they take centre stage as we make more memories and celebrate three years of show up, show off, show stop.”

All through Ramadan, W Muscat is hosting a lavish open-air Iftar buffet at Harvest. Priced at OMR 18++ per person, the spread is guaranteed to satiate the crav-

ings of even the most discerning diners. Keeping in mind the preferences of its varied diners, the hotel is also hosting a Suhoor experience at Meduse lounge and an evening of a la carte Suhoor fare at Mezze & More.

With sweeping views of the ocean that mingle effortlessly with the lush greens of immaculately manicured lawns and the azure blues of its sparkling pool, W Muscat provides a captivating experience to guests while assuring them of supreme levels of service.

BANK MUSCAT

Asalah referral scheme offers up to OMR2,000 to Priority Banking customers

MUSCAT: In line with the bank’s vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has launched its special Asalah referral scheme for 2022.

The scheme will run till 31 December 2022, and offers attractive prizes to existing Asalah Priority Banking Customers.

All that they have to do is successfully refer new customers to Asalah Priority Banking.

A reward of OMR 100 per successful referral will be paid out for each referral once the referred customer meets all eligibility criteria for a minimum of three months after opening an Asalah account with the bank. Existing customers can win up to OMR 2,000 by making up to 20 successful referrals during the year.

Customers having a monthly salary of OMR 5,000 or those who can maintain a savings deposit of OMR 30,000 are eligible for Asalah Priority Banking. To provide referrals, the refer-



ral form available on the bank’s website should be filled up and emailed to AsalahReferral@bankmuscat.com.

The salary/deposit transfer of the referral should be credited within a maximum of 30 days from the date of referral, for the referral to be eligible for participation in the scheme. Cash rewards of OMR 100 each will be credited directly to both the referrer’s and referee’s account for maintaining the eligibility criteria during the 3-month review period.

Speaking about the scheme, Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Deputy

General Manager – Customer Segments, said: “As a prolific innovator of banking products and services in the Sultanate, “Bank Muscat has always been customer-centric bank. We are very happy to once again offer guaranteed rewards for successful referrals and encourage all existing Asalah Priority Banking customers to use this offer and win great rewards.”

Asalah customers enjoy a range of unrivalled benefits including access to a team of dedicated Relationship Managers, 39 Asalah Centres across Oman and a dedicated 24/7 Asalah Call Centre.



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing



Toll-free **800 71 222** or **9275 5522**





Business Owner?



Would you like to provide safe & simple e-payment solution for your customers?



www.thawani.om

Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to Download



THE SEASON OF STRENGTH

— THE BROTHERHOOD IS CALLING —



Starting from **RO 156** per month*

CHARGER. SHARE IN THE PERFORMANCE.

FREE REGISTRATION

3 YEARS / 60,000KM SERVICE

5 YEARS / 100,000KM WARRANTY

5 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSIST

BOOK NOW

DODGE

Terms and conditions apply. Vehicle image shown is for illustration purposes only and accessories shown might not be part of the standard model. ©2022 FCA US LLC. All Rights Reserved. Dodge is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC. Offer valid from 1st April to 30th May, 2022

WHATSAPP THE WORD
'SUBSCRIBE' TO
+968 92421421
TO GET DAILY NEWS
DELIVERED TO
YOUR PHONE

BREAKING
NEWS
DAILY NEWS
UPDATES

timesofoman.com