

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr 12:11 pm
Asr 3:39 pm
Maghrib 6:34 pm
Isha 7:47 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:24 am
IFTAR 6:34 pm



6 085010 120010

HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Emmerson Mnangagwa of the Republic of Zimbabwe on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Mnangagwa and the people of his country. - **ONA**



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DEPUTY PM FOR DEFENCE AFFAIRS RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Sunday Li Lingbing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Sultanate of Oman. The two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries and means of enhancing them. They also discussed several matters of common interest. - **ONA**

ROYAL DECREES

His Majesty the Sultan issues two Royal Decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued two Royal decrees reading as follows: Royal Decree No. 14/2022 introducing amendments to the State's Administrative Apparatus.

Article (1) stipulates that the amendments attached to this decree shall apply to the system of the State's Administrative Apparatus promulgated under Royal Decree No. 75/2020.

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts the amendments attached to this decree or contravenes their provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on the day following its date of publishing.

Royal Decree No. 15/2022 introducing amendments to Royal Decree No. 31/2012 on the establishment of the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

NCSI

Article (1) replaces the text of First Article of aforementioned Royal No. 31/2012 as follows: "A centre titled National Centre for Statis-

tics and Information shall be established and shall report to the Council of Ministers".

Article (2) the term "Minister of Economy", wherever it has occurred in the System of the National Centre for Statistics and Information, shall be replaced with the term "Council of Ministers".

Article (3) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. **ONA**

MORE THAN 70 INVESTMENT PROJECTS PLANNED ACROSS OMAN

The offered projects range from a whole range of sectors right from manufacturing and construction to research and recycling

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 70 projects relating to food security, oil and gas-related services, manufacturing, mining, construction, research and development and conversion

of waste material into usable resources have been made available to investors across Oman.

Listed on the 'Invest in Oman' portal of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP), the pro-

grammes are spread across the length and breadth of the country and are aimed at attracting investment, pursuing economic diversification and expansion and creating more employment in the country.

The projects are distributed across various governorates, based on the natural resources available there, so that setting up the required infrastructure becomes easier.

Stressing the importance of creating a good business environment to encourage investors and get the above projects active at the earliest, Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, said at a recent

press conference that "the main objective of the ministry, through its initiatives and programmes, is facilitating business environment, improving services, supporting the national industries, promoting Omani products, encouraging investment opportunities in a unified manner, enhancing export and strengthening partnerships with the private sector."

For example, in the inner governorate of Al Dakhiliyah, where much of Oman's agricultural activity takes place, a breakfast cereal manufacturing facility, a processing unit for poultry meat, a dairy and fruit juice production centre,

a dates processing and packaging plant and a used oil refining unit have been planned.

To make sure that regional economies remain resilient, all the governorate have industrial and manufacturing units in their share.

Nizwa will be home to a prefab building plant, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) facility and centres that manufacture electrical sockets, switches and conductors, among others. As part of this planned expansion, also open to investors is the first phase of the residential city and Nizwa Industrial City. **>A3**

Some of the key investment projects

MUSCAT

- Heart-vascular hospital
- Food tech training, testing and development centre
- Phase 2 residential city at Rusayl Industrial City

AL WUSTA

- Float glass manufacture
- Lime calcination
- Value-added fish products

DHOFAR

- PET pre-form manufacture
- Cement paper bag manufacture
- Steel plant

AL DAKHILIYAH

- Dairy and fruit juice products
- Breakfast cereal manufacture
- Unit for poultry meat manufacture

NORTH & SOUTH BATINAH

- Bio-fertiliser factory
- Ceramic tableware
- Industrial bakery

AL DHAHIRAH

- Marble plant and quarry
- Glazed ceramics plant

AL BURAIMI

- Small steel galvanising unit

MOCIIP DECISION

Food stores, jewellers, restaurants must make e-payment options available now

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Food stores, restaurants, cafes, fruit and vegetable sellers, jewellers, electronics stores and outlets selling building and construction material are required to provide customers with the option to pay for goods and services electronically.

The move came into force following the issue of Decision No. 386/2022 by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP), which makes it mandatory for the above-mentioned stores to provide e-payment options for customers.

Furthermore, Article 1 of the decision stipulates that all activities in industrial zones, shopping complexes, commercial malls and gift markets are to necessarily provide electronic payment

services to clients. The move is part of efforts to achieve comprehensive digital transformation through cooperation and integration between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the



Central Bank of Oman (CBO), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT).

MOCIIP also affirmed that consumers can choose between paying either electronically or by cash. It also urged all establishments and companies to provide the required electronic payment services in all stores and outlets and to reconcile their situation before the implementation of the decision.

Ministerial decision No. 386/2022 on providing electronic payment services comes in accordance with the Commercial Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 55/90 and the Commercial Companies Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 18/2019.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Fak-Kurba helps in release of insolvents

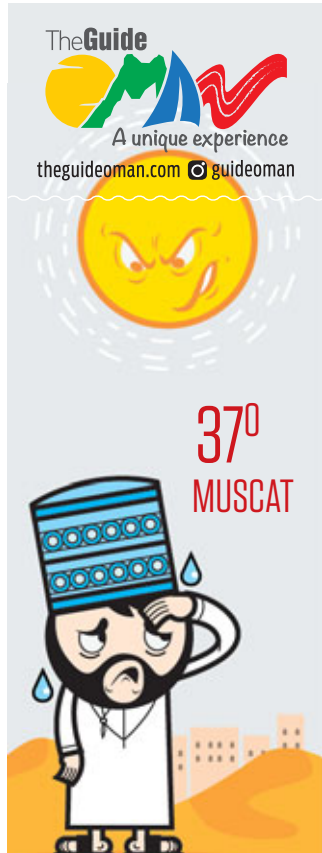
1 Fak-Kurba initiative, organised by the Omani Lawyers Association, managed to release 447 insolvent persons since the beginning of the 9th edition of the initiative. **>A5**

WORLD North Korea tests new 'nuke' system

2 North Korea tested a new system to improve its "tactical nukes." The new-type tactical guided weapon... is of great significance in drastically improving the firepower of the frontline long-range artillery units and enhancing the efficiency in the operation of tactical nukes", it said. **>A6**

SPORTS Top ranking for Al Mouj Golf Course in MENA

3 Al Mouj Golf has achieved a top two ranking across the Middle East and North Africa carried out by the Golf World 100 Panel of Today's Golfer magazine. The Championship 72-par, 18-hole course is surrounded by two kilometres of uninterrupted coastline overlooking the Sea of Oman. **>A2**





OMAN



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Key investment opportunities available across Oman

Muscat

- MIM Downtown project
- Manufacture of RO membranes
- Heart vascular hospital
- Fabrication of electrical towers
- Rig spares fabrication
- Manufacture of chemical blends – shale inhibitors
- Measurement instruments
- Manufacture of chemical blends – enzymes
- Manufacture of de-emulsifiers
- Manufacture of chemical blends – glycol & ethylene compounds
- 11 KV Ring main unit – Oil Type
- Perforation explosives for oil & gas
- 11 KV Ring main unit – SF6 Type
- Tawseel Online
- IPF valves, control valves & actuators
- Cheese packaging
- Raw materials for thermoplastic & thermostat pipes
- Hydrocarbon refrigerant
- Manufacture of air breaker switches (33 and 11 KV)

- Gas turbine intake filters
- Manufacture of packaging cartons
- Switchgears (air & gas insulated)
- Manufacture of 20 MVAR capacitor banks for primary substations
- Manufacture of low voltage motors
- Manufacture of 5 MVAR capacitor banks for primary substations
- Heavy duty PE bags manufacture
- 2nd phase of residential city at Rusayl Industrial City
- Transformer tank fabrication unit
- Expanded polystyrene box and sheet manufacturing unit
- Pre-cast/pre-fab concrete units facility
- Food technology training, testing and development centre
- Construction of CCTV camera poles
- Extruded polystyrene sheets manufacturing unit

Al Wusta

- Sodium silicate manufacturing unit
- Lime calcination manufacturing unit (quicklime & hydrated lime)
- Float glass manufacturing plant
- Manufacture of value-added fish products

Dhofar

- PET pre-form manufacturing unit
- Cement paper bag manufacturing
- Steel plant

Al Dakhiliyah

- Pre-fabricated buildings plant
- 1st phase of residential city at Nizwa Industrial City
- Electrical conductors plant
- Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (AC) plant
- Copper bars, rods and profiling plant
- Sockets and switches manufacturing and assembly plant
- Breakfast cereal manufacturing unit
- Bitumen (water-proofing membrane) plant
- Manufacturing unit for poultry meat
- Dairy and fruit juice products – expanded manufacturing unit
- Date processing and packaging unit
- Used oil refining unit

North and South Shariqyah

- Boat-building manufacturing unit

North and South Batinah

- Bio-fertiliser factory
- Small scale steel fabrication unit
- Industrial bakery
- Small scale forging unit
- Nuts and bolts manufacturing unit
- Steel wire drawing unit
- Wire nail manufacturing unit
- Barbed wire manufacturing unit
- Polymer coating of re-bars unit
- Engineered quartz stones manufacturing unit
- Dolomite calcination unit
- Calcium carbonate manufacturing unit
- PP woven bags
- PET pre-forms

- manufacturing unit
- Ceramic tableware manufacturing
- Aluminium composite panel manufacturing unit
- Plastic master batch additives
- Polypropylene co-polymer (PP-R) pipe and fitting manufacturing
- Evaporated and condensed milk unit
- Semi-rigid aluminium container manufacturing
- Stainless steel and duplex steel manufacturing plant

Al Dhahirah

- Marble plant and quarry
- Dry mix plant
- Glazed ceramics plant
- Copper cable manufacturing

Al Buraimi

- Small-scale galvanising unit

Source: Invest in Oman portal

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72-PAR, 18-HOLE COURSE

Al Mouj Golf achieves second best golf course rank in MENA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Golf course has achieved a top two ranking across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in a survey carried out by the Golf World 100 Panel of Today's Golfer magazine. The Championship 72-par, 18-hole course is surrounded by two kilometres of uninterrupted coastline overlooking the Sea of Oman and is set against the backdrop of the majestic Al Hajar Mountains. The setting earned Al Mouj Golf full marks with judges describing it as 'outstanding' when assessing it on the aesthetic value of its surrounding views, the course itself as well as its atmosphere. The panel which is made up for 12 golf experts from around the world, also said that the Greg Norman-designed course "is a contender for our World Top 100 as is beautifully presented and Oman has a course to be exceptionally proud of". This is the first time Today's Golfer magazine has carried out the rankings and, says its Golf World 100 editor Chris Bertram: "This is our favourite work by Greg Norman, who made fine use of a wonderful Gulf-side site to create hole after memorable hole. "Rarely do you go for long with hitting towards, alongside or over the edge of the water. That is very

rare in the Middle East and sets Al Mouj Golf apart." Al Mouj Golf which is Oman's first links-style course and has hosted the Oman Open (European Tour) Championship, has attracted many other recognitions and accreditations since it opened in 2011. Titles include Winners of the IAGTO sustainability award for community value and Audubon and GEO Certification for strong leadership in sustainability and golf. Commenting on this achievement, Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said: "It's wonderful to see Al Mouj Golf achieve global recognition once again. It really is one of the shining jewels in the Al Mouj Muscat crown and awards like this can only elevate its reputation

further. It is also a great demonstration of how we continue to provide the very best amenities and lifestyle experiences. "Sports tourism and the leisure sector remain very much central to our strategy for sustainable growth and our incomparable setting will always be an important differentiator for Al Mouj Muscat." In addition to its playing attributes, Al Mouj Golf also has a long-term commitment to environmental and sustainability awareness and implementation, and is one of only 20 across the globe to have been awarded dual certification for its work on nature, resource preservation and the community. Home to 173 different bird species, it has become a haven for wildlife.

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

People in Oman were offered food and drink to enjoy their iftar and break their fast at sunset by flower delivery company Floward, which is running a community outreach initiative during the month of Ramadan. **Photos: X Purusothaman**



PROJECTS

< FROM A1 Rusayl Industrial City project

Similarly, in Dhofar, where manufacturing facilities are already present, additional services that add more in-country value have been listed for investment.

These include a plastic manufacturing centre and a steel plant. With cement already being produced in Dhofar, plans have been drawn up for a production unit that makes paper bags to store building material.

In the Sharqiyah regions, which play a huge role in Oman's maritime activity, a boat building yard is planned. With the city of Sohar acting as a key node for many industries engaged in aluminium and steel, and being in close proximity to port facilities, a number of allied projects have been planned for the North and South Batinah governorates.

These include small-scale steel fabrication and forging units, plants that make nuts, bolts and nails, a facility that produces wires, including barbed ones and an aluminium composite panel manufacturing centre.

In both the above regions, as well as Al Dhahirah, a number of industries related to minerals are being set up, such as a facility that will make ceramic tableware, a dolomite calcination unit and facilities that make quartz and calcium carbonate. Key ingredients in industrial processes. A bio-fertiliser factory and industrial bakery are also planned.

'Invest in Oman' platform

"The ministry's 'Invest in Oman' platform is a unified platform for presenting investment opportunities available in the government

and private sectors," said Sajda Al Ghaithy, Director of Communications and Information at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

"Here, the information and data necessary for investment are presented, and we are able to answer investors' inquiries. The platform has 72 opportunities that investors can view."

A large number of projects have been allotted to Muscat, the capital. Among them are a food tech, training and development centre, a cardio-vascular hospital and projects related to oil and gas, electricity and infrastructure, including perforation explosives, rig spares, capacitor banks, chemical blends, electrical towers, measurement instruments, valves, intake filters, motors and transformer tanks.

UNESCO SITES

Rise in number of visitors to Land of Frankincense sites

Times News service

MUSCAT: There has been an increase in the number of visitors to the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Dhofar called the Land of Frankincense, according to the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar.

17,155 visitors visited the sites in the first quarter of 2022, compared to 16,679 visitors during the same period in 2021.

8,005 people visited Al Baleed Archaeological Park and the Museum of the Frankincense Land, while 3,911 visited the archaeological site of Samharam. Furthermore, some 5,239 people went to Ubar, another ancient site.

Al Baleed Archaeological Park

Together, the Al Baleed Archaeological Park, Samharam, Ubar and the Wadi Dawkah archaeological sites are registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List as the Land of Frankincense, as they represent outstanding universal value.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, represented by the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in the Governorate of Dhofar, develops the sites and provides services and facilities in

furtherance of the goals of cultural and archaeological tourism in the governorate.

According to UNESCO, "the frankincense trees of Wadi Dawkah and the remains of the caravan oasis of Shisr/ Ubar and the affiliated ports of Khor Rori and Al Baleed vividly illustrate the trade in frankincense that flourished in this region as one of

the most important trading activities of the ancient and medieval world.

"The four components of the Land of Frankincense dramatically illustrate the trade in frankincense that flourished in this region for many centuries. They constitute outstanding testimony to the civilisations in south Arabia since the Neolithic age."



GLOBAL ATTRACTION: Together, the Al Baleed Archaeological Park, Samharam, Ubar and the Wadi Dawkah archaeological sites are registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List as the Land of Frankincense.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BOOK MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

25,355 REACH

This has been directed by the Ministry of Labour in regards to Eid Al Fitr that is likely to fall in the first week of May.



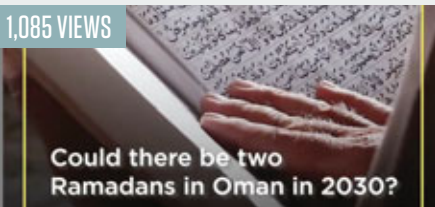
Story on April salaries for the private sector in Oman

A story on April salaries for the private sector in Oman reached 25,355 people and had 4,292 link clicks on Facebook.

VIDEO MOST VIEWED ON INSTAGRAM

1,085 VIEWS

Could there be two Ramadans in Oman in 2030?

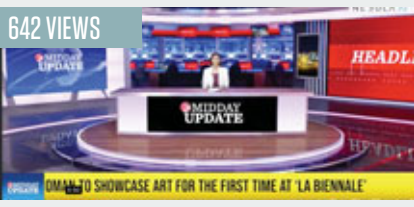


Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on two Ramadans in Oman had 1,085 views and 76 likes on Instagram.

VIDEO MOST WATCHED ON FACEBOOK

642 VIEWS



The Midday Update

The Midday Update had 642 views and reached 2,400 people on Facebook.

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Times OF OMAN



Ramadan

IFTAR TIMING

6:34 pm

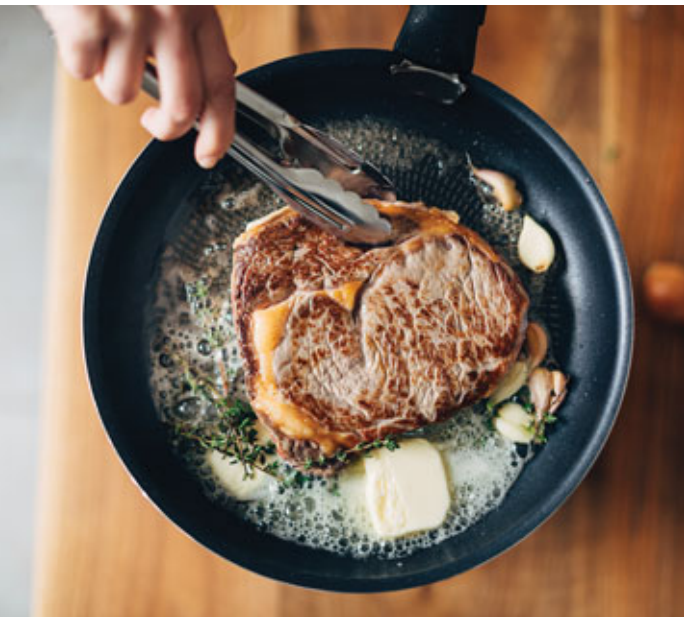


PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:11 pm
Asr	3:39 pm
Maghrib	6:34 pm
Isha	7:47 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:24 am



IFTAR RECIPE



SIMPLE PAN-SEARED STEAK

- INGREDIENTS**
- Room temperature beef steak (1 to 1 1/2 inch)
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 3 tablespoons garlic butter
 - Cast-iron skillet
- PREPARATION**
- Make sure your steaks are at room temperature so that the outside cooks as soon as it touches the hot pan, creating a good sear. Take them out at least a half-hour before cooking.
 - Start heating your skillet. A cast-iron skillet takes up to 10 minutes to heat up to the right temperature. Once it starts to smoke a little, it's ready.
 - Pat the steaks dry with some paper towels to get rid of excess moisture, then season with salt, coating both sides with a generous layer.
 - Place the steaks into the hot pan, and leave them there for at least 1 minute or until a good crust forms. This is why there's no oil in this recipe, as it's not necessary and can hinder a proper sear.
 - Once the crust is there, you're able to flip the steak to the other side without it sticking. Cook the other side for 1 minute as well.
 - Continue flipping between the two sides for another 4 minutes.
 - Add in the garlic butter (use steak butter or regular butter if you prefer) and tilt your pan to one side to allow the melted butter to collect. Use a spoon to spread the buttery goodness over the steaks as it cooks, keeping the meat tender, juicy, and flavourful. Flip and repeat every minute or so.
 - Continue cooking for another 6 minutes, at which time you'll test for the doneness of the steak.
 - Once it reaches your preferred temperature, take the steaks out, and allow them to rest for half the time they cooked.
 - Enjoy with all of your favourite sides and sauces!

FASTING HEALTH TIP

AVOID PROCESSED FOODS

Avoid processed foods as they contain refined carbohydrates such as sugar and white flour or fatty food like cakes, biscuits, chocolates and sweets.



GOOD DEEDS

DISCOVER THE RIGHT PATH OF LIFE BY READING THE HOLY QURAN

“(It is) the month of Ramadan in which the Qur’an was revealed as a guidance for mankind, clear proofs giving guidance, and the Criterion (for distinguishing right and wrong).”

READING or learning the Holy Quran will help you to discover the right path in your life. It will give insight into how to live with a purpose to serve Almighty Allah.

Those who have been reading the Holy Quran during Ramadan, get into the habit of reading it daily even when the Holy Month is over. And if you have not been very regular in reading it then take out time from your busy schedule to read the Holy Quran daily.

While there are many ways to learn the Holy Quran, the easiest way is to join online Quran classes. One of the most important good deeds is sharing the knowledge that Allah the Almighty has blessed us with. Whether in religion or in our respective lives, try to build good relationships with those around you. Offer them what you have learned during Ramadan. You would be surprised to know how rewarding the deed is.





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REGISTRATION BEGINS

Oman Post, Asyad Express partner with SMEs to provide postal services

MUSCAT: Oman Post and Asyad Express, an affiliate of Asyad Group, in cooperation with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (AS-MED), on Sunday announced the beginning of registration for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to provide postal and courier services in various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The registration began on Sunday and will be ongoing for one week.

Nasser Ahmed Al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express said

that this initiative came within the framework of utilising sale outlets and increasing postal service points all over Oman.

Al Sharji added that the number of new outlets set up by the company through its partners in the private sector reached 107.

Those outlets contributed to boosting postal revenues as they rose by 43 per cent in the Governorate of Muscat. Another 48 outlets are planned to be set up by the end of the fourth quarter in 2022, which will bring the total number of outlets to 213. — **ONA**



AL DAKHILIYAH

Nine agreements worth OMR3.5 million signed

NIZWA: The Governor's Office of Al Dakhiliyah signed on Sunday nine agreements to implement various development and service projects in the governorate to the tune of OMR3.5 million.

The projects include paving internal roads in the Wilayat of Bahla, establishing indoor vegetable and fruit market in the Wilayat of Nizwa and setting up a reverse line from the desalination plant in the Wilayat of Manah to Manah Public Park, among others.

The agreements were signed



OMANI LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Fak-Kurba initiative has secured release of 447 insolvent persons

MUSCAT: Fak-Kurba or 'Ending Financial Crisis' initiative, organised by the Omani Lawyers Association, managed to release 447 insolvent persons since the beginning of the 9th edition of the initiative till now.

Those released were imprisoned or were about to be imprisoned due to civil, commercial, labour and Sharia claims.

Dr. Mohammed Al Zedjali, Chairman of the Association said that those released were from all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman as follows, 148 cases from



South Al Sharqiyah, 77 cases from South Al Batinah, 70 cases from North Al Batinah, 45 cases from North Al Sharqiyah, 39 cases

from Al Dhahira, 30 cases from Al Dakhiliyah, 9 cases from Musandam, 5 cases from Dhofar, and 4 cases from Al Wusta.

Humanitarian goal

Al Zedjali affirmed that the execution departments in the various courts of the Sultanate of Oman are working closely with the Omani Lawyers Association to achieve this humanitarian goal. He added that the efforts of individuals and institutions in giving hands to those in need are highly appreciated. — **ONA**

FARM CROPS

Harvest of mulberries in Wilayat Mahadha begins

MAHADHA: The village of Wadi Al Hyool in the Wilayat of Mahdha in the Governorate of Al Buraimi is famous for the cultivation of many seasonal agricultural crops such as fruits and vegetables, particularly the cultivation of mulberries, locally known as "Fursad" which is one of the trees that are widely planted in home gardens.

The cultivation of mulberries is one of the crops that have many health nutritional benefits, as it is rich in antioxidants, dietary fiber, vitamins and minerals.

This type of fruit protects the body from the risks of cancer, heart and digestive diseases.



The village of Wadi Al Hyool is unique in the abundance of water that flows throughout the year to irrigate seasonal crops such as grapes, mulberries, figs,

guava, mango, bananas, lemons, pomegranates, and the cultivation of garlic and onions, among other crops.

WILAYAT OF ADAM

Wheat harvest season begins

ADAM: The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Wilayat of Adam in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah has started harvesting wheat crop in various villages.

The cultivation of wheat crop begins in Adam in November until March each year.

Wheat is harvested in a number of villages using modern machines instead of the traditional method. Farmers provides care to the crop from the beginning of the season until harvest time to ensure a good product.

Wheat cultivation thrives in the Wilayat of Adam, thanks to the abundance of water and suitable fertile soil, as well as the keenness of farmers to growing this type of crop. The cultivated land area and production of wheat may vary due to the climatic conditions in each region in terms of rains.

The Department of Agriculture



and Water Resources in Adam distributed this year 525 kg of wheat types. The cultivated area reached 40 feddans (each feddan equals 4200 square metres).

Al Bashayer farm cultivates the largest area, amounting to 29 feddans, and the amount of the farm's production hit 33 tons of wheat.

The Ministry urges farmers to make use of the support provided to them in terms of good, high-

yield varieties recommended by agricultural research stations, as well as harvesting equipment and other services offered to farmers to achieve an economic return for them, increase the local product of wheat and reduce dependence on the imported wheat.

Production of wheat in each feddan ranges between 800-1000/kg, according to the quality of each variety.



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT SOCKS FOR THE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS	07/2022	05/06/2022	06/06/2022	121 OMR
SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL ITEMS FOR THREE YEARS	11/2022	09/05/2022	16/05/2022	423 OMR

- Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
- Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.

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

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Zelenskyy warns of possibility of Putin using nuclear weapons

This comes as the US officials have warned about the possibility of Putin using tactical nuclear weapons

KYIV: Amid the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned the world to be prepared for the possibility of Russian President Vladimir Putin using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine, reported CNN.

Zelenskyy, in an interview with CNN, said, "Not only me -- all of the world, all of the countries have to be worried because it can be not real information, but it can be truth."

"Chemical weapons, they should do it, they could do it, for them the life of the people, nothing. That's why. We should think not be afraid, not be afraid but be ready. But that is not a question for Ukraine, not only for Ukraine but for all the world, I think," the media outlet quoted him as saying.

This comes as the US officials have warned about the possibility of Putin using tactical nuclear



UKRAINE CRISIS: Zelenskyy claimed that as per Ukrainian officials, about 2,500 to 3,000 Ukrainian troops have died in the war.

weapons in Ukraine if backed into a corner.

"Given the potential desperation of President Putin and the Russian leadership, given the setbacks that they've faced so far militarily, none of us can take lightly the threat posed by a potential resort to tactical nuclear weapons or low yield nuclear weapons," the media outlet quoted Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Bill Burns as saying.

Meanwhile, comparing the loss-

es of troops incurred by Ukraine to that of Russia, Zelenskyy claimed that as per Ukrainian officials, about 2,500 to 3,000 Ukrainian troops have died in the war, however, Russia's casualty numbers are 19,000 to 20,000. He added that about 10,000 Ukrainian troops have been injured in the war and it's "hard to say how many will survive."

Speaking on civilian casualties, he said, "It is very difficult to talk about civilians, since south of our country, where the towns and cit-

ies are blocked -- Kherson, Berdyansk, Mariupol further east, and the area to the east where Volnovakha is -- we just don't know how many people have died in that area that is blocked", according to the media outlet.

On February 24, Russia launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine, which the West has termed an unprovoked war. As a result of this, the Western countries have imposed several crippling sanctions on Moscow. **ANI**



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ANNUAL ADDRESS

Pope condemns Ukraine war in Easter message

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis lamented what he called an "Easter of war" in his annual address on Sunday, and implicitly criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin.

While Francis has yet to publicly condemn the Russian leader by name, his denunciations of the war in Ukraine have grown stronger.



the Easter ceremony for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020.

In a reference to the threat of nuclear warfare, the pope cited a declaration made by scientists in 1955.

"Shall we put an end to the human race, or shall mankind renounce war?" he said, quoting the Russell Einstein Manifesto.

He called for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and urged the world to remember other regions hit by conflict and poverty. Among them, he cited Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Libya as well as Yemen which, he said, "suffers from a conflict forgotten by all." **DW**

What did the pope say?

In his annual "Urbi et Orbi" address, the pontiff made an anguished appeal for peace and called and talked about the "troubling" risk of nuclear warfare.

"May there be peace for war-torn Ukraine, so sorely tried by the violence and destruction of this cruel and senseless war into which it was dragged," Francis said from the central balcony of St. Peter's Square.

The pope had earlier celebrated mass in the square, which was packed with worshippers for

TACTICAL NUKES

North Korea says it tested new weapons system to improve 'tactical nukes'

PYONGYANG: North Korea tested a new guided weapons system to improve the country's "tactical nukes," state media said on Sunday.

"The new-type tactical guided weapon... is of great significance in drastically improving the firepower of the frontline long-range artillery units and enhancing the efficiency in the operation of tactical nukes," the North's official KCNA news agency reported.

The test was declared as a success, but the report did not reveal when or where it took place.

The launch was the latest in a series of weapons tests the North conducted this year, which included firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range for the first time since 2017.

It came ahead of the military exercises jointly conducted by the US and South Korea, which have always irked Pyongyang.

South Korea detects two projectiles

There are also signs that North Korea could soon resume nuclear testing according to South Korean and US officials.

South Korea's military said it



had detected two projectiles fired late on Saturday, which flew 110 kilometers (68 miles) at an altitude of 25 kilometres, travelling at speeds of around Mach 4.

The US said it was "aware of the North Korean statement that they conducted a test of a long-range artillery system," a Pentagon spokesperson said. The reclusive nation had just marked the birth anniversary of its founder a day ago.

Observers had expected that the celebration of the 110th birthday of North Korea's founding leader, and Kim Jong Un's grandfather, Kim Il Sung could be marked with a test or military parade.

No military parade was held, contrary to many predictions.

New activity at the main nuclear testing site

The weapon tested over the weekend appeared to be a new short-range ballistic missile, some say.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was seen watching the test-firing of the weapon, according to photos in the Rodong Sinmun newspaper. Kim gave a military research team "important instructions on further building up the defense capabilities and nuclear combat forces," according to the KCNA report. **DW**

SHOOTING AT MALL

US police arrest mall shooting suspect

SOUTH CAROLINA: Police in the capital of the US state of South Carolina, Columbia, arrested a 22-year-old male in connection with a shooting at a busy shopping mall on Saturday.

Nine people were shot and five others suffered injuries while attempting to flee the mall for safety, police said. No fatalities have been reported.

Eight individuals required hospitalization, with two in critical but stable condition. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 73.

"Today's isolated, senseless act of violence is extremely upsetting and our thoughts are with everyone impacted," the shopping mall, Columbiana Center, said in a statement.

"We are grateful for the quick response and continued support of our security team and our partners in law enforcement," it added.

Police: 'We don't believe this is random'

Police had initially detained three people in connection with the incident.

Columbia police chief William Holbrook told reporters, "We don't believe this was random. We believe they knew each other and something led to the gunfire."



Holbrook said the violence was the result of "some kind of conflict" among the armed individuals.

Initially, the Columbia Police Department said in a tweet, "We have confirmed that people have been injured during the incident -- they are receiving medical attention. The extent of injuries unknown at this time."

"Officers have been evacuating the [Columbiana Center] mall and getting people to safety," it added.

"Everybody was trying to get outside. When I was coming out, you could see baby strollers turned over, people's phones and left keys. It was kind of a hectic situation," Daniel Johnson, who was present at the scene with his wife and daughter, told AP. **DW**

PACKAGE REVIVAL

Shehbaz Sharif govt decides to resume talks with IMF

ISLAMABAD: With Pakistan's economy in the doldrums, the new government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to resume talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from Monday, reported local media on Sunday citing sources. This comes at a time when the previous Imran Khan government by decreasing energy prices pushed the country's economy and the revival of the USD 6 billion IMF programme into jeopardy, reported ARY News. There is more uncertainty surrounding the IMF talks as the newly elect Sharif is yet to decide about the new federal cabinet and the finance minister who will lead these crucial talks with the IMF.

Negotiating with IMF officials will begin from the point where it had been suspended, said the sources. Pakistan, after the talks, will formally announce the restoration of the IMF programme.

Post deliberation IMF will decide about US dollar one billion tranches of the IMF bailout, sources said. **ANI**



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WORLD



INDIA VISIT

Terming India economic powerhouse, Johnson calls for friends to stick together



NEW DELHI: Calling India an economic powerhouse, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson ahead of his visit to the country underlined the strategic partnership with New Delhi while stressing “as we face threats to our peace and prosperity from autocratic states, it is vital that democracies and friends stick together”.

Johnson in the statement ahead of his visit next week emphasised India being the world’s largest democracy. “India, as a major economic power and the world’s largest democracy, is a highly valued strategic partner for the UK in these uncertain times,” said Johnson.

Trade and security partnerships will top the agenda in the PM Modi-Johnson bilateral talks.

Listing out trade, business and defence cooperation as focus areas, Johnson stated that his visit to India will deliver on things that really matter to the people of both nations, including job creation, economic growth, energy security and defence

The UK and India’s thriving commercial, trade and people links.

This will be the first time a UK Prime Minister will visit Gujarat, India’s fifth-largest state and the ancestral home of around half of the British-Indian population in the UK.

The UK Prime Minister will then travel to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Modi on April 22 (Friday) where the leaders will hold in-depth talks on the UK and India’s strategic defence, diplomatic and economic partnership, aimed at bolstering close partnership and stepping up security co-operation in the Indo-Pacific.

Moreover, in Gujarat, Johnson is expected to announce a major investment in key industries in both the UK and India, boosting jobs and growth at home, as well as

Johnson stated that his visit to India will deliver on things that really matter to the people of both nations, including job creation, economic growth, energy security and defence

new collaboration on cutting-edge science, health and technology.

According to the statement, he will use the visit to drive progress in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations launched earlier this year as a deal with India is predicted to boost UK’s total trade by up to 28 billion pounds annually by 2035 and increase incomes across the UK by up to 3 billion pounds.

Last year, Johnson and PM Modi agreed on a UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, announcing more than 530 million pounds in investment into the UK and committing to a deeper bilateral relationship across trade, health, climate, defence and security, and connecting our people.

India was also identified as a priority relationship for the UK in the 2021 Integrated Review and was invited by the UK as a guest to last year’s G7 in Carbis Bay.

The UK is leveraging post-Brexit trade opportunities with India’s growing economy to drive down prices in key commodities for consumers, open opportunities for UK businesses in areas like green tech and services, and create high-wage, high-skill jobs, said the British High Commission.

Investment from Indian companies already supports 95,000 jobs across the UK, which is expected to be boosted by upcoming announcements and a future free trade deal, it added. **ANI**

BUDDHIST NEW YEAR

Myanmar junta to release 1,600 prisoners in holiday amnesty



YANGON: Myanmar’s military junta said on Sunday it would release 1,619 prisoners from jails across the country to mark the Buddhist new year.

The announcement that 1,619 prisoners, including 42 foreigners, had been “pardoned” and will be released was made on state television.

Lieutenant General Aung Lin Dwe, a state secretary of the junta, signed a statement announcing the holiday amnesty “to bring joy for the people and address humanitarian concerns.”

No political protesters had been released from the Insein prison in Yangon, the Reuters reported. A released prisoner was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying that “political cases and protesters were not among those released.”

According to the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP) activist group, the military has arrested at least 13,282 people in opposition and killed 1,756 opponents since last year’s coup.

Among those detained are ousted government leader Aung San Suu Kyi, being held in the capital Naypyidaw, and her Australian economic adviser, Sean Turnell, who is in the Insein facility on the outskirts of Yangon.

The exact details of his alleged offence have not been made public, although state television has said he had access to “secret state financial information” and had tried to flee Myanmar.

Human rights groups have raised concerns about his prosecution. The Australian embassy was denied access to his court hearing in September.

It is common in Myanmar for the state to grant amnesty to prisoners on the occasion of the Buddhist new year.

The holiday is celebrated on a large scale in many parts of the country. But this year, with the bloody military crackdown on dissent, the streets in many major cities have been silent as people protest junta rule. **aw**



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إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology
In Al Khuwair invites for the Following Project:

TENDER NO	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
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Interested Companies registered with General Secretariat of the Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to (Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee). And hard copy of the same should be submitted manually to the Tenders Section, Tenders and Contracts Department (1st Floor), Ministry of Transport Building at Al Khuwair before 11:00 am on submission date.

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SPORTS



CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD

Oman Racing’s Ahmad Al Harthy misses GTE pole on ELMS bow

Times News Service

PARIS: European Le Mans Series debutant Ahmad Al Harthy produced an absolutely fantastic performance during the first qualifying session of the 2022 season at Circuit Paul Ricard on 16 April, to secure a front-row start in the GTE class for today’s four-hour race in the south of France.

Holding pole position with only two minutes of the session to go, the Oman Racing driver did improve his time further the next time around but just missed out on a dream grid-topping effort by a mere 0.154 seconds in the No.69 Aston Martin Vantage GTE.

Strong and competitive during the pre-event build up throughout race week along with team-mates Sam De Haan and Aston Martin factory driver Marco Sorensen, the three worked hard on the set-up of the car to get it working as well as possible in both qualifying and race trim.

“I’m really happy with our qualifying”, said Al Harthy, “We were very close to being P1 but a front row of the grid start is something great for my first weekend in ELMS. It’s a new format for me, a new car, so I’m happy with my performance and



LE MANS: Holding pole position with only two minutes of the session to go, the Oman Racing driver did improve his time further but just missed out on a dream grid-topping effort.

Oman end tri-series with win over PNG

124-run partnership between the in-form Jatinder Singh and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood placed Oman in total command

Times News Service

DUBAI: Oman ended their 4-game tri-series against Scotland and Papua New Guinea with a comfortable 85-run victory over the latter, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on April 16, 2022.

Batting first after winning the toss, Oman lost Kashyap Prajapati early, but a 124-run partnership between the in-form Jatinder Singh and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood placed them in total command. Jatinder took center stage and led the scoring for his side with a magnificent 77-ball 79. Zeeshan played the supporting role while making 52 runs himself.

A late-middle order wobble followed, but Ayaan Khan ensured that the platform set earlier was taken full advantage of. He cleared the boundary on 4 occasions on his way to an unbeaten, run-a-ball 62 and with some late help from Kaleemullah, powered Oman to an imperious first-innings score of 277/8.

Norman Vanua was the pick of the PNG bowling unit and finished with figures of 3/50 in 8 overs. In response, PNG fell well



OMAN VS PNG: Jatinder took center stage and led the scoring for his side with a magnificent 77-ball 79. Zeeshan played the supporting role while making 52 runs himself.

short. Charles Amini held his own for the duration of a valiant 60-run knock while Norman Vanua and Tony Ura chipped in with scores of 27 and 25 respectively. Ultimately however, the damage done in the first innings proved too much to repair in the second and PNG were bowled out for 192 with 5.3 overs to spare.

For Oman, Bilal Khan continued his stunning run of form with another 5-wicket haul - his 3rd in the space of just 9 games. He finished the 4-game tri-series with a jaw-dropping tally of 13 wickets. Khawar Ali was the other one with more than 1 scalp to his name in this match.

While collecting his Player of

the Match award, Bilal said, “I’m always happy to bowl in Dubai. Whether it is with the old or new ball, in the middle overs or at the death, I always bowl with heart. I enjoy it and manage to pick up some wickets too”.

Referencing Jatinder and Bilal’s current form and his takeaways from the tri-series as a whole, Zeeshan Maqsood offered, “Jatinder is a top order batsman and when he scores, the job for the middle and lower order becomes easier. Similar case with Bilal as well.

When he gets breakthroughs early on, the rest of the innings gets a little easier.

In the tour, the pace bowlers

have contributed a lot. Jatinder scored a lot of runs - a 100 and 2 fifties. Even in the game yesterday against Scotland, we performed brilliantly and never gave up until the end. There are just a few niggles that we need to sort out but many positives to take forward”.

Oman leads the ICC Men’s CWC League 2 table by 16 points, having played 16 games more than second-placed Scotland. Brief scores: Oman 277/8 in 50 overs (Jatinder Singh 79(77) 7 x 4, 2 x 6 Ayaan Khan 62(62) 2 x 4, 4 x 6 Zeeshan Maqsood 52(108) 3 x 4 ; Norman Vanua 50(3) beat Papua New Guinea 192/10 in 44.3 overs (Charles Amini60(92) 3 x 4 ; Bilal Khan 54/5) by 85 runs

there is so much more to improve on. It’s going to be a long race, so we’re starting in the perfect place on the front row,

“From a teamwork perspective, we’ve all been working a lot to understand the car and understand our race pace. Hopefully everything will go to plan in the race. Once again, I am delighted to have qualified on the front row of GTE – a big thank you to everyone at Oman Racing.”

Beginning the week with two days of very productive testing at the Le Castellet venue on Monday, 11th April, and Tuesday, 12th April, the Oman Racing trio returned to the track on Friday, 15th April, for the first free practice while Al Harthy gained additional track time in the standalone session for Bronze graded drivers – lapping second fastest with a time of 1m55.106 seconds (274.81 km/h).

Following another free practice on Saturday morning, where the No.69 Aston Martin was eighth on the times, GTE qualifying took place early in the afternoon with Al Harthy behind the wheel – each squad’s ‘Bronze’ drivers tasked with qualifying their respective cars for the weekend’s race.

In the battle at the sharp end throughout, the Omani – who is supported by the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS – moved onto pole position with just two minutes to go thanks to a lap of 1m55.008 seconds. Although slipping down to second shortly after, Al Harthy responded and improved his time with his next effort to dip below the 1m55 seconds barrier but ultimately had to settle for, a nonetheless excellent, second fastest with a lap of 1m54.909 seconds (270.68 km/h).





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TAPE BALL TOURNAMENT

Thrilling win for PSM in Ramadan cricket tournament

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The much-awaited Ramadan tape ball tournament started with a thriller between PSM Seniors & Pakistan Embassy teams.

Before the start of the match a glittering opening ceremony was held. Mian Mohammad Riaz, the Chief Guest and the owner of Mian Mohamamd Riaz & Partners , cut the ribbon and played a ball bowled by Ameer Hamza , Chairmen of PSM Board of Governors. Kiran Akbar, Head of Chancery of Embassy of Pakistan battled to declare open the event in front of a sizeable crowd at PSM ground under lights . PSM Seniors won the toss and invited Pakistan Embassy to bat first.

Pakistan embassy openers Atiur Rehman and Hanif got a splendid start of 108 runs between them

before the fall of Atiq , who scored with 5x 6 and 4 x 4 hits. While Hanif scored 35 with the help of 5 x6 and 1x4 with a total of 139 runs in the allotted overs.

Amir Hamza of PSM Seniors bowled superbly and took 4 wickets for just 17 runs in 4 overs.

Chasing a big total, PSM Seniors lost wickets at regular intervals but Amir Massod and Dr Mukhtar scored 34 runs and 25 runs briskly followed by Yamin who got 23 and Abdul Qauyum sealed victory for PSM in the penultimate over. Allah Ditta of Pakistan Embassy got 3 wickets in 3 overs for just 19 runs but it was too late for them.

Later on Amir Hamza was declared man of the match and special batting prize was given to Atiur Rehman by Ms Kiran Akbar. A huge crowd of about 400 witnessed this event.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Bhuvneshwar becomes first Indian pacer to scalp 150 wickets in IPL history

NAVI MUMBAI: Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Sunday became the first Indian pacer to reach the milestone of 150 wickets in the Indian Premier League history.

Veteran Indian quick Bhuvneshwar scalped the 150th wicket while playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad during the IPL 2022 match against Punjab Kings here at Dr DY Patil Stadium. After the West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo (174) and legendary Sri Lankan Lasith Malinga (170), SRH star is overall just the third pacer to bag 150 wickets in IPL.

Amit Mishra (166), Piyush Chawla (157), Yuzvendra Chahal

(151) and Harbhajan Singh (150) are the other three bowlers to have achieved the milestone.

In the match against PBKS, the 32-year-old put in an impressive performance for SRH as he took 3/22 from his four overs and combined with Umran Malik (4/28) to bowl out PBKS for 151. SRH batters chased the below-par score with seven balls left and grabbed the win by seven-wicket.

This is the fourth win of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the ongoing Indian Premier League 2022 which have taken them to the 4th spot while for Punjab kings, this is their third loss in six games. **ANI**

FA CUP

Liverpool beat Manchester City to enter FA Cup final

LONDON: Liverpool advanced to the final of the FA Cup after beating Manchester City 3-2 at Wembley on Saturday.

Ibrahima Konate netted the semi-final’s first goal after nine minutes and Sadio Mane then struck twice to give Jurgen Klopp’s men a 3-0 advantage at half-time. Jack Grealish and Bernardo Silva reduced the deficit in the second period, but the Reds held on to secure their spot in the tournament’s showpiece for the first time since 2012.

The seven-time winners will now face either Chelsea or Crystal Palace at Wembley on May 14.

Mane’s first-half double put the exclamation point on a strong opening to the match for the Reds.

The Senegal international increased his tally to 18 goals for

the season overall and made it 10 efforts against City in his career. He has only scored more times versus Crystal Palace (13).

Liverpool reached a 15th FA Cup final thanks to the victory - and a first appearance in the tournament’s showpiece for exactly 10 years.

The Reds last won English football’s oldest competition in 2006, lifting the trophy thanks to a penalty shootout victory over West Ham United in Cardiff.

Cristiano Ronaldo netted his 50th club hat-trick as Manchester United moved to within three points of Tottenham Hotspur in fourth on the Premier League table with a battling 3-2 victory over Norwich City on Saturday.

The Portuguese scored his first in seven minutes, converting a

cross from Anthony Elanga, who had nicked the ball off Ben Gibson. Ronaldo doubled United’s lead after 32 minutes, heading in Alex Telles’s corner. But Kieran Dowell’s header from a Teemu Pukki cross reduced the arrears in first-half added time. Dowell then turned provider to Pukki with a sublime reverse pass to allow the Finn to slot home Norwich’s equaliser seven minutes after half-time.

Ronaldo completed his hat-trick to secure the points with a fierce free-kick 14 minutes from time.

Man Utd’s first win in three matches takes them above Arsenal to fifth with 54 points. Norwich remain at bottom on 21 points, seven from safety with six matches remaining. **ANI**





MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,258.46 points, up by 0.45 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.35 per cent at 482.4 points. Al Madina Investments, up 20 per cent, was the top gainer while, Raysut Cement, down 10 per cent, was the top loser.

OIA highlights strategy in managing its National Development portfolio

Rawabet's strategic pillar, the key topic of the forum, targets the alignment of OIA companies' plans with OIA's strategies and Oman Vision 2040

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In continuation of its governance efforts to enhance the general performance of its companies and achieve better alignment and integration, Oman Investment Authority (OIA) organised the fifth Rawabet forum.

The forum began with an overview presentation discussing OIA's strategy in managing its National Development portfolio, which is built on eight main strategic priorities, which include: Financial sustainability, selective growth, contribution to the GDP, attracting private investors, divestment, In-



FORUM: The event was attended by many high-profile professionals, including several ministers and undersecretaries, chairpersons and CEOs of OIA companies, and many specialists. - Supplied picture

country Value (ICV), synergies and implementation of the governance framework. Then CEOs of OIA companies took turns presenting their companies' strategies.

The forum featured presentations from 12 OIA companies, including Omran Group, Oman Air, Oman Airports, Asyad Group, Oman Food Investment Holding Company (OFIC), Fisheries Development Oman (FDO), OQ, Mining Development Oman (MDO),

Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah), Namaa Group, and Oman Liquefied Natural Gas (Oman LNG). The event also featured Q&A sessions to encourage engagement and discussions among participants.

Rawabet's strategic pillar, the key topic of the forum, targets the alignment of OIA companies' plans with OIA's strategies and Oman Vision 2040.

The objective is to achieve fi-

nancial and operational sustainability while stimulating and enabling sectors outlined in Oman Vision 2040. The strategic framework also targets to enhance diversification when allocating capital resources and encourages the partnership with the private sector in new investments.

In his opening remarks, Abdulsalam Al-Murshidi, OIA President said, "There are indicators of growth in OIA's National Develop-

ment portfolio. Currently, two sectors contribute to the profitability of this portfolio, most prominently the energy sector, followed by the logistics sector." He continued to point out that there are indicators of the increased contribution of several other sectors in the national development portfolio in the upcoming years including tourism, food and fisheries and the technology sector, and mining.

He said, "Rawabet Fifth Forum is a vital stage in the timeline allocated for the Business Plan Cycle where OIA companies work on their 5-year business plans. The companies will submit the first draft of their plans in August and the final draft in October 2022. OIA will, in turn, approve these plans by December 2022."

The strategy team within Rawabet reviewed the strategies and business plans of the holding companies in the National Development portfolio. Based on the current positions of the companies, its goals, and OIA's strategic priorities, the team has set key performance indicators for the Boards of Directors for its respective companies. Separately, the team is issuing OIA's business plan guidelines, ensuring consistency and best market practice across its companies.

Rawabet programme was launched by OIA in September 2020 and has since delivered many outcomes. Most prominently, it published 11 policies and guidelines, including the Code of Governance, the tendering and procurement policy, investment policy, and divestment policy. Additionally, the programme launched the ICV initiative 'Qimam,' which focuses on generating locally produced goods and services according to clear guidelines. Qimam aims to increase Omaniisation, develop Omani competencies, and supply local products to encourage and develop local industries. Rawabet also succeeded in launching several initiatives to support SMEs, enable them, and enhance their contribution to the national GDP.

Since its formation, Rawabet was able to carry off over 400 joint interactions between OIA and its companies, involving over 70 OIA specialists and 300 specialists from OIA companies.

It also held several workshops with chairpersons of the boards and CEOs of OIA companies. Moreover, it organised over 40 seminars relevant to general governance frameworks.

The event was attended by many high-profile professionals, including several ministers and undersecretaries, chairpersons and CEOs of OIA companies, and many specialists.

APPOINTMENT

Omantel appoints Aladdin Beit Fadhil as Chief Commercial Officer

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading integrated telecommunications services provider in Oman, announced the appointment of Aladdin bin Abdullah Beit Fadhil as the new Chief Commercial Officer with effect from April 1.

Fadhil possesses an extensive experience in the ICT sector where he served as Vice President of the Consumer Business Unit. Since 2004, he has taken up several positions in Oman Mobile and Omantel, where he was part of the call centre, sales management and quality management team. He has also served as the General Manager of Service Delivery before being appointed as the Vice President of Consumer Business Unit in Omantel two years ago.

Fadhil is a board member of Kuwait Mobile Telecommunications Company (Zain) since October 2020 and serves as Chairman of Infoline, a subsidiary of Omantel, which specialises in business process reengineering solutions and call centre services.



Fadhil's appointment comes as a reflection of Omantel's mission to encourage Omani talents and enable them to take on key leadership roles. Aladdin Bait Fadhil will put his expertise and experience to practice to lead the implementation of the business and marketing strategy, oversee various business units, and lead efforts to develop customer experience in Omantel. His appointment will be a valuable

contribution towards achieving the objectives of Omantel's new strategy that aims to continue its growth momentum and deal with market challenges.

Talal bin Said Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, said, "Aladdin Beit Fadhil's appointment comes during an important phase of Omantel's journey as we recently announced the launch of our new strategy, which will help prepare Omantel for the next phase of its growth and deal with current and future challenges."

Fadhil said, "I am proud to have been appointed as Omantel's Chief Commercial Officer. I would like to thank the company for the trust they have placed in me and for the encouragement to nurture Omani talents. The Sultanate's telecom sector is growing at a rapid pace and the competition is increasing locally and internationally. I will work with my colleagues as one team to further enhance the company's growth, strengthen its position as the Sultanate's leading provider of integrated telecommunications services and enhance its leadership in the telecom sector."

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Alizz Islamic Bank's Sharia Supervisory Board issued 162 Sharia resolutions in 2021

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) at Alizz Islamic Bank issued 162 Sharia resolutions in response to several inquiries in 2021. Additionally, it reviewed monthly reports and policies, investment proposals, and Sharia auditing reports; and presented appropriate guidelines following Sharia.

The Sharia Audit and Compliance Department plays a positive role in offering Sharia-compliant solutions to the bank's customers, particularly wholesale banking customers that need more customised products. Furthermore, the management introduced several products last year, and there are other products to be announced in 2022 that all comply with Islamic Sharia under the supervision and directions of the SSB. The Sharia Audit and Compliance Department also conducted regular Sharia auditing on retail and business banking services and treasury transactions.

To achieve its main objective of ensuring that all transactions with customers, products and



services are Sharia-compliant, the Department carried out several key roles. In this respect, the SSB reviews documents relating to the bank's products, operations, and procedures to ensure that all transactions were conducted in accordance with the rules of Sharia. It presented reports on its findings to the Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) and the management, who in turn took the necessary steps to enhance the Sharia compliance of the bank's services and products.

In 2021, the Sharia Audit and Compliance Department offered a training course on the rules and principles of financial transactions in Sharia, as well as operations and documents of Islamic financial transactions.

Moreover, branch staff, customer service representatives, the sales teams, and the credit management team at the bank were offered a training programme.

Issa bin Salem Al Riyami, Head of the Sharia Audit and Compliance Department said, "The Sharia Supervisory Board held 7 meetings over the past year during which it reviewed the bank's business, operations, and its compliance with the resolutions and fatwas in conducting such transactions. The existence of the Sharia Supervisory Board contributes to giving further assurance to the shareholders and depositors, and without any doubt, confidence is one of the most important success factors for a bank."

Al Riyami added, "The members of the Sharia Supervisory Board are scholars with knowledge and expertise in Islamic commercial jurisprudence."

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Sri Lanka seeks financial help from India till IMF bailout

COLOMBO: While India plays a prominent role in helping its neighbour Sri Lanka come out of a deep economic crisis, it was learnt from reliable sources that Colombo has asked New Delhi to provide bridging finance for the crisis-ridden country till the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides adequate funds, which may take another three to four months.

Notably, this comes after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held several rounds of discussions with her Lankan counterpart and High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, sources added, has also asked India to use its influence on friendly countries like Japan to help Colombo with a line of credit and also reach out to multilateral organisations for assisting the island nation. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ali Sabry is expected to meet Sitharaman in Washington. -ANI

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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Al Madina Investments, up 20 per cent, was the top gainer while, Raysut Cement, down 10 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,258.46 points, up by 0.45 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.35 per cent at 482.4 points. Al Madina Investments, up 20 per cent, was the top gainer while, Raysut Cement, down 10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 881 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.24 million, with more than 25.54 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 15 advanced, 19 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR426,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR261,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR165,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,761.88 points, up 0.46 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman Qatar Insurance, National Bank Oman, Bank Muscat, and Oman & Emirates Investment were up by 20 per cent, 5.24 per

cent, 4.5 per cent, 2.62 per cent, and 1.16 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance, Bank Nizwa, and Ahlia Insurance were down by 9.38 per cent, 4.94 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 2.04 per cent, and 1.33 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,079.08 points, down 1.48 per cent. Prices of Oman Fisheries and Oman Cement were up by 9.78 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy, National Aluminium, A'Saffa Foods, and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 10.00 per cent, 9.84 per cent, 8.6 per cent, 6.48 per cent, and 5.00 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.22 per cent before closing at 1,669.72 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Oman National Engineering, Oman Telecom, OIFC, and Al Maha Marketing were up by 2.04 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 0.90 per cent, 0.65 per cent, and 0.59 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Sohar Power, National Gas, and Barka Desalination were down by 8.7 per cent, 8.33 per cent, 1.4 per cent, 0.67 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,258.46	4,231.84	4,258.46	4,239.24	19.22	0.45
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,761.87	6,718.45	6,761.87	6,731.11	30.76	0.46
Industry Index	6,077.69	6,079.07	6,079.07	6,170.42	-91.35	-1.48
Services Index	1,671.06	1,668.12	1,669.72	1,666.02	3.70	0.22
MSX Shariah Index	483.10	482.21	482.40	484.09	-1.69	-0.35
MSX TR INDEX	5,364.31	5,330.77	5,364.31	5,340.09	24.21	0.45
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,069.57	7,024.17	7,069.57	7,037.41	32.16	0.46
SERVICES TR IDX	1,721.97	1,718.94	1,720.59	1,716.78	3.81	0.22
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,424.54	6,307.62	6,309.06	6,403.86	-94.81	-1.48

Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal
25,545,520	4,237,485	881	22,381,163,517	15	19	12
Sec. Traded						
46						

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 17

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,672,089	1,463,998	23	0.548	0.548	0.538	0.548	0.534	0.014	2.622	0.540	0.540	0.546	0.100	2,056,752,795
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	13,000	1,238	2	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	8,550,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	88,750	79,506	5	0.892	0.896	0.892	0.896	0.888	0.008	0.901	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.100	672,000,000
OM0000002200	AHLJ BANK	50,000	5,900	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.117	0.001	0.865	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	575,000	89,057	21	0.157	0.157	0.154	0.155	0.154	0.001	0.649	0.155	0.154	0.155	0.100	36,735,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	20,800	14,314	3	0.692	0.692	0.684	0.688	0.684	0.004	0.585	0.692	0.684	0.692	0.100	47,472,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	90,607	21,468	9	0.231	0.237	0.231	0.237	0.236	0.001	0.424	0.237	0.234	0.237	0.100	78,416,832
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	642	279	2	0.430	0.440	0.430	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	106,384,500
OM0000003965	COBREP CO	11,000	3,740	3	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.340	0.346	0.100	221,321,058
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	265,900	138,066	14	0.518	0.520	0.510	0.520	0.524	-0.004	-0.763	0.510	0.514	0.520	0.100	28,600,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	94,836	13,343	19	0.145	0.145	0.138	0.141	0.143	-0.002	-1.399	0.138	0.138	0.140	0.100	11,985,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,107,145	80,772	30	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.667	0.073	0.073	0.075	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000002178	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	246,981	94,081	31	0.384	0.384	0.380	0.380	0.400	-0.020	-5.000	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	47,461,225
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,072,760	190,744	103	0.087	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.086	-0.009	-9.375	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	117,175	20,055	24	0.181	0.181	0.171	0.171	0.190	-0.019	-10.000	0.172	0.171	0.186	0.100	34,300,000
Total	15	7,426,685	2,206,561	310												

Parallel Market

OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	5,078	305	2	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.050	0.010	20.000	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.100	4,856,786
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,445,809	146,027	62	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.092	0.009	9.783	0.101	0.095	0.101	0.100	12,625,000
OM0000000879	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	967,117	174,029	20	0.200	0.206	0.199	0.201	0.191	0.010	5.236	0.200	0.201	0.203	0.100	20,100,000
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,683,234	352,051	33	0.204	0.212	0.204	0.209	0.200	0.009	4.500	0.212	0.210	0.212	0.100	338,825,788
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	9,000	447	3	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	33,744,372
OM0000001132	OMAN NAT ENG.	86,500	9,545	15	0.114	0.114	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.852	0.110	0.110	0.114	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,824,852	159,165	87	0.088	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	10,603,125
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	437,000	43,700	15	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.092	0.100	0.100	25,866,180
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	5,000	375	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	6,063,750
OM0000001537	HSBC BANK OMAN	743,228	83,985	13	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.111	0.121	0.100	226,035,345
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALIN.	4,7228	5,250	9	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	10,758,238
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	1,000	82	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	78,274,900
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	795,132	77,356	17	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	16,975,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	19,420	971	4	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.045	0.050	0.100	35,720,317
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	20,630	2,682	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	217,023,300
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	461	23	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.047	0.050	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	3,800	445	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	18,195,397
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	20,000	2,960	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	-0.001	-0.671	0.148	0.145	0.150	0.100	11,177,252
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	19,992	4,538	2	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.229	-0.002	-0.873	0.227	0.214	0.000	0.100	9,444,397
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,005,242	358,454	76	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.100	34,565,297
OM0000006912	ALANWAR INSURANCE	10,000	2,960	1	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.100	28,600,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	4,021,879	388,510	104	0.095	0.098	0.093	0.097	0.099	-0.002	-2.020	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	19,689,685
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,652,511	158,771	43	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	-0.002	-2.041	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000003125	AL SUWADI INV. II	420,439	32,392	14	0.075	0.079	0.073	0.077	0.081	-0.004	-4.938	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	5,000	811	3	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.108	-0.007	-6.481	0.101	0.098	0.102	0.100	12,120,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	46,220	2,053	6	0.050	0.050	0.044	0.044	0.048	-0.004	-8.333	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	9,724,440
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	204,500	17,405	21	0.084	0.088	0.084	0.085	0.093	-0.008	-8.602	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.100	2,853,573
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	102,200	4,299	8	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.042	0.045	0.100	1,384,695
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	10,140	1,116	3	0.115	0.115	0.110	0.110	0.122	-0.012	-8.836	0.110	0.110	0.131	0.100	8,954,303
Total	29	18,116,112	2,030,706	569												

BANK MUSCAT

Special offer with attractive interest rates on home and personal financing

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision and efforts to improve financial inclusion, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate has announced reduced rates for selected customer segments, who are not currently availing of any financing facilities from the bank.

New customers can also avail of the attractive offer by applying for financing facilities or transferring their existing financing to Bank Muscat. Omani nationals in Government institutions, Tier 1 companies, select government and private sector entities and pensioners are eligible for this special offer, which has attractive interest rates starting at just 4.75 per cent for personal financing and home financing, and a reduced rate of 4.5 per cent on home financing for employees of select organisations.

"Customers can also enjoy lower interest rates on short term personal financing starting from 4 per



cent. Customers may note that the offer is open till 30 June 2022 to all those who fulfil the applicable criteria. The bank has also launched a Sayyarati Ramadan offer where customers can enjoy low-interest rates on financing starting from

3.5 per cent for new and used cars. The Sayyarati offer will be available until May 31.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, General Manager – Products, Bank Muscat, said: "As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat has been constantly innovating over the last four decades to provide the best banking and financing products and services in Oman in line with its customers' needs. We are pleased to offer highly-competitive offers on various financing options to different customer segments on the occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan. We would like to thank our customers for their strong confidence in the bank's products and services as well their constant feedback, which helps Bank Muscat to continue innovating and offering new products and services in line with its vision to serve you better, everyday."



Aadeeb Ahamed of Lulu Financial Holdings nominated to Emirates BoD for Overseas Investors

ABU DHABI: As part of its efforts to bring a new perspective to its economic vision for the UAE, the UAE International Investors Council (IIC) has announced the nomination of Aadeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi based Lulu Financial Holdings (LFH), as an Independent Member of the Emirates Board of Directors (BoD) for Overseas Investors.

Founded in 2009, the IIC comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Economy, with Abdullah Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy, as its Chairman. The Council was formed with a vision to act as a link between UAE international investors and the government to enhance the competitiveness of UAE international investments and overcome all types of challenges.

Speaking about his nomination, Ahamed said, "I am honoured to be chosen to play a key role in the UAE's economic development. The UAE has shown amazing resilience and innovative governance during the time of the pandemic and new perspectives will help to reinforce the country's foreign investment outlook. As a proud resident of the UAE, it is my privilege to contribute to the development of this nation and I look forward to working with fellow members of the IIC."

Ahamed, who also helms the hospitality investment company Twenty14 Holdings, brings to his appointment considerable global and regional advisory experience. He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the Al Mar'yah Community Bank UAE, the Regional Strategy Group of the World Economic Forum and the World Tourism Forum, Lucerne.

His financial services company operates a network of over 245 physical branches across 11 countries, including 83 branches of Lulu Exchange in the UAE and the digital payments product, Lulu Money.



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RESEARCHERS DEVELOP MAPS OF BIRD SPECIES TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison developed the maps at a fine-enough resolution to help conservation managers focus their efforts where they are most likely to help birds — in individual counties or forests, rather than across whole states or regions.

The study was published in the journal, 'Ecological Applications'.

The maps span the contiguous US and predicted the diversity of birds that live in a given area, related by traits such as nesting on the ground or being endangered.

Those predictions were based on both detailed observations of birds and environmental factors that affect bird ranges, such as the degree of forest cover or temperature in an area.

"With these maps, managers have a tool they didn't have before that allows them to get both a broad perspective as well as information at the level of detail that's necessary for their action plans," said Anna Pidgeon, a professor of forest and wildlife ecology at UW-Madison who helped lead the development of the maps.

"Across the world, we're seeing huge species losses. In North America, 3 billion birds have been lost since 1970. This is across vir-



tually all habitat types," said author Kathaleen Carroll.

"And we're seeing a disconnect between what scientists produce for conservation and how that translates to boots-on-the-ground management," she added.

Many resources previously available to conservation managers, such as species range maps, are both at too broad of a scale to be useful and not rigorously tested for accuracy.

To overcome those challenges, Carroll and her team wanted to

develop data-driven maps of existing bird biodiversity. They produced the maps by extrapolating observations of birds from scientific surveys to mile-by-mile predictions of where different species really live.

Those predictions were based on factors including rainfall, the degree of forest cover and the extent of human influence on the environment, such as the presence of cities or farms.

To improve the predictive power of their maps, the scientists

clustered individual species by behaviour, habitat, diet, or conservation status — such as fruit eaters or forest dwellers. These groups are called guilds.

Many conservation decisions happen at the guild level, rather than at the level of species. Guilds can also make up for limited information on the most endangered species.

The final maps covered 19 different guilds at resolutions of 0.5, 2.5 and 5 kilometres. While the finest-grained maps were not as accurate, the 2.5-kilometre-resolution maps provided a good balance of accuracy and usefulness for realistic conservation needs, said scientists.

At the 5-kilometre resolution, the maps provide the greatest accuracy and are useful to conservationists operating across large areas.

"We see this being really applicable for things like forest management action plans for the U.S. Forest Service," said Carroll.

"They can pull up these maps for a group of interest, and they can get a very clear indication of what areas where they might want to limit human use," she added.

The maps may also help private land conservancies decide where to prioritise limited resources to maximise biodiversity protections. - ANI



IN PICTURES



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People enjoy traditional New Year holiday at seaside resort in Cambodia

People enjoy the traditional New Year holiday at a seaside resort in Kep province, southwestern Cambodia. Cambodia began to celebrate the three-day traditional New Year festival after muted celebrations in the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Xinhua](#)



Harbin Electric Corporation posts growth

Workers work at a factory of Harbin Electric Machinery Company. Harbin Electric Corporation has achieved year-on-year growth in gross value of industrial output, business revenue and order volume in the first quarter of the year. [Xinhua](#)



Residents pick tea leaves in Medog County

Resident Gongsang Lamu picks tea leaves at Hezha Village of Dexing Township in Medog County, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Medog's moderate humidity and altitude makes it suitable for tea farming. [Xinhua](#)



Kuwait celebrates Gargee'an festival

Children receive sweets during Gargee'an festival at a street in Capital Governorate, Kuwait. During the traditional festival of Gargee'an in the holy month Ramadan, Kuwaiti children dress traditional attire and go door-to-door to receive sweets and nuts from neighbours, while also singing traditional songs. [Xinhua](#)

US Smithsonian's National Zoo marks 50th anniversary of giant panda programme

Giant panda cub 'Xiao Qi Ji' (right) and its mother 'Mei Xiang' enjoy an ice cake at Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC, the United States. Various events were held to mark the 50th anniversary of the giant panda programme of the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute on Saturday. [Xinhua](#)



Precious cultural relics displayed in Chongqing

Picture shows an exhibit in Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum in southwest China's Chongqing. The exhibition displays precious cultural relics including bronze wares, ceramics, furniture and murals of the dynasties of Liao, Jin, and Yuan. [Xinhua](#)



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ROUND-UP



ahlibank honoured with ‘Leadership in Youth Development’ accolade

ahlibank’s ‘Leadership in Youth Development’ Award reflects its ongoing youth and graduate development initiatives, specifically Himam programme

MUSCAT: ahlibank’s ongoing efforts to empower local youth with career opportunities that include orientation and on-job-training programmes as well as soft skills training which enhances their management and leadership skills, found validation with the prestigious ‘Leadership in Youth Development Award’ at the Alam Al-Iktisaad’s Sustainability Leadership Awards, which was co-located at



the Oman Forum 2022, held recently at the Al Bustan – A Ritz Carlton Hotel. Organised by Alam Al-Iktisaad, Oman’s leading Arabic business magazine, under the auspices of

the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the 11th edition of Oman Forum was presided over by Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research

and Innovation. ahlibank’s ‘Leadership in Youth Development’ Award reflects its ongoing youth and graduate development initiatives, specifically Himam programme. It is struc-

tured as a career intensive modular programme over 2 years to equip young graduates with relevant banking knowledge as well as vital skills for a professional career in support of the future vision objectives, Oman 2040. Since its launch in 2015, the programme has trained and recruited more than 64 young graduates who were enrolled in various divisions at the bank. This two-year programme boosts candidates’ self-confidence by engaging them in competitive work environments that complement their learning from their university education. Accepting the award on behalf of the bank, Hana Al Kharusi, General Manager of Corporate Banking and Chairperson of the Talent Management Committee, said, “This is a moment of recognition for the team of professionals that work tirelessly to train young graduates with skill-building exercises that are in tune with current requirements of the job market. ahlibank is at the forefront of youth development programs with Himam, and our focus is on attracting budding high potential talents of our country and providing them with the tools required to unlock their true potential. We

do not just train our chosen candidates in the workings of the sector; we also provide them with hands-on experience from experts as well as exposure to projects and various challenging problem-solving opportunities, to empower them to take on responsible jobs. We have, and continue to uphold the importance of developing young talents and nurturing their skills.” ahlibank has been able to achieve success and excellence through Himam programme as it includes a specific approach and scope of training, which includes workshops on the basics of banking, on-the-job rotation, project management, skill-refinement activities and one-to-one guidance sessions with experienced mentors, among other interactive schedules. The bank has realised the importance of guiding the enormous potential of youth by offering training and development initiatives that contribute to achieving a long-term impact on the overall development of the country. ahlibank is committed to continuing to provide training and development opportunities to enhance the skills of its employees and graduates in various disciplines.

EXCLUSIVE EDITION

Mercedes-AMG GT 4-door coupé: More individual than ever

MUSCAT: With greater ride comfort and a wider range of equipment, the globally successful AMG GT 4-Door Coupé is now even more individual than ever. Available at Mercedes-Benz Oman, the exclusive edition underlines the all-round character of the four-door sports car. Moreover, there is an extended choice of wheels, upholstery, trim, exterior colours and a retuned suspension with an even wider spread between sportiness and comfort. Thanks to an extensive update last summer, the AMG GT 4-Door Coupé already has state-of-the-art technology. New features include updated driving assistance systems and the Widescreen Cockpit including the MBUX multimedia system with AMG-specific displays and functions. Valid until May 31, customers can avail of the Mercedes-Benz Ramadan Package to receive exceptional benefits to match their new car. “Combining seamless crafts-



manship, AMG technology and breath-taking power, the AMG GT 4-Door Coupé ticks all the boxes. With tailor-made products and more options than ever, it truly is an expression of individuality, while offering an unmatched experience for those lucky enough to drive it,” said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman. “I invite those

looking to buy a car soon to make the most of our fantastic Ramadan offer as it will add a range of benefits to owning one of our vehicles and peace of mind when it comes to servicing,” he added. With the Ramadan package, customers can drive away with one of the most coveted vehicles and enjoy five years/75,000km service package, four years of Mo-

bilo on-road assistance service, three years of unlimited mileage warranty, free registration for the first year, and a complimentary gift from the Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Collection. With a promise towards delivering top safety and luxury, Mercedes-Benz Oman makes sure every journey is comfortable and peaceful.

OFFER



Exclusive benefits on GAC GS8 SUV

MUSCAT: GAC Motor’s turbocharged SUV, the GS8 is now available with the GAC Motor Ramadan campaign offer. Buy any of your favourite GAC Motor vehicles and get a Manufacturer’s Warranty – 5 years/150,000kms, Comprehensive Insurance 1 year (Oman & UAE) and a chance to win a raffle – one GA4 GB 1.3 T. The campaign is valid until 9 June. (Conditions apply. For more details, please visit any GAC Motor showroom). The flagship GS8 SUV is equipped with a powerful 2-litre turbo engine that is capable of producing 198 HP and 320 Nm of torque. The engine is made more efficient by its pairing to a six-speed automatic transmission. The GS8 is designed to impress from the front grille to the headlamps, all the way to the alloy wheels and the tail lamps, the GS8 draws all eyes making it one of the most admired vehicles in its category. It is equipped with 19” alloy wheels, LED high mounted brake light, shark fin antenna and roof rails. Overall, the exterior design of the GS8 is one of its very strong points. The interior of the GS8 takes comfort and styling to great levels. A look around will reveal ample space which offers good comfort for all occupants. The

leather seats spell luxury all over. All of the seats provide the utmost comfort and convenience. The driver’s seat is 6-way Power Adjustable, while the front passenger seat is 4-way, and both of them are heated and ventilated. For the second row the seats are equipped with 60:40 split and sliding configuration, while the third row has a 50:50 Split and fold flat. For additional cargo space, the GS8’s supersized flat-bottom trunk offers huge amount of space—a perfect feature for families taking on adventures. Adding to the joyous experiences on every journey, the GS8 is filled with features that provide nothing less. It’s equipped with three-zone climate control air conditioning, central control door lock system, and power sunroof with jam protection, among other features. For in-cabin entertainment, the GS8 is equipped with an advanced infotainment system, with a 10-inch colour touch screen display system with Apple CarPlay, that is also available with Bluetooth and USB connectivity. Besides this, the GS8 is also equipped with a metre-cluster with 7-inch trip computer, 6 speakers, speed-based volume control, front and rear parking sensors, Surround View Parking Camera, Cruise Control and more.

HEALTHCARE

Aster Hospitals in Kerala complete 60 deep brain stimulation surgeries



KERALA: Aster Hospitals in Kerala is notable for completing over 60 Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), the most effective treatment for Parkinson’s disease. Aster Hospitals has been able to complete 60 DBS surgeries in a very short period. This is in line with the rates of the best DBS centres in the world. Persistent tremours and other associated complications are the main symptom and crises of Parkinson’s disease. As a result, the daily lives of the sick are made miserable and they face unparalleled crises. Until recently, Parkinson’s was viewed as a disease for which there was no effective treatment.

But with the advent of DBS, a great solution to this situation has been created. Deep brain stimulation (DBS) is a surgical procedure that involves implanting electrodes in the brain, which deliver electrical impulses that block or change the abnormal activity that causes symptoms. In Kerala, DBS surgery is mainly performed at Kozhikode Aster Mims and Kochi Aster Medicity. Farhan Yasin (Regional Director, Aster Hospitals) said. He added that DBS is the most effective treatment currently available. He added that DBS is the most effective treatment currently available.



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NBO shares spirit of giving across Oman

Partnering with the Al Rahma Association, Association Of Early Intervention For Children With Disability and Nida Al Khair Charity Team, the bank has continued to raise awareness of the charitable organisations and provide support for the community

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has utilised its annual Ramadan community outreach programme, to share the spirit of giving across Oman and give back to the community by distributing 1,800 food hampers to families in need and people with disabilities. Partnering with the Al Rahma Association, Association Of Early Intervention For Children With Disability and Nida Al Khair Charity Team, National Bank of Oman has continued to raise awareness of the charitable organisations and provide support for the community. As part of the initiative, over 150



Iftar boxes were given to families of children with rare diseases as part of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. Each hamper was personally delivered to the families by volunteers from National Bank of Oman, strengthening the bank's bond with the local community and providing much-needed assistance, as well as peace of mind, during the holy month of Ramadan.



GAC presented with Best Performance Award in accessories sales by Mitsubishi Motors Middle East and Africa

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor for Mitsubishi Vehicles in Oman, was recently awarded the '2021 Best Performance Award' in accessories sales by Mitsubishi Motors Middle East and Africa (MMMEA). GAC was presented with this coveted award, which it received for the outstanding accessory sales it achieved, at the recently held MMMEA 2022 Middle East Regional After Sales Marketing Conference in Dubai, UAE. Receiving the award at the conference on behalf of GAC, were Mohammad Al Farei, Chief Operating Officer-Zubair Automotive Group, Manoj Ranade -General Manager, GAC, Ashraf Mustafa Osman-National Service Manager, GAC, and Srinu Tirunari - Head of Parts, GAC. On receiving the award, Mohammad Al Farei said, "It is an honour to be recognised by MMMEA with a 'Best Performance Award' for Accessories Sales for the year 2021, despite the challenging business environment we have faced since the pandemic. As a result of the award, we have further validated our leading position in the industry, our strong expertise, the exceptional value we offer our customers and our commitment to customer satisfaction across Oman. We would like to thank MMMEA and all our customers for their continuous support." The Mitsubishi brand enjoys one of the largest and most loyal customer bases in the Sultanate, and for good reason. As its official distributor, GAC is committed to excellence and continues to invest heavily in its employees and infrastructure. As a result, GAC boasts a highly motivated and qualified workforce, dedicated to maximising customer satisfaction, right from the moment they walk into the Showroom for the first time through every stage of the ownership experience. "The entire GAC team has demonstrated exceptional ability in promoting our products while also maintaining the highest levels of customer satisfaction. This award is no doubt a result of their hard work, exceptional performance, and steadfast commitment to the brand. This is why winning this award is such a great source of pride for us, as well as an incentive to do even better this year," commented Manoj Ranade.

WELLNESS AND BEAUTY SERVICES

VLCC launches new non-invasive body contouring and slimming treatment

MUSCAT: VLCC, a widely recognised brand for its comprehensive portfolio of wellness and beauty services and products, announced the launch of a new non-invasive body contouring and slimming treatment in Oman, which uses US-FDA approved laser technology to remove excess fat from the body without any surgical procedure. The VLCC Lipo-1060 treatment uses the very latest laser appliance of a very specific wavelength, enabling non-invasive body contouring and slimming without pain and ensuring that only fat cells are eliminated while the skin is protected. The technology used in the treatment has been clinically proven for consistently reducing the fat contour in the abdomen and other areas of the body, with an excellent safety profile in all skin types. The effect of the treatment is enhanced by vacuum technology and can be delivered in only 25 minutes per session, with no recovery time required. Safe and hygienic, the process is specifically designed to protect the skin from the heat of laser and requires no human touch. Speaking on the occasion of the launch of the new service, Vandana Luthra, Founder, VLCC said, "In its over 30-year legacy of technical expertise, performance and operational excellence in the wellness & beauty services and products domain, VLCC has always led the way, in the 12 countries across Asia and East Africa where it operates, when it comes to introducing the very latest in technological advances. The VLCC Lipo-1060 treatment is another example of this." The treatment is supported by expert advice on nutrition and daily diet planning as well as physical activity regimen, which is customised for each individual depending upon their respective body composition, dietary habits and medical condition if any. The whole programme is conducted by specialists, including nutritionists, physiotherapists and laser experts, under the supervision of a medical doctor. VLCC is the first wellness and beauty company to introduce this high-technology based treatment in Oman.



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In its over 30-year legacy, VLCC has always led the way when it comes to introducing the very latest in technological advances. The VLCC Lipo-1060 treatment is another example of this

Vandana Luthra
Founder, VLCC

PROMOTION

Special Ramadan offer available on Foton Tunland pickup

MUSCAT: Gulf Great Sands, the exclusive importer of Foton vehicles in Oman, has announced a special offer on Foton Tunland pickup as part of its exclusive Ramadan offer - 'Reward Your Business with More'. The promotion is available on Foton Tunland Pickup 2.4L Single Cab, 134hp, 2WD and Foton Tunland Pickup 2.4L Double Cab, 134hp, 2WD. Foton Tunland Single and Double Cab Pickup (2WD) which is powered by a 2.4-litre engine combine an original, robust design with the power, performance and reliability of established, globally reputed brands for its major drivetrain features. It is powered by the new generation 2.4 litre Turbo TGDI gasoline engine making it the most powerful pickup in its class. Features of the Tunland include Bosch electronics and ABS + EBD, ESC, On-Board Diagnostics (OBD, TPMS), dual airbag, Bluetooth and Parking sensors. Foton's Ramadan scheme which will go on till May 20 offers free periodic maintenance service, free insurance, free registration, an assured fuel card, and a Lulu gift voucher. Partnering with Foton Motor Group, one of the world's largest manufacturers of commercial vehicles, Gulf Great Sands LLC (GGS) had launched a full range of commercial vehicles in Oman. Through this exclusive distribution partnership, Gulf Great Sands LLC has commenced the supply of a range of Foton's commercial vehicles in Oman which includes Heavy Duty Trucks, Medium Duty Trucks, Light Duty Trucks, pickups, Minibuses, Panel vans, and SUVs. A GGS spokesperson said, "This is the perfect season to own Foton Tunland pickups, which stand out for their robust power, superior performance, precision engineering and bold looks. It is powered by a 2.4-litre engine and combines an original, vibrant design with the power, performance and reliability of established, globally-reputed brands for its major drivetrain features."



All customers purchasing Foton Tunland pickup during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration. All customers purchasing Foton Tunland pickup during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle insurance (Oman & UAE) for private registration only. Customers of the Foton Tunland pickup model will get assured the first year or 10,000km periodic maintenance service Only. Customers of Foton Tunland pickup will get an assured fuel card of OMR 50 fuel card. Customers of Foton Tunland pickup will get an assured Lulu gift voucher worth OMR 100. All customers purchasing Foton Tunland pickup will be eligible for a three years /100,000 kilometres

manufacturer's warranty during the above said period. Foton Tunland Pickup has the largest loading deck in its class. Features of the Tunland include Bosch electronics and ABS + EBD, ESC, On-Board Diagnostics (OBD, TPMS), dual airbag and radar with buzzer. Foton Tunland Single Cab pickup which is powered by a 2.4-litre engine combines an original, robust design with the power, performance and reliability of established, globally reputed brands for its major drivetrain features. Foton Tunland is a workhorse that is very reliable, and economical and ensures stable driving conditions even in peak loading conditions. Foton Tunland symbolises everything the brand Foton stands for - remarkable design with high quality yet at an affordable price. Formidable joint ventures with globally reputed manufacturers and major component brands, have enabled Foton to include advanced systems and state-of-the-art technology into every Foton vehicle.





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