LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

HM SENDS CONDOLENCES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines on the victims of Typhoon Rai, which hit a number of cities in central and southern parts of the Philippines. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his condolences and sympathy to the president, the bereaved families and the people of the Philippines, wishing the injured persons speedy recovery. —ONA

HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLES FROM KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received two cables of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's condolences cables to him on the death of Sheikh Duaij Al Khalifa Al Sabah and Sheikha Wafiqa Mubarak Al Hamad Al Mubarak Al Sabah. In the cables, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his sincere appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sympathies. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased souls in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harm. - ONA

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DIVERSIFICATION

OMR2.7billion Liwa Plastics mega project launched

SOHAR: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan presided over on Monday the launch of OQ's OMR2.7 billion Liwa Plastics mega project at Sohar Industrial Port.

The successful completion of the complex is part of the government's plans to diversify sources of national income and promote downstream manufacturing investment opportunities in the petrochemicals sector aimed at maximising the value of Oman's natural resources.

The official commissioning of Liwa Plastics Industries Complex (LPIC) – the flagship project of OQ, the global integrated energy group of the Sultanate of Oman, was celebrated at a grand ceremony and attended by dignitaries from the government, public and private sectors.

Eng. Talal Hamed Al Oufi, CEO of OQ Group, delivered a speech in which he noted that the inauguration of Liwa Plastic Industries Complex coincides with celebrations marking the 51st National Day of the Renaissance.

Eng. Al Oufi said: "This project adds a new dimension to the nation's current economic development as it is one of the most important and largest undertakings in the Sultanate of Oman's industrial sector with the potential to stimulate investments in downstream industries and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in line with OQ Group's strategy to drive sustainable development. The opening of this project is an illustration of OQ Group keenness to harness its industrial and investment capabilities in unlocking the full potential of the petrochemicals sector and optimising the utilisation of Oman's oil and gas resources."

The CEO of OQ affirmed the Group's determination to move forward in enhancing the local value addition and In-Country Value (ICV) development by supporting downstream manufacturing industries associated with this project, which incorporates modern technologies to manufacture high quality polymers.

"OQ has attached the utmost importance in building the capacity of the Omani youth, and enriching their skills in the unique technical disciplines that are introduced through this project for the first time in the Sultanate," he noted, adding that around 337 qualified young Omanis have been trained and equipped to be part of this complex.

Al Oufi expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the concerted efforts of the project-based taskforces which, despite the many logistical and technical challenges witnessed during the Covid-19 pandemic, were able to overcome these difficulties by adopting flexible measures to deliver this mega petrochemical project. >A4

COVID-19

15 new cases of Omicron variant found

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fifteen new cases of Omicron variant have been detected in the Sultanate of Oman and are currently under epidemiological investigation.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health announced that the period between the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and the booster dose will be limited to three months instead of six, with effect from Tuesday.

The Ministry has urged people to take the booster dose for their safety. It stressed the importance of adhering to preventive measures such as wearing face masks, observing physical distancing, avoiding crowded areas and maintaining hand sanitisation. Oman reported 31 cases of fresh infections on Monday, as the country's COVID tally reached 304,874 cases.

ALL OF THESE ASPECTS WILL BE INCORPORATED, WHILE STILL KEEPING IN MIND PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL OMANI VALUES

4-FOLD PLAN TO MAKE MUSCAT EVEN BETTER CITY TO LIVE IN

Community welfare and happiness are at the core of the goals identified by the Muscat Municipality

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Four main goals centred around community welfare and happiness have been designed by the Muscat Municipality, in order to make Oman's capital an even nicer place to live.

Improving peoples' lifestyle, providing support in the form of advanced municipal and online services, and building a sustainable environment in the city are part of the plan. Sustainable environments are also important to the strategic objectives of the government when it comes to attracting investors to the country.

A key aspect of development includes setting up a smart, sustainable and vibrant urban structure in line with managing the environment, preserving its natural resources and mitigating the effects of climate change, in addition to regulating the urban pattern of the city.

Economic development geared towards enhancing the role played by the private sector is the third goal listed by the Muscat Municipality. The private sector has been earmarked as a key player in achieving the aspiration of the nation.

The fourth objective is good institutional performance in the form of effectively serving people, providing an environment that stimulates innovation and creativity, and keeps pace with modern developments and changes.

This is represented in promoting the values of belonging, transparency and professionalism, as well as the values of social responsibility and beneficiary service.

All of these aspects will be incorporated, while still keeping in mind the importance of preserving traditional Omani values and architecture.

This four-fold plan forms the core of Muscat Municipality's development initiatives for the capital, titled "A Sustainable, Prosperous Muscat". >A3

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Hurdles of dealing with COVID-19 virus

1 The spread of COVID-19 to 46 people who were in close contact with a patient who tested positive for the virus at the Royal Hospital has demonstrated the challenges medical workers face when trying to contain the virus. The patient had been receiving non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in the two days prior to testing positive. >A3

OMAN

Fitch revises Oman's outlook to stable

2 Fitch Ratings has revised Oman's outlook to stable from negative and affirmed BB- rating. According to Fitch, the revision of the outlook reflects actual improvements in key fiscal metrics including government debt and the budget deficit, driven by fiscal reforms and higher oil prices, and a lessening of external financing pressures. >A5

WORLD

Omicron 'raging' around world: Fauci

3 The Omicron variant of the coronavirus is "raging" around the world, the White House's top medical advisor Anthony Fauci said on Sunday. He said in a TV interview for NBC that the "real problem" for the US hospital system is that "we have so many people in this country who are eligible to be vaccinated but have not yet been vaccinated." >A6

YAS ISLAND: WHERE FUN BEGINS!

Madiha Asif
madiha@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: With the land borders re-opening between the Sultanate of Oman and UAE earlier last month, it's about time for both citizens and residents to cash on the opportunity and make some unforgettable memories at Yas Island Abu Dhabi.

Becoming not just the region's but the world's premier destination for entertainment and leisure, Yas Island is approximately a 6-hour drive from the capital Muscat, and a little over an hour flight.

Surrounded by crystal-clear waters, and dotted with some of Abu Dhabi's most iconic landmarks, Yas Island is home to one-of-a-kind experiences that are bound to create memories that will last a lifetime. Whether you are looking for a dose of adrenaline or a serene landscape, the Island caters to all tastes and ages. From the world's fastest roller coaster to one of the most exhilarating waterparks, to a thrilling F1 race track and family friendly theme parks, Yas Island makes sure to provide the visitors a lifetime experience.

When in Yas Island, make sure to visit these three destinations that promise to invigorate your senses: Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi and Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi.

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi

To begin with, this place is home to the world's fastest roller coaster. Yes, you read it right! Ferrari World Abu Dhabi's Formula Rossa travels at the speed of 240km/h in 4.9 seconds which makes it the fastest rollercoaster on the planet!

An adrenaline rush at every corner, feel the upbeat energy as you make your way to Flying Aces, another roller coaster that will leave you breathless. Board your military bi-plane and scale 63 metres at a spectacular 51-degree incline. Feel your pulse race as you fly through the world's tallest non-inverted loop and hit speeds of up to 120km/h.

Another popular ride here is the Turbo Track. It is more like a race towards the sky as it shoots through the iconic roof into the sky. You will experience back-to-back thrills, a vertical climb and an epic zero gravity fall.

Besides all the thrilling rides, there is so much more for the faint of heart and younger kids as well as educational activities and attractions.

Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi

For all the water lovers out there, this place is where you would want to be at! This is the UAE's unique Emirati-themed waterpark with more than 40 exhilarating rides, slides and attractions. Feel the rush of a looping freefall waterslide, surf the waves of excitement, and hang on the Middle East's longest suspended rollercoaster.

If you are going in a group, you must try Dawwama and Falcons Falaj. Both are six-seater water coasters that give you an ultimate water experience. Dawwama is the world's largest six person tornado water coaster that starts by plunging from the height of a mountaintop before zooming into the 20 meter high tornado funnel while Falcon Falaj is the region's longest mammoth water coaster spanning 300 meters long!

Another thrilling slide to try is the Jebel Drop which is the park's steepest waterslide. Here you are literally testing how far you can go to have some fun. The Drop is located at a scenic vantage point, right before a monstrous drop! All you got to do is close your eyes (or not) and take that leap of faith as you zip down the waterslide.

For children and toddlers, the park has it all! From Slither Slides, Water Wars, Tot's Playground, Yehal and much much more, you and your family are bound to have a great time!

In case you were thinking this was all, you are wrong. The waterpark also features the region's longest suspended rollercoaster – Bandit Bomber! Tour the park at high speed on the Middle East's longest suspended rollercoaster that spans 550 meters long.

> Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi is the world's first Warner Bros. branded indoor theme park as well as the largest with an area of 1.65 million square feet that caters to all age groups.

> Yas Island is home to the world's biggest indoor skydiving chamber at CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi, spanning 9.7 meters (32 feet) and reaching 32 meters (104 feet) high

Warner Bros. World ™ Abu Dhabi

This indeed is a top-notch theme park with unique live entertainment shows and endless family experiences that make fiction look real, feel real, and sound real. This is the world's first Warner Bros. branded indoor theme park as well as the largest with an area of 1.65 million square feet that caters to all age groups.

The experience here leaves you speechless as you can stroll in an animated world featuring some of your favourite characters and exceptionally exciting rides. To be precise – it has 35 DC Superheroes and Animation characters that you can meet at Warner Bros. World ™ Abu Dhabi.

The park is divided into six different lands including Warner Bros. Plaza, Bedrock, Dynamite Gulch, Cartoon Junction, Gotham City and Metropolis. Whether you're off this planet about the Man of Steel, bats about the Dark Knight or want to get up close and personal with childhood favorites including Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry and Scooby-Doo, this is the park for you!

In addition to that, it has got a host of rides and attractions for all the family, as well as multiple dining and retail options.

Where to stay?

The best part about Yas Island is that it literally covers everything – from fun-filled vacation to picturesque landscapes for relaxation, to affordable accommodation and endless places to eat at. Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island is one such place where you can make your stay memorable as this is where luxury meets comfort. This hotel, which consists of 545 rooms including rooms facing pool and bay as well as suites and family connecting rooms, is hardly 10 minutes' drive from Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld, and Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi. Moreover, if you are staying at this hotel, you can also enjoy Yas Island Theme Park passes which will be included in your stay.

All in all, this hotel offers a bespoke family experience for travellers below the age of 12. Children enjoy a Kids Welcome and a dedicated Kids Breakfast experience. Children up to 18 years old stay free (with existing bedding) when sharing a room with a paying adult on a room only rate. However, children 5 years and under enjoy complimentary breakfast from Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island's buffet.

Bonus: Yas Island is home to the world's biggest indoor skydiving chamber at CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi, spanning 9.7 meters (32 feet) and reaching 32 meters (104 feet) high, as well as the region's tallest indoor climbing wall towering at 43 meters high (138 feet)!

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:10pm
Asr.....3:10pm
Maghrib.....5:30pm
Isha.....6:46pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)..... 5:24am

OMAN

Study reveals hurdles in COVID-19 treatment

The case study was conducted by medical practitioners from the Medicine and Nursing departments

Times News Service

CONCLUSION: The study concluded that early recognition and screening of patients for COVID-19, and strict adherence to infection control measures should be encouraged.

MUSCAT: The spread of COVID-19 to 46 people who were in close contact with a patient who tested positive for the virus at the Royal Hospital has demonstrated the challenges medical workers face when trying to contain the virus.

A case study conducted by four medical practitioners in Oman shows that on 2 July 2020, an investigation was opened when a patient who had been admitted to the hospital was diagnosed with COVID-19.

The patient had been receiving non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in the two days prior to testing positive, having been in the same high dependency medical unit (HDU) cubicle with four other patients.

The study, which was done by Adil Al Lawati and Faryal Khamis of the hospital's Department of Medicine, and Samiha Al Habsi and Khazina Al Dalhami from the Department of Nursing, revealed that the patient in question had chronic kidney disease, with symptoms suggestive of pulmonary oedema.

"A total of 22 healthcare workers were assigned to the HDU, but were unaware of the index case COVID-19 status at the time of contact and, as a result, were only wearing surgical masks as per hospital policy," said the study, published in the Oman Medical Journal.

"All exposed cases were screened by SARS-CoV-2 real-time polymerase chain reaction. Positive cases were thoroughly investigated to determine demographic data, occupation, acquisition risk, and clinical outcomes."

The study, however, revealed that COVID-19 poses unique challenges for infection prevention and control within health facilities. COVID-19 and other diseases such as SARS and MERS put healthcare workers at increased risk of exposure to viruses in the workplace, because they are in increased contact with respiratory droplets and aerosols that transmit the disease between people.

"During the COVID-19 outbreak, healthcare workers were at high risk of developing COVID-19, even when infection prevention measures at hospitals were in place, including using personal protective equipment, hand hygiene, and patient placement in negative pressure isolation rooms," explained the report. "Most of these acquisitions were related to community exposures.

"In some reports, the risk of acquisition within healthcare settings was highest among healthcare workers exposed to COVID-19 patients with low clinical suspicion and, therefore, were unlikely to adhere to strict infection control measures such as wearing the appropriate PPE or performing hand hygiene."

The report added that asymptomatic infected front-line workers could contribute to transmission to their colleagues or patients. Compared to the general population, studies from the UK and USA suggest that front-line workers account for 10 to 20 percent of all COVID-19 positive cases. Locally, the study shows 4.3 percent acquisition of the virus among medical workers.

A total of 38 healthcare workers and 28 patients were screened after exposure to the infected patient. 46 of them tested positive for COVID-19. Among them were 26 nurses, seven doctors, one paramedical personnel, and 12 patients. 22 staff and four patients, or over half of those who tested positive, were in the same cubicle as the patient in question, and were identified as close contacts with significant exposure.

"Knowledge gaps on the potential role of NIV in airborne transmission of COVID-19 may result in serious outbreaks among health care workers if appropriate protective measures are not taken, and could deprive patients of life-saving procedures due to safety concerns," the study added. "Following this incident, the hospital issued more regulations to prevent similar acquisition, including wearing N95 masks when dealing with patients on NIV regardless of their COVID-19 status, restricting NIV use to predetermined areas, and screening all patients requiring NIV for COVID-19."

An additional seven patients and 13 staff were exposed indirectly through contact with other healthcare workers or patients in the same ward. Out of the 12 exposed patients, three died from their original disease: two had advanced malignancies and one had terminal cardiomyopathy, while none of the medical personnel required hospitalisation. Sore throat, fever, and myalgia were the commonest symptoms.

The study concluded that early recognition and screening of patients for COVID-19, and strict adherence to infection control measures, including appropriate PPE, should be encouraged at all times when healthcare workers deal with patients.

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

< FROM A1

Multi-faceted plan covers all aspects of city

"The vision is reflected in the element of prosperity, by developing and investing in services and facilities, and reviving the economic, investment, social, youth and development aspects in order to achieve added returns for the Governorate of Muscat," said a statement from Muscat Municipality.

The plan also aims to "generate opportunities for establishing infrastructure by investing in assets to achieve competitiveness among the various cities of the world. One of the pillars of the governorate's vision is to be vibrant, vital and interact with the surrounding environments."

A big part of Muscat Municipality's plan in making the city more vibrant is to add more elements such as public parks, natural green spaces, playgrounds, playgrounds, pedestrian pathways, marketplaces, festival zones, and take care of proper sanitation to maintain exceptional standards of public hygiene.

Organising more events and activities, adding well-equipped health facilities for people, developing hiking paths, and upgrading tourist areas and beaches to provide proper amenities to visitors, are also key to the enhancement of Muscat as a city to live in and visit. Muscat Municipality added, "One of the elements that makes the cities vibrant is the 'humanisation of cities'. The environment and the aesthetic impact of other structures will raise the morale of the people in a city that is more livable, and harness all the elements within to make them happier."

The planned improvement also comes within the larger plan of establishing Muscat as a city built on the concept of sustainability, as well as one that preserves the history and legacy of Oman, and builds a capital for future generations. The city is expected to set the standards for the foundations of strategic projects, whether at governorate or national level, to ensure their sustainability and validity, reduce waste, and rationalise costs.

> The planned improvement also comes within the larger plan of establishing Muscat as a city built on the concept of sustainability

Working to build a city for future generations, Muscat Governorate has, during the recent past, carried out the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and organised a series of meetings with the youth across various wilayats in the capital and surrounding areas.

"Through these meetings, the governorate sought to listen to their visions, stay in touch with their needs and interests, introduce them to the governorate's vision, review development and service projects in the wilayats, explain the objectives of the executive plans for the next phase of development, and discuss the ideas and aspirations put forward by young people," said Muscat Municipality.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

Story on traffic disruption due to road accident

A story on traffic disrupted on a road due to an accident reached 24,072 people and had 2,312 engagements on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

Story on greenhouse gas emissions

Story on greenhouse gas emissions in Oman had 381 views and 31 likes on Instagram.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

Maghrib Minute video in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi had 3,200 views and reached 13,100 people on Facebook.

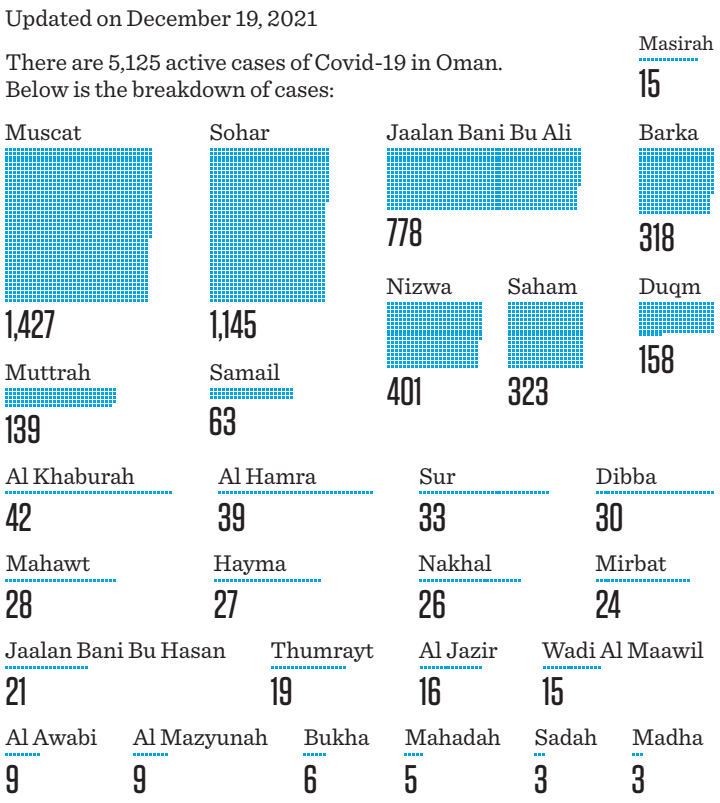
OMAN

TFM 95.4 91.0 Follow us on TFMOman

31 wilayats of Oman are still in the grip of COVID-19

Updated on December 19, 2021

There are 5,125 active cases of Covid-19 in Oman. Below is the breakdown of cases:



Source: Ministry of Health

novagram infographics

LIWA PLASTIC INDUSTRIES

< FROM A1

OMR578 million ICV generated by project during construction phase

Then, an introductory video was played about the Liwa Plastic Industries Complex, which consists of four key components, of which the second, third and fourth components are currently in commercial operation, with the integrated commercial operation of the first completion on track to reach full production capacity by the first quarter of 2022 in line with the project delivery schedule.

The In-Country Value (ICV) generated by the project during its construction phase amounted to approximately OMR578 million, which was spent on the procurement of local goods and services, as well as training and support for SMEs.

The project aims to strengthen the industrial sector by producing 880,000 tonnes annually of polyethylene (the basic raw material at the heart of about 40 per cent of all types of plastics produced worldwide) and about 300,000 tonnes per year of polypropylene, which will increase Oman's production of the two polymers to 1.4 million tonnes per year, said Eng. Al Oufi, adding that output from the complex totalled 474,000 tonnes by the end of October 2021.

The inauguration ceremony concluded with the presentation of a commemorative gift to the patron of the event. -ONA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Training to sharpen writing, editing skills

MUSCAT: The Media Training Centre at the Ministry of Information, in cooperation with Al Jazeera Media Institute, began on Monday a training programme themed "News Editing: Techniques and Practices".

The three-day programme seeks to sharpen the skills of the participants in writing and editing news stories.

Media training

It is worth noting that the Media Training Centre conducts several training programmes for polishing the skills of employees in the communication and media sector.-ONA

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST AT BAIT AL NU'AMAN FORT

WE LOVE OMAN

There are many tourist sites in the Wilayat of Barka, most notably the Bait Al Nu'aman Fort. According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism," The tall and narrow house, with alternating square and round towers, is thought to have been constructed around 1691–92 by Imam Bil'arab bin Sultan (or possibly his brother, and successor as imam, Saif bin Sultan), and was used by both imams during their visits to the area.

Bait Al Nu'aman Fort was renovated by Imam Ahmed bin Said Al Busaidi (1749 -1783), after nearly a century of use. The building was fortified by strengthening the walls and the construction of two new defensive towers, which enabled guards to fire their guns in all directions.

"Unlike most of Oman's forts, the house has been fitted out with a lavish selection of traditional furnishings and fittings, giving the place an engagingly domestic atmosphere and making it much easier to imagine what life was like for its former inhabitants than in most other Omani heritage buildings. Downstairs you'll find the original bathroom and stone toilet, both connected to an underground falaj which formerly brought water all the way from Nakhal. There's also a storage room, in which dates were pressed.

The main living areas are situated upstairs, with a sequence of rooms attractively furnished with traditional rugs, cushions, crockery and jewellery. These include the men's and ladies' majlis, plus a quaint bedroom with four-poster bed and a wooden hatch in the floor through which water could be drawn up from below. Nearby is the private majlis of the imam, equipped with a secret escape passage, and a watchtower with pit-like jails for miscreants. Further stairs lead up to the roof. The main tower is supported by beautiful teak beams, with old pictures of ships scratched onto the walls. The tower originally housed six cannon, backed up by three more cannon in the house's second tower – an impressive array of firepower for what was essentially a private residence rather than a proper fort.

T FM 95.4 91.0 Follow us on TFMOman

Fitch Ratings revises Oman's outlook to stable

Moody's has recently revised its outlook on Oman from stable to positive

MUSCAT: Fitch Ratings has revised, in a recent report issued today, Oman's outlook to stable from negative and affirmed the rating at BB-.

According to Fitch, the revision of the outlook reflects actual improvements in key fiscal metrics including government debt and the budget deficit, driven by fiscal reforms and higher oil prices, and a lessening of external financing pressures relative to recent years.

Fitch has said in the report that the government has made progress with the implementation of the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP), which aims to balance the budget and lower government debt to GDP to 61 percent by 2025.

The agency estimates that the budget deficit narrowed from 16.1 percent of GDP in 2020 to 3.4 percent of GDP in 2021.

It also indicated that the deficit will continue to decline to 1.6 percent of GDP in 2022 given another strong year for oil and gas revenue, a full year of VAT revenue, lower oil and gas capex on budget (after establishing Energy Development Oman).

Moreover, the agency assumes real GDP growth to accelerate to 3.1 percent in 2022 and steady to 2.3 percent in 2023, driven by stronger hydrocarbon growth in 2022. The agency expects the MTFP timely implementation will lower the fiscal breakeven oil price to around USD60/b in 2024-2025 from above USD80/b in the past five years.

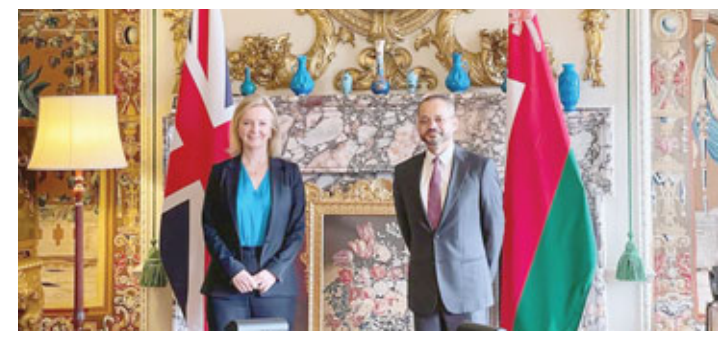
According to Fitch, Oman's credit rating might be upgraded in case the government has broadly committed to implement the fiscal balance programme or oil prices exceeded the expected levels.

It is worth noting that Moody's has recently revised its outlook on Oman from stable to positive.

Also, S&P Global Ratings has revised earlier this year its outlook from stable to positive. This is attributed to the policy responses to economic and health challenges and improved oil prices, which will reduce fiscal deficits and slow the increase in net government debt. -ONA

MEETING

Sayyid Badr meets British counterpart



LONDON: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met on Monday Liz Truss, UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

The meeting touched on the historical ties binding the two countries.

The two sides stressed their keenness to continue promoting the bilateral relations in various fields. They also underlined their interest to promote the joint cooperation, particularly in the economic and investment areas.

The two ministers exchanged views on some regional and international issues of common concern as they stressed the importance of maintaining pillars of security and stability in all parts of the world. -ONA

ROP

Man held in hit-and-run case

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested a person on charges of running over an expatriate and fleeing from the scene of the accident.

"The North Al Batinah Governorate Police Command arrested a person on charges of running over an expat and fleeing from the scene of the accident, which resulted in the death of the victim," ROP said.

RIYADH

Dr. Laila meets with Saudi minister

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, will take part in the 41st meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, scheduled to be held during 22 and 23 December 2021 in Riyadh.

The ministry will also represent the Sultanate of Oman in the Conference on the Management of Social Transformation Program for Social Affairs' Arab Ministers (MOST). The conference is held on the sidelines of the 41st meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs under the title "Asymmetric impact of COVID-19". The Sultanate of Oman's delegation is headed by Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

MOST conference will discuss the containment of COVID-19 and its social repercussions. The conference will also witness the presentation of the award of HRH Sabeeka Ibrahim Al Khalifa to Encourage Productive Families for the Year 2022.

Dr. Laila Al Najjar met with Majid Al Ghanimi, Saudi Deputy Minister of Human Resources for Social Development.

The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation in various fields between the two ministries.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was delivered on the ministries' services in the fields of family empowerment, child protection, combating beggary, welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and social protection. -ONA

OOREDOO

Programme to sharpen skills of staff

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour, in cooperation with the Omani-Qatari Telecommunications Company SAOG "Ooredoo", on Monday organised a ceremony to celebrate the passing out of 23 employees in the "Spring-Forward" programme.

The programme is aimed at enhancing the trainees' professional and administrative levels. The ceremony was under the patronage of Sayyid Salim Musallam Al Busaidi, Human Resources Development Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Labour.

Al Busaidi said that the programme is an example of partnership between the public and private sectors, which is a step forward in the field of grooming leaders.

He added that the programme is based on practical projects which increase competition and teamwork, resulting in improved work performance and higher quality services. -ONA

REF: OFM/TD-02-2021
SCRAP SELL

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize vendor to participate in our tender for the "Scrap sell" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/ADM-01/2021
Tender subject	Scrap sell
Tender fee	RO.100/- (refundable)
Date for visit location	27.12.2021 - 28.12.2021
Closing date of the tender	06.01.2022
Mode of payment of tender fee	By cash – Finance dept.
For communication	Mr. Mohamed Al Balushi # 93912022 Mr. Mohammed Obaid # 99845546 Mr. Shabib Al Balushi # 98047984

Vendor selection will be based on **"BEST and FINAL OFFER"** process, please provide the contact details of the authorized person for final discussions.
Interested parties need to submit the bids separately in a sealed envelope with our ref. no duly mentioned and drop them at the tender box of our Atyab Investment Building

omanflourmills Oman Flour Mills

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

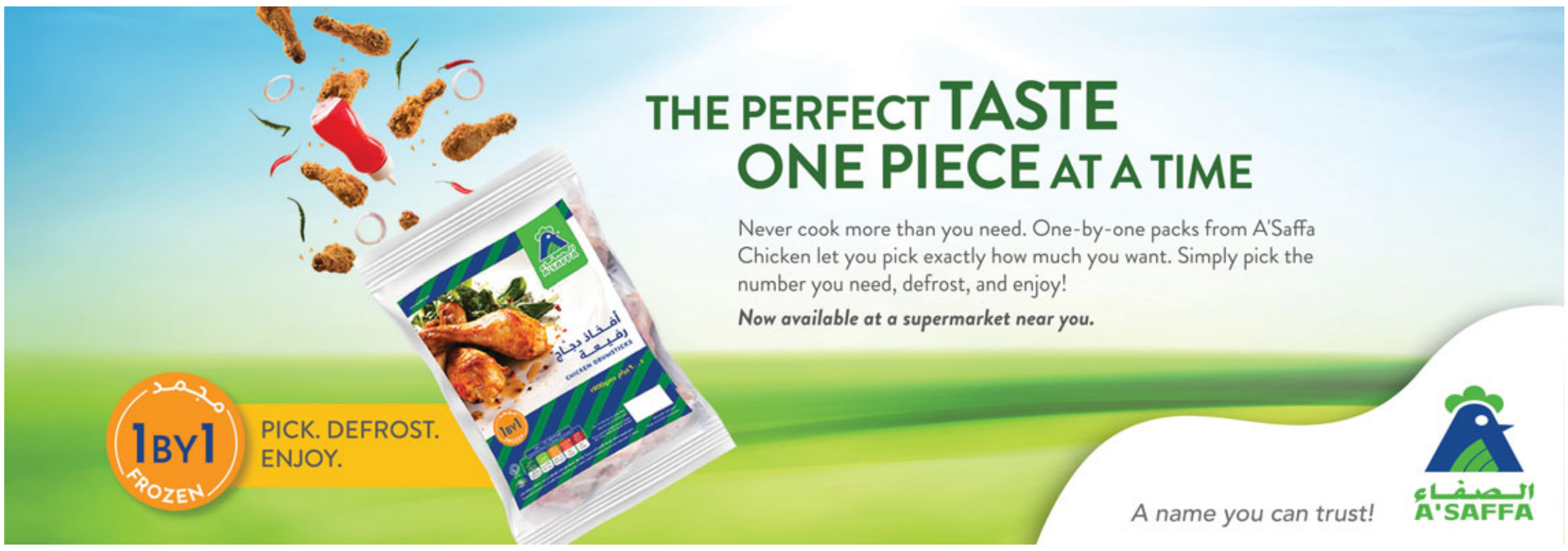
MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C WOULD LIKE TO THE INVITES INTERESTED COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLWING AUCTION:

Auction No.	Description	Last Date of Partcipate	Available for Inspection	Date of Submission	Tender Price (R.O)
Auction No 2/2021	Selling Scrap Material Muscat Electricity Distribution Company	06/01/2022	Mobella store 09/01/2022 to 10/01/2022 AL-AZaiba Store 11/01/2022 to 12/01/2022	25/01/2022	69.930

The table below shows the instructions for participation: -

Purchase timing	The amount specified above is including 5 % VAT. The amount specified above is Non-Refundable payment (Terms and Condition apply) Auction documents can be purchased at online, time between 08:00 – 13:00 hours You are kindly requsted to communicate throgh email to **Contract@medcoman.com**
Fees	Against the amount specified above. Non-Refundable payment
Tender Submission	• Auction offer should be submitted in a sealed and stamped envelope addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CO. marked only with Auction number and the subject
Guarantee	• Auction offer should enclose a bank guarantee or a certified cheque issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman Unconditional and irrevocable and shall be disbursement as soon as it is submitted for the value of (3%) of the tender value valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission and addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C. • Any bid that does not meet the bank guarantee condition will not be considered
Terms and Conditions	• The bidder must adhere with MEDC QHSE safety rules. • The bidder must have **No Objection Letter** (Waste Management Activity) From Be'ah if the Scrap Lot consist of Hazardous waste materials (Transformer oil , Batteries) • The name of the bidder, other marks or any reference must not be specified on the envelope • Bids received after the deadline stated in the Invitation , including any extension thereof, for any reason whatsoever will not be considered • Inspection days from 09/01/2022 to 10/01/2022,at Mobella store from the 9:00 am to 12:30 pm , for AL-AZaiba Store inspection days 11/01/2022 to 12/01/2022from the 9:00 am to 11:00 pm
Bid Placement	should be deposited in the **Tender Box No. 1** in the ground floor of MEDC Head Office building at Airport Heights, before 10 a.m. on the assigned date of Auction submission
Email/Tele No.	**contract@medcoman.com 24588600 – Ext: 8674 or 8726**

medcoman.com
80070008



WORLD

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OMICRON CONCERNS

UK records biggest daily jump of Omicron cases

LONDON: Another 12,133 Omicron cases have been recorded in Britain, the biggest daily increase since the COVID-19 variant was detected in the country, taking the total Omicron cases found in the country to 37,101, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Britain reported 82,886 coronavirus cases in the latest 24-hour period, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 11,361,387, according to official figures released on Sunday.

The number of confirmed cases is down again on Saturday's figure of 90,418.

However, figures are generally lower over the weekend. On Friday, Britain reported a record high of 93,045 confirmed cases.

The country registered a further 45 coronavirus-related deaths.

The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 147,218, with 7,611 COVID-19 patients still in the hospital.

The latest figures came as British Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the new variant is spreading "very, very quickly", even more so than the figures suggest.

The "actual number of infections will be significantly higher than case numbers suggest" because not everyone will be taking a test and there is a lag for people to get their test results back, he said.

Meanwhile, the British government's advisory scientists have warned extra restrictions are needed "within days" to prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed by Omicron. ANI

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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
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US health expert Anthony Fauci warns Omicron is 'raging' around the world

The US government is expecting a series of breakthrough infections due to increased travel over the Christmas holidays

WASHINGTON: The Omicron variant of the coronavirus is "raging" around the world, the White House's top medical advisor Anthony Fauci said on Sunday.

Fauci said in a TV interview for NBC that the "real problem" for the US hospital system is that "we have so many people in this country who are eligible to be vaccinated who have not yet been vaccinated."

Why is the US government worried?

The US government is expecting a series of breakthrough infections due to increased travel over the Christmas holidays. Fauci said most people who have been vaccinated and gotten a booster should be fine, especially if they wear masks in crowded areas.

In the interview, Fauci urged citizens to get a booster shot to increase protection from the virus.

He also highlighted the importance of providing vaccines to the rest of the world.

"One thing that's very clear... is its (omicron's) extraordinary capability of spreading," Fauci told NBC. "It is just... raging through to the world."

What is Omicron?

Since it was first reported in November, omicron has been identified in dozens of countries. The spread of the variant has prompted many countries to reimpose travel restrictions and other measures.

Despite indications that it is not more severe than the delta variant of the virus, early data suggests that omicron could be more resistant to vaccines and have higher rates of transmission.

Fauci called into doubt early reports on Omicron's lower severity, arguing that the low rate of hospitalisations recorded in South Africa could be a result of underlying immunity from widespread previous infections.

He also warned that even if the variant causes less severe illness, it could still put a considerable strain on the US hospital system due to how quickly it spreads.

Two senators test positive

Meanwhile, senator Elizabeth Warren of the Democratic Party said on Sunday that she had tested positive for COVID-19 and is experiencing mild symptoms. She said in a tweet that she is vaccinated and boosted and regularly tested for COVID-19, and had tested negative earlier this week.

In a subsequent tweet, Warren also urged people to get vaccinated and boosted as this could "save lives."

Senator Cory Booker of the Democratic Party also tested positive for the coronavirus on Sunday. He said in a tweet that he had relatively mild symptoms and had recently had a vaccine booster. DW

TYPHOON RAI

Over 200 dead as Philippines reels from Typhoon Rai

MANILA: At least 208 people have died after a powerful typhoon slammed into the Philippines last week, the national police said on Monday.

The tally showed at least 52 people are still missing, with dozens of others incurring injuries.

Typhoon Rai, one of the most powerful tropical storms to have struck the archipelago, made landfall on December 16, with wind speeds of up to 120 miles an hour.

The typhoon, which would have been classed as a category 5 hurricane in the US when it first enveloped the southern islands, has since moved to the South China Sea.

The extent of the damage wrought by the powerful winds is becoming clearer with every passing day. The country's national disaster agency said more than 480,000 had been displaced.

Local officials ask for relief

Arthur Yap, the regional governor of Bohol in central Philippines, said at least 74 people had died in his province alone.

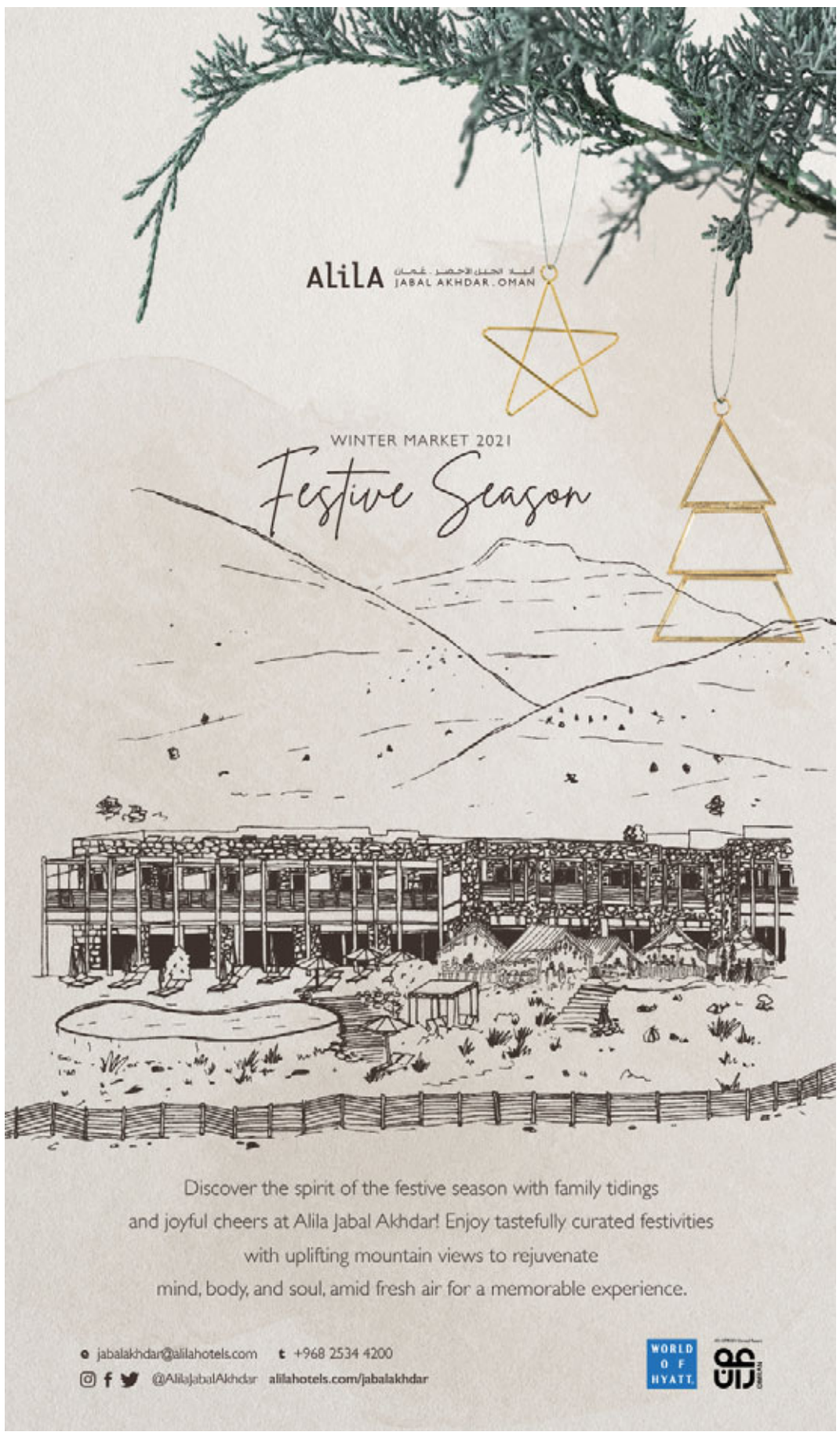
Yap has been constantly communicating with the public over social media posts on Facebook. On Sunday, he told the public he asked mayors of towns to invoke their emergency powers to secure food and water for people.

The Philippine Red Cross reported "completed carnage" in coastal areas too. The organization's chairman, Richard Gordon, previously reported that "homes, hospitals, school and community buildings" were completely destroyed by the winds.

Pope Francis offered his condolences, too.

At least 10 people had died on the Dinagat Islands, in the south, provincial information officer Jeffrey Crisostomo said on Sunday.

Siargao, Dinagat and Mindanao were among the islands that bore the brunt of the storm. DW



INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Japanese billionaire returns from space trip

TOKYO: Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa returned to Earth on Monday after spending 12 days on board the International Space Station, Russia's space agency Roscosmos said.

Maezawa is a fashion tycoon who sold his online fashion business Zozo to Soft Bank in 2019. Forbes estimates his worth as $1.9 billion. Maezawa parachuted onto Kazakhstan's steppe at around the planned time of 0313 GMT, along with his assistant and film producer Yozo Hirano, and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin.

The landing site was located 150 kilometres southeast of Zhezkazgan in central Kazakhstan, where there was precipitation and sub-zero temperatures.

Maezawa made the trip in a Russian 'Soyuz' spacecraft and became the first space tourist to travel to the International Space Station in more than a decade.

The entrepreneur made a variety of posts on social media from his trip, including photos from space of his home prefecture of Chiba, and videos showing how to make tea in zero gravity and discussing his shortage of fresh underwear.

In a live interview from the orbiting space station, Maezawa said that "once you are in space, you realise how much it is worth it by having this amazing experience."

DW

Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority

Zawawi Trading Company L.L.C.

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz
S-Class and C-Class
Model year: 2021-2022

Date of Campaign: 21.12.2021
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety

Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
42	W1K2231611A010697	TO	W1K2231611A034890	S 450 4MATIC
8	W1K2231631A020362		W1K2231631A030940	S 500 4MATIC

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain S-Class (223 platform) and C-Class (206 platform) vehicles the software of the airbag control unit might not meet specifications.
The control unit for the occupant recognition might be deactivated permanently by the airbag control unit at vehicle shut down. As a consequence, the passenger airbag might be deactivated despite a person sitting on the passenger front seat. Local legal requirements might not be met.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will update the software of the airbag control unit on the affected vehicles. The expected workshop visit for the update of the airbag control unit will take around 30 minutes and will be free of charge.

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 21.12.2021 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:
Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 21.12.2021.

Mercedes-Benz

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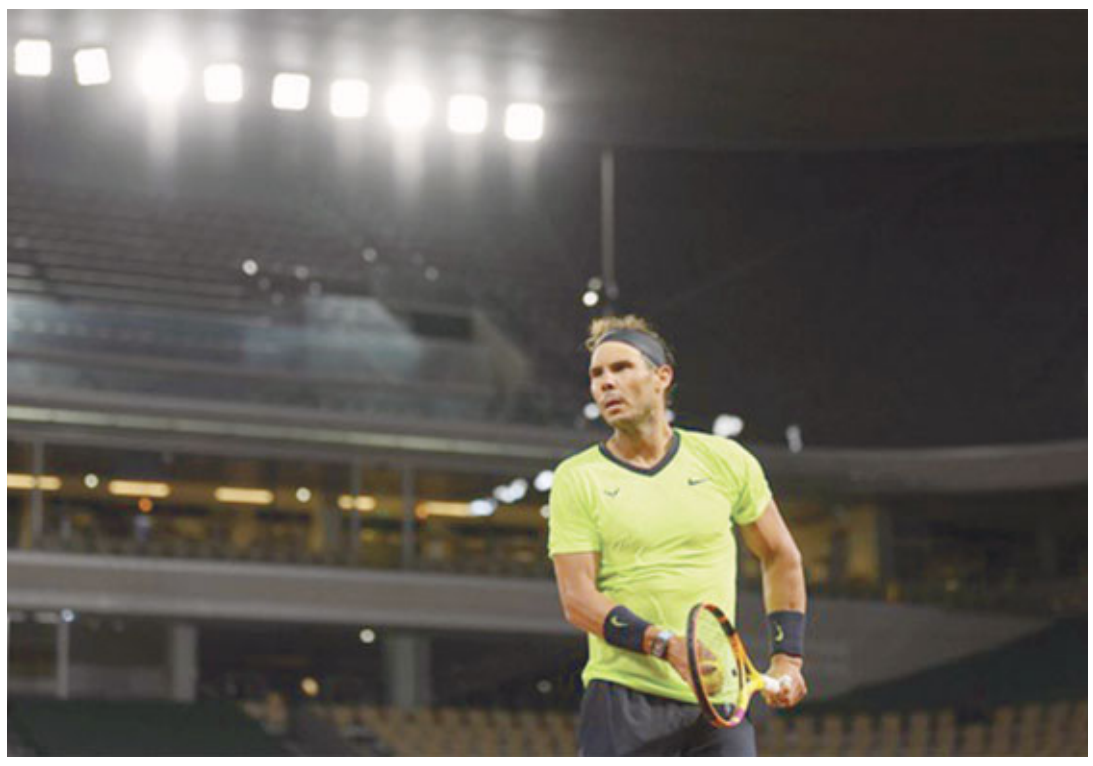
Nadal tests positive for COVID after Abu Dhabi exhibition event

The twenty-time Grand Slam champion tested positive for virus upon his arrival in Spain



COVID POSITIVE: Nadal is slated to feature at an ATP 250 in Melbourne that will begin on January 4.

MADRID: Former world number one Rafael Nadal has tested positive for COVID-19, the Spaniard revealed on Monday.

The twenty-time Grand Slam champion Spaniard who returned to action at the World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi last week tested positive for virus upon his arrival in Spain.

"Hi all. I wanted to announce that on my return home after playing the Abu Dhabi tournament, I have tested positive for COVID in the PCR test that was performed on me when I arrived in Spain," Nadal tweeted.

"Both in Kuwait and Abu Dhabi we passed controls every two days and all were negative, the last being on Friday and having the results on Saturday. I am having some unpleasant moments but I hope that I will improve little by little. I am now homebound and have reported the result to those who have been in contact with me."

"As a consequence of the situation, I have to have total flexibility with my calendar and I will analyze my options depending on my evolution. I will keep you informed of any decisions about my future tournaments! Thank you all in advance for your support and understanding," he concluded.

Nadal is slated to feature at an ATP 250 in Melbourne that will begin on January 4. He has not competed in an ATP tournament since this year's Citi Open, where he lost against Lloyd Harris in the Round of 16.

The 20 times Grand Slam champion is currently No. 6 in the ATP Rankings. ANI

COMMENTARY

Sunny talks about his entrepreneurial journey

Anis Sajan, *Vice Chairman, Danube Group*

It was an absolute pleasure for me to have a chat with none other than the original Little Master of cricket, Sunil Gavaskar during the Tie Global Summit at Dubai Exhibition Centre. However, this time around we discussed more about his entrepreneurial journey than his cricketing career.

Indian cricketers have endorsed products for decades. But perhaps the first player to realise the importance of sustained monetization in a player's life was Little Master Sunil Gavaskar.

Gavaskar not only branded himself gainfully during his playing days but also beyond. In 1985, when he was 36 and in the last phase of his career, he founded Professional Management Group (PMG), a sports marketing company, with advertising professional Sumedh Shah, a pioneer in India to successfully establish the synergy between sports, business & communications.

My very first question to him was about how did he think of starting a concept that was unheard of in India at that time. He mentioned that it all when Sumedh Shah proposed him a brand endorsement and asked for his fees, he wasn't sure what to say.

To which Sumedh Shah said that "Being a captain of the team if you don't know what to charge then you don't know what your value is". The later then explained to him that about International Management Group started by Mark McCormack who were managing golfers like Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and would do negotiations with the brands on their behalf. This idea struck a chord with him and that's how he started the Professional Management Group with Sumedh Shah.

The group burnt their fingers in the first project itself, that involved securing contracts for the Swedish Davis Cup who were touring India a few months later.

The team included three players among the top 10 in the international rankings of the Association of Tennis Professionals - Mats Wilander, Anders Jarryd and Stefan Edberg. He added "Abroad, these players would charge a quarter of a million dollars to wear a wrist band. We had managed to get them for peanuts at a lakh and a half" but the response was cold.

Numerous rounds of advertising agencies only brought ignorant responses such as: 'Is McEnroe also coming?' or 'Davis Cup? Isn't Wimbledon the international tennis tournament?' Nobody was interested in the Swedes. The PMG ran into a clean loss.

They did not let this dampen their spirits, and started of thinking more ideas in terms of marketing. They realised that it would be difficult to sell any sport in India, other than cricket.

So they returned to the crease and started syndicating newspaper columns, which was a new concept beginning with Gavaskar's, followed by the other big names in various sports. Even though Sunil Gavaskar is one of the top commentators today, he still writes syndicated columns.

Another first move was starting the first ever TV Show for sports, 'Sunil Gavaskar Presents' at a point where there was no live television coverage for sports in India.

They reached out to a couple of channels which had the right to show India matches with and bought the rights. On the show he would have candid conversations with domestic as well as international players about the games being played.

His company has pioneered many firsts in the industry and Gavaskar is glad that he and his company paved the way for all the sports management companies' in India. Quite a few of these companies are also looking after emerging talents which he feels is a great thing as this will give these emerging players the required recognition.

When I asked him how it felt that how it felt to be on the other side of the business, he added he never interfered in the negotiations.

Now at 72, he has started his third innings which is very close to his heart and to which he dedicates most of his time.

The Heart to Heart Foundation which is dedicated to saving the lives of children born with congenital heart defects (CHD) by providing free pediatric cardiac surgeries in collaboration with Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals.

His signed off by advising the entrepreneurs to believe in themselves and never give up in life.

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Majees, Oman Stallions win convincingly; Yalla Shabab, Renaissance triumph

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Majees beat top of table Muscat CT by 121 runs in the Premier Division 50 over league match of Oman Cricket in Al Amerat Turf 1 on Friday. Put to bat first by Muscat CT , Majees scored 198 courtesy contribution from Khurram Kham - 90 of 124 balls; losing all 10 wickets in 49.2 overs. Samay Shrivastav was Muscat CT's scalper bagging 4 wickets in his 10 overs. In return, Muscat CT tumbled down for just 77 with Ubaidullah and Khawar Ali bagging 3 wickets each.

Brief Scores - Majees 198/10 in 49.2 overs (Khurram Khan 90(124) - 3x4,8x6 ; Samay Shrivastav 46/4) beat Muscat CT 77/10 in 28.4 overs (Ubaidullah 17/3 ; Khawar Ali 8/3) by 121 runs.

In another Premier Division 50 over league match played on friday, Oman Stallions thumped AER by 7 wickets chasing the target in just 5.3 overs.

Put into bat first, AER could only muster 52 losing all their wickets courtesy of Bilal Khan and Hemal Tandel who were the wreckers in chief bagging 3 wickets each. Oman Stallions chased the target loosing 3 wickets and scoring 53 in quick succession.

Brief Scores - AER 52/10 in 13.1 overs (Bilal Khan 25/3 ; Hemal Tandel 22/3) lose to Oman Stallions 53/3 in 5.3 overs by 7 wickets. On Saturday , Yalla Shabab trounced IAS by 30 runs on Turf 1 in the Oman Cricket Premier Division league in Al Amerat.

Put into bat, Yalla Shabab scored 225 for 10 wickets in 47.2 overs with Gustav Burger being the man through the innings scoring 139 of 131 balls. Khalid Rashid was the strike with the ball for IAS bagging 5 wickets in his quota of 10 overs.

In return, IAS could only drag themselves close to the target scoring 195 in all. Rao Waqar and Waseem Akhtar held the ship for resilient 40's to their scores.

Brief Scores - Yalla Shabab 225/10 in 47.2 overs (Gustav Burger 139(131) 14x4,4x6 ; Khalid Rashid 38/5) won against IAS 195/10 in 48.1 overs (Rao Waqar 49(80) 3x4 ; Mohd Nadeem 32/3) by 30 runs.

In another Oman Cricket Premier league match on Saturday, Renaissance thumped ARTT by 66 runs.

Electing to bowl first, ARTT restricted Renaissance to 195 with Pruthvi Machhi solely contributing to the total with his 74 of 96 balls , courtesy Mohd Imran Latif picking 5 wickets.

In return, Renaissance charged upto ARTT letting them just to 129 spearheaded by Ajay Lalcheta's 4 wicket haul.

Brief Scores - Renaissance 195/10 in 48.3 overs (Pruthvi Machhi 74(96) 10x4,1x6 ; Mohd Imran Latif 34/5) beat ARTT 129/10 in 36.4 overs (Ghazanfar Iqbal 43(35) 3x4,2x6 , Ajay Lalcheta 21/4)

T20 LEAGUE

Pokri Warriors defeat Asian Strikers by 48 runs

MUSCAT: Pokri Warriors defeated Asian Strikers by 48 runs in the Muscat Open Cricket T20 League 2021 final.

Electing to bat first, Pokri Warriors posted a total of 261 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. In turn, Asian Strikers could manage only 213 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their allotted overs. Sachin from Pokri Warriors scored an unbeaten 98 in 32 balls securing the Man of the match award.

Farook from Asian Strikers won the player of the tournament. Team Pokri Warriors and Asian Strikers entered the grand final defeating Challengers CC and Smile Strikers in the semi-finals. Ashfaq Ahmed from Al Dasser won the best batsman award for scoring 732 runs and a maximum number of 79 sixes.

Hari Krishnan from Muscat Wings won the best bowler award getting 30 wickets in the tournament. Muhammad Bilal from FCC Al Bustan scored the highest individual score of 159 runs while Subash from Binsalim won the maximum 50 award by scoring five fifties. Hassan from YAAT Cricketers won the award for scoring three centuries in the tournament.

Qamar Abbas from Black Arrows won the emerging player award for his outstanding performance in the tournament.

FOOTBALL

Real Madrid left frustrated by battling Cadiz

MADRID: Real Madrid were denied an eighth consecutive La Liga victory after being held by relegation strugglers Cadiz at the Bernabeu. The result leaves Real six points clear at the top of the table having played a game more than second-placed Sevilla.

The hosts dominated throughout, registering 36 efforts on goal to the visitors' four.

However, despite creating several good openings it became a night of frustration for Carlo Ancelotti's side.

Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior flattered to deceive on his 100th league appearance for Real and Eden Hazard was largely a peripheral figure on his first La Liga start since mid-September. Karim Benzema was another to disappoint, while Alvaro Negredo missed a late opportunity to give the visitors a much-needed victory that would have lifted them out of the bottom three, BBC sports reported. ONA

WORKER WELFARE

Good for people, good for business, growth for the economy, and progress for the nation

Sustainability is a top priority for companies and governments across the world. The pandemic highlighted the rewards of efficient sustainable practices while also underlining the severe negative impact where these practices were absent or disregarded. As organisations align their businesses with global sustainability practices, they have widened their focus from environmental sustainability to include the vital aspect of social sustainability.

GLOBAL STANDARDS

World Health Organization

THREE Cs

Crowded places, close contact settings and confined and enclosed spaces – sum up the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers across the world.

International Labour Organization

DIGNITY IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Workers need more than bed, bath and food:

- **Ethical living conditions that value, respect and protect worker privacy, safety, nutrition, health, sanitation, and wellness.**
- **Positive lifestyle, rest and recreation for all.**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages is one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development goals.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR OMAN

ATTRACTING FDI & INTERNATIONAL FINANCING	OPTIMAL HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE GLOBALLY	QUICKER ECONOMIC BOUNCE BACK
MINIMISING RISKS OF OUTBREAK DURING EPIDEMICS	LOWER RISK TO NEARBY COMMUNITIES	LOWER BURDEN ON HEALTHCARE APPARATUS

COST-OPTIMISATION BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Overall worker wellbeing leading to improved safety performance, higher productivity and efficiency
- Lower downtime for sickness and better mental health
- Lower rates of attrition and being an employer of choice
- A sense of belonging and commitment to the employer
- Greener outcomes, lower utility consumption, better waste management
- Attracting young Omanis to work in remote locations, with safe facilities for women
- Level playing field of standards and costs for competitive tendering
- Social sustainability, along with business and economic sustainability

RO200MN+ INVESTED IN OMAN

From the first Permanent Accommodation for Contractors (PAC) projects in PDO oilfields to the flagship accommodation project, Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD)

RENAISSANCE VILLAGE DUQM

Enabling Oman Vision 2040

تقدم بثقة
Moving Forward with Confidence

رؤية عُمان 2040

BUILDING WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVABLE CITIES

- RSVD represents a transformational accommodation strategy that established a new standard in providing a safe, healthy and friendly residential solution for all levels of employees.
- RSVD was built to act as an enabler for Oman's vision of creating a smart city on its eastern seaboard.

ENSURING BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF OMAN'S GOVERNORATES

Renaissance projects bring direct and indirect contribution to local development in terms of sustainable economic growth and opportunities.

ENHANCING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Renaissance provides health, safety and wellbeing for blue-collar workers across Oman, including those coming from the poorest of backgrounds.

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Renaissance incorporates green practices in the design, development and operations of RSVD, that are aligned to environmental objectives of global and Omani agencies.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2022 reaching $70.15, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by $3.09 from the price of Friday, which was $73.24. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 6.9 points, comprising an increase by 0.17 per cent to close at 4050.01 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4043.11 points.

Bank Muscat offers special life insurance plan from AXA

The Life Protect Plus insurance plan can protect the insured family's future and offer the financial assistance required to confront life's unexpected challenges

"We are happy to offer this great coverage at very affordable and highly competitive premiums

Abdullah Al Maashani
DGM – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has invited its customers to take advantage of the valuable life insurance plan offered by the bank in partnership with AXA, a global leader in insurance.

The Life Protect Plus insurance plan can protect the insured family's future and offer the financial assistance required to confront life's unexpected challenges. Customers can use Life Protect Plus to make up for lost income, secure their children's future education, care for an elderly family member or even settle outstanding financial obligations.

Customers aged 18 to 65 can apply for the Life Protect Plus plan, which covers death from any cause, as well as permanent total disability caused by an accident or illness. Customers can pay the premiums on a single or monthly basis, using the option that best matches their requirements.

Speaking about the special benefits available, Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, DGM – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat, said, "Through our strong partnership with AXA Insurance, which is recognised worldwide for its excellent products and services, the bank offers customers the perfect solution to protect their loved ones from unexpected events that can take away their financial security and lifestyle.

"We are happy to offer this great coverage at very affordable and highly competitive premiums. Customers can choose the option that provides the best coverage for their unique needs and can rest assured that their loved ones will be protected against unexpected contingencies should anything unexpected happen."

Mehdi Salim Al Harthy, General Manager & Head of Partnerships for AXA in Oman, said: "We are delighted to continue strengthening our strategic partnership with Bank Muscat and continue offering highly competitive insurance plans for the bank's customers. As a trusted partner focused on protecting what matters, we help our customers find convenient solutions to their various insurance needs with innovative products like the Life Protect Plus insurance plan."

Tender Notice

Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), announces following E-Tenders for 2021:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Deadline for Specifications Request	Deadline for tender bids	Tender Price
30/2021	Review the Operational Manual of the Internal Audit Department	28 Dec 2021	10 Jan 2021	25 OMR

Interested companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender document from the E.Tendering website: http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om. The Vendors must provide electronic bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2%) of the Tender value valid for (120) days on website: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om and addressed to Public Authority for Social Insurance.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender inquiry : All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at E-Tendering system (http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
2. E-Tendering system inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel : +968 24402200 , E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

PASI is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other tender that may be received

PASI
With you .. For You
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Branches: Muscat - 24579050, Seeb Al Mawelah - 24550013, Mabela -24269400, Barka - 26887504, Rustaq - 26876199, Ibra -25571457, Sinaw - 25524203, Nizwa - 25213015, Buraimi - 25660124, Sohar - 26858500, Sur - 25541375, BB Ali - 25553692, Salalah - 23217303, Ibri - 25687100

Campaign Period: Up to 30th December 2021. Benefits are applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" Cash Gift is given in Lieu of Insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses Insurance (as applicable), he/she will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. Cash Gift in lieu of insurance can also be used as part of down payment. *Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only, excluding diesel grades) on 19YM / 19PLT: Camry 3.5 & Camry HEV. 20YM / 19PLT: Yaris HB, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, Supra, Avanza, Fortuner & Hilux 4x2. 20YM / 20 PLT: Yaris HB, Yaris SD, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, Avanza, Fortuner, Highlander HEV & Hilux 4x2. 21YM / 20 PLT: Corolla 2.0, C-HR, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. 21YM / 21 PLT: Yaris SD, Corolla 1.6, Corolla 2.0, Corolla Cross, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. 22YM / 21 PLT: Camry 2.5, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per Insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. **2 Years / 20,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 2 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on all Toyota models excluding Corolla 1.8 HEV, Avalon (excluding 21YM / 20 PLT), Supra, Fortuner, Highlander HEV, LC WGN, Hiace, Granvia and Coaster. **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on models upto 21YM LC WGN (LC200) 4.6L & 5.7L. **8 Years / 80,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 8 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions on all models of 20 YM Corolla 1.8 HEV models. $ Walk-in & Win Raffle: Raffle of 4 units of iPhone 13 128 GB. All individual prospects who walk-in for an enquiry of any Toyota vehicle in any Toyota Showroom in the Sultanate within the campaign period are eligible for the raffle. Raffle will be conducted at Toyota showroom Wattayah, as per the following dates 15.11.2021, 30.11.2021, 15.12.2021 and 02.01.2022. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

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MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,051.52	4,040.25	4,050.01	4,043.11	6.90	0.17
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,502.99	6,475.65	6,502.79	6,475.65	27.14	0.42
Industry Index	5,998.34	5,988.26	5,988.26	5,989.18	-0.92	-0.02
Services Index	1,579.83	1,573.35	1,573.35	1,577.30	-3.95	-0.25
MSX Shariah Index	531.36	529.72	529.72	530.43	-0.71	-0.13
MSX TR INDEX	4,875.42	4,861.85	4,873.60	4,865.30	8.30	0.17

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,792,282	2,792,031	398	22,051,791,385	7	13	23	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	162,775	38,767	12	0.238	0.240	0.238	0.238	0.234	0.004	1.709	0.240	0.240	0.244	0.100	47,600,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	173,500	40,817	11	0.233	0.236	0.233	0.235	0.233	0.002	0.858	0.236	0.236	0.240	0.100	77,755,087
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	95,950	68,626	12	0.712	0.716	0.712	0.716	0.712	0.004	0.562	0.716	0.716	0.716	0.100	537,000,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	5,000	640	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.127	0.128	0.100	10,880,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	209,123	63,137	9	0.302	0.302	0.300	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.314	0.100	243,947,243
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,500	975	2	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.398	0.398	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.396	0.100	87,560,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	700	242	1	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.348	0.348	0.000	0.000	0.346	0.340	0.346	0.100	43,464,490
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,405,759	496,719	37	0.354	0.360	0.352	0.354	0.354	0.000	0.000	0.354	0.350	0.354	0.100	230,434,257
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	202,650	18,644	4	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.000	0.092	0.100	9,200,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	824,828	405,366	34	0.490	0.494	0.490	0.492	0.494	-0.002	-0.405	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.100	1,758,641,598
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	515,118	215,319	33	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.420	-0.002	-0.476	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.100	98,819,380
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	50,000	23,684	9	0.478	0.478	0.470	0.474	0.480	-0.006	-1.250	0.470	0.470	0.478	0.100	26,070,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	13,423	1,584	2	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.118	0.116	0.118	0.100	34,448,350
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	600,000	68,400	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.116	-0.002	-1.724	0.114	0.111	0.115	0.100	222,260,951
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	63,700	3,376	8	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.053	0.054	0.100	16,278,755
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	252,000	23,436	12	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	8,300	1,179	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.146	-0.004	-2.740	0.142	0.142	0.144	0.100	33,654,000
Total		17	4,585,326	1,470,910											189	

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	5,521,531	560,858	70	0.100	0.103	0.098	0.102	0.096	0.006	6.250	0.103	0.100	0.103	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	46,800	2,104	3	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.044	0.041	0.048	0.100	8,983,602
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	168,752	31,553	8	0.185	0.189	0.185	0.187	0.185	0.002	1.081	0.189	0.188	0.190	0.100	304,051,969
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	34,000	1,632	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.044	0.052	0.100	3,360,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT.CHEMI.	610	59	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	2,016,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	73,310	3,812	7	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.100	18,155,509
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	75,000	9,375	4	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.124	0.125	0.100	374,543,930
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	293,850	20,864	12	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	18,004,890
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER.	320,190	23,983	9	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	15,223,983
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	701,300	67,334	26	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,147	299	2	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	16,625,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	37,000	1,777	4	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.047	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	11,500	564	2	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	381	18	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	1,652	149	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.082	0.090	0.100	13,843,986
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	10,000	740	2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.070	0.074	0.100	16,445,760
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	120,610	10,856	13	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	11,700,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	52,850	3,385	3	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.059	0.064	0.100	7,800,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	45,000	5,865	8	0.131	0.131	0.129	0.130	0.133	-0.003	-2.256	0.130	0.125	0.130	0.100	4,364,289
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	109,400	6,573	8	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	7,597	441	5	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.060	-0.002	-3.333	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	7,250,000
Total		21	7,634,480	752,240											195	

STOCK MARKET

Muscat Stock Exchange ends marginally higher

MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 6.9 points, comprising an increase by 0.17 per cent to close at 4050.01 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4043.11 points.

The trading value stood at OMR2,792,031), comprising a drop of 41.2 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR4,751,467. -ONA

عمانتل Omantel

Online Auction Notice.
Auction for sale of unused & used mobile, fixed, transmission, switching & power equipment.

Oman Telecommunications Company (S.A.O.G)
P.O. Box 789, Postal Code 112, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
hereby gives notice of the auction as follows:

Reference Number	Description	Site Visit	Offers Submission Date
RFI #79	e-Auction for sale of unused & used mobile, fixed, transmission, switching & power equipment from Omantel Al-Amarat warehouse in Muscat.	19th Dec 2021 to 23rd Dec 2021	30th Dec 2021

The invitation to this bid is open to all international and local contractors specialized in this field.

- Bidders who are interested to participate in this auction are requested to submit their pre-qualification details online (RFI No 79) on Omantel e-tendering system (https://tenders.omantel.om). Companies that are not registered on Omantel e-tendering system are requested to register themselves to qualify/participate in the e-Auction.
- The auction will be conducted online on Omantel eTendering platform at https://tenders.omantel.om. The date and time of e-Auction shall be informed to shortlisted bidders based on evaluation of pre-qualification submissions.
- A maximum of 2 participants will be allowed per vendor to enter the premises during the site visit.
- Shortlisted bidders will be requested to submit a bid bond or certified cheque valid for 90 days from the date of submission addressed to GM-Procurement & Contracts Omantel, prior to the date of e-Auction.
- The details of the e-Auction and the required registration/training will be provided to the shortlisted bidders before the e-Auction.
- For auction inquiries, requests for clarifications or a site visit, please do not hesitate to call us on 99444421 or Qais Al Zadjali on 98259090.

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Graduate Senior accountant with 7 years' Oman experience looking for a suitable position. Contact 91420128

Indian 23 yrs, B.Com,fresher looking for suitable job in accounts,office assistant or sales. Contact 72872847. Email ruknuddintabish@gmail.com

MBA finance having more than 20 years experience in finance. Looking for a suitable placement. Currently working with a leading automotive group in oman. Good working knowledge in SAP ERP Fico module. Contact 97997167

Sr. Accountant Indian male B. Com 11 years accounts experience in Oman. can handle accounts independently valid D/L immediate joining with NOC or Transfer. Contact 7809 4016 Email: bilalsagh@gmail.com

Indian male, BBA graduate with Oman D/L seeks appointment in Accounts/HR/Marketing, currently on family visa. Contact 97217971, Email: jobvacanciesof2021@yahoo.com

Indian male (23) B.Com graduated certified management accountant 2 years' experience in financial accounting & reporting. Contact 78630609 Email: jamshijamsheer2037@gmail.com

Indian Male 33 MBA looking for Senior Accountant,having 8yrs experience including 5 yrs in Oman. Presently in Oman with NOC. Contact 78275075 or Email: smumair4u@gmail.com

Experienced finance professional with expertise in VAT, financial reporting, cccount payables, account receivables, salary ledger management and managing overseas export business dealings. looking for a suitable position. Contact 72771843 Email: msahammed@gmail.com

Senior accountant, 16 yrs experience in Oman. Immediate joining. Contact 91172545

Indian Male accountant B.Com with 10+years of Exp in accounts/stores in Oman.Oman D/L available. Contact 93483691 Email: mohamed.ali581@gmail.com

Indian Male, 15 years' experience in Senior Accountant. Looking for a job. Software knows Tally & MS Office & D/L. Mobile: 96761026 Email: mehreenraiz@gmail.com

ACCA affiliate with 2 years experience. Currently in Muscat, having NOC and D/L. Contact 96595067. Email: farleymartyres19@gmail.com

Accountant, MBA-Finance and **Marketing.** With more than 4 yrs Experience in Accounts and Finance.Good working Knowledge of SAP software & Advanced Excel seeks suitable position. Contact +968 92706965 Gmail: ranjuvettom@gmail.com

Indian male, 12Yrs of experience in accounts-payables & receivables + 12Yrs in Sales Administration in a MNC, Oman, seeks suitable placement. Oman D/L. Contact 92116238. Email: ramdas16091970@gmail.com

Multi-skilled Indian male, 25+ years (8 years GCC) well experience in Accounts / Administration / HR available to join immediately with release and D/L. Contact 96251394

Senior Accountant, Indian Male, 12 Years experience in Oman, Having D/L and NOC. GSM 91469060

Senior Accountant: Indian Male, MBA Finance, having more than 12 year's GCC including Oman & Indian experience in AP, AR, Cash flow, VAT,BRS, Trade Finance, P&L, BS etc. With Valid D/L Contact 7970 2891 Email: shahoo.mhs@gmail.com

Senior Accountant, Srilankan Certified Business Accountant (CASL) with BBA Degree (Accounting specialized). 6+ years' experience, and capable of handling accounts up to finalization. Contact 79608588. Email: mmusthaq94@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Automobile Mechanical Technician with 6 years showroom exp in repair & service of cars & heavy vehicles knowing all mechanical & air conditioning works.Currently in Muscat & can join immediately, Contact 78696134.

Food processing and quality control technician. # 94174603

Indian, experience mechanic for motor bike searching for job. Contact 79500069

Diploma Mechanical Engineer & CNC VMC operator exp 3 yrs currently in Oman. NOC available. Contact 94227542. Email dinithdas@gmail.com

DRIVER

Indian, looking for driver job, with valid Oman D/Ll(light vehicle) &,Indian heavy D/L available. Contact +968 79500069

Looking for job Heavy vehicle drive exp 6 yrs. Contact 95292064

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 95160208

Driver (light) with 10 yrs experience. Contact 96313100

SALES/MARKETING

Required Sales & Marketing Executive (Indian Only) with at least 4 to 6 years' experience in the Construction Field with Oman Driving License. Please forward resume to: recruit.slv.oman@gmail.com

Experienced Indian Sales Executive having good contacts with consultants, contractors in capital area, preferably with Civil/Maintenance background. Graduate/ diploma, computer knowledge, Oman driving license, Arabic speaking knowledge. Contact 92888337

Marketing Manager, A leading Insurance broking company in Oman requires a dynamic Techno Marketing Manager. Graduate with Insurance qualification and marketing experience in Oman may send to: info@isc-oman.com

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian MBA having Nebosh IGC with 13+Yrs experience including GCC Oman with NOC. Looking for HSE coordinator/Admin/Business development/Front office/Business planning job.Immediate joining. GSM 78623663

Indian Male, 12 years work experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/HR/Secretary or suitable post. Holding Oman D/L &NOC. Contact 94019955, vinrai99@gmail.com

Indian male with 15 yrs experience as Transport Incharge & 5 yrs as Store keeper seeks placement.D/L available. Contact 92956053, Whatsapp 91-9567068503

Smart Indian, male, excellent English, Double Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years Oman-EPC, Media, Hospital, Airports. Contact 99283938

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Indian Male, Graphic Designer, 15yrs+ experience. Looking for a suitable placement. Contact +968 98693322. WhatsApp: +968 99029672 Email: shoji074@gmail.com

Indian Male, 12 years working experience in Autocad Draftsman (Muscat). Expert in architectural and structural drafting. Skilled in 3d designing. Current, NOC available. Contact 968 97246709, 98785430. Email: slsujith00@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Indian Female (45) – BEd Graduate. Primary/Middle School Teacher have 6 years exp. in CBSC School, Kerala. Looking an opportunity in Muscat Indian School. Contact Nos. 968-98378518 / 91-9495442210 Email: vkalluvilayil@hotmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Young Indian male, B.Com graduate(Polyglot Institute Muscat) Post Graduate Diploma in Aviation, Hospitality, Travel and Customer Services from Frankfinn Institute - Bangalore. Presently in Muscat. Seeking a deserving profile in the hospitality sector. Contact 79925048 Email: abhileo63@gmail.com

IT

Computer science bachelor's degree holder with 1 year experience, looking for a job as a Frontend Developer and Website Development. Contact 78629566

MEDICAL

Medical representative seeks suitable job. Contact 93513927

Medical Lab Technician 12 year experience seeks job. Contact 90269108, 91371404

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*** Subject to space availability**

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER
BE Electronics & Communication Indian Male looking for a suitable job in Oman. Presently in Oman.
Contact 78644119
E-mail: terancefranklin25@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor
Srilankan Male Quantity Surveyor (BSc QS (Hons) reading) with 4 years of Civil & ID experience in Oman. Looking for a job.
Contact: 92187572
Email: sifathhasan1995@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Indian, 23, (B.E Mechanical), fresher PG Diploma in Oil and Gas Piping and Pipeline, QA/QC, NDT, looking for suitable job.
Contact: 79056363, 99501396
Email: rejiakhil111@gmail.com

Project Manager - Civil
An Indian, Graduate Civil Engineer having 22+ yrs Exp. in Construction Sector on Buildings, Infrastructure & Electro-Mechanical Projects with Project Management/ Contracts Exp. looking for a Middle Management Position in the Consulting/Contracting Firm. Valid Engineer Visa & D/ L, NOC available/Transferable Visa.
Contact No. 91996650

FINANCE
Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.
GSM: 92334161

OMANI HSE
Bachelor's degree in BA & IOSH.
10 years experience in HSE and O&M.
Contact +968 95555865

Mechanical Engineer
Sudanese mechanical engineering with 10 years experience, Firefighting & alarm system, Seeking a position as Mechanical engineer.
WhatsApp and direct phone call +968 94044896

FINANCE
B.Com ICWAI (Intermediate), 18+ years Finance/Accounts/Reporting/Credit Control/ Finalisation, Expd in MFG/Retail/Service Ind, Expd in ERP-Orion/Focus/JD Edwards/D/L, NOC available, can join immediately.
Mobile: 97634372

English Teacher
Experienced English Teacher Bachelor's degree & Academic IELTS with a 6.5 +4 years of experience.
Contact: +968 99022926

Finance & Accounts
Indian male 32 yrs(age), 6 years of gulf experience in Finance & Accounts. Qualification: MBA. Presently in Oman seeks suitable job.
Contact 92772764
Email: minhajalish@gmailcom

SENIOR MANAGER SUPPLY CHAIN
Indian Male with +25 years of Experience in Supply Chain, Purchase, Sales & Distribution, MIS, Inventory & Credit Control seeks placement.
CONTACT 94619442

Finance & Accounts
Indian Female (MBA Finance) having more than 15 years of Experience in Oman in Manufacturing and Trading company seeks suitable Senior Position in Finance and Accounts.
Contact # 94953826 / 92824146

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)
Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience with international exposure. Having GCC experience. Also having Experience in the Education Industry (India). Presently in Muscat. D/L Available.
Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

FINANCE
MBA, Mcom, ICWA (inter) 21 years experience in Oman working as Manager in Business / Accounts / Finance / Operations. Looking for Senior positions in Business / Finance and Operations.
CONTACT: 96211885

OMANI HR/PRO
Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.
Contact 97264447

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER
MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.
Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
B.Tech graduate with 1+ years of experience working as a Site Engineer & Quantity Surveyor. Proficient in Quantity Survey, Quality Control, 2D Drafting, 3D Modelling & Project Management. Currently in Oman. Available to join shortly.
92408363
sawad.mohammed@outlook.com

SALES / PURCHASE
Indian Male(31), MBA-Finance, 7 years experience as Sales Procurement Specialist, specialized in electrical & lighting for residential and commercial projects, Seeking suitable position. D/L available.
Email: qaisebukhari@gmail.com
Contact: 94560161

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Mechanical/MEP engineer, Indian male,26yrs with 2 yrs experience, looking suitable job. Contact 79974535. Email: safeeralipk7@gmail.com

Indian Male B.E Mechanical 8yrs of experience looking for sales/purchase job with NOC. Contact 90157089

14 years exp Mechanical engineer expertise in costing,estimation & supervision of MEP systems.Currently working in an excellent grade construction company in Oman looking for Job change Contact 92026449.

Electrical eng 10 years experience in projects , QA/ QC , O&M , PMP holder ,OQ approved, D/L ,looking for job , Contact 71543379

B.E Civil Engineer, 8 years of Oman experience in building construction. Looking for suitable position, NOC & D/L Available. Contact 79083823.

Diploma Mechanical Engineer looking for a suitable placement. Experience in automobile sales, parts sales and evauation. Contact 92962449

Graduate engineer having 20 years' experience in project supervision & construction management with reputable consultant/contractor specialized in Sezad Duqm projects seeks immediate placement. Contact 93475252

B.Tech (Mechanical) 5 years experience in HVAC and facility management with designing, drafting, mechanical systems commercial and residential buildings, hotels, hospitals looking for suitable job with NOC. Contact +968 79572775 Email Owais313316@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor, (Srilankan) HND(UK) , BSc QS (Reading) 4 years' Experience in Building Projects (Civil & MEP). Looking for a Suitable Placement in Oman. Contact 78149384 Email: tmsafnas@gmail.com

Indian male (23)/Mechanical Engineer/ 1.5 years' experience in design and manufacturing/valid Oman D/L. Contact 71502536

Indian, 23, Civil Engineer, fresher with Oman D/L, looking for suitable job. Contact 95257524

Indian Female (B.Tech IT) on family visa actively having 7 years experience in Client services. Looking for suitable jobs. Contact 94266838, Email: ganesh.shana@gmail.com

B.E. Civil Resident Engineer 35 Yrs. Exp. 12Yrs.in Oman & 3 yrs. in Qatar rest in India. Infrastructure mainly Roads, Bridges Utilities & STP works. Seeking in Consultant firm. WhatsApp No. +91 6385754610 Email: mrk6409@gmail.com

B.E.Mechanical Engineer, 3yrs experience in India for pipe line. Presently in Oman. Contact 71089758/ Whatsapp +918962292915 Email aadilahmadrits@gmail.co

B.E. Civil Project engineer/Project coordinator (INDIAN) with 8+ years of experience. Qualified Project management (QS & QC) with a knowledge of MS office, Autocad, MS project & estimation. NOC is available, can join immediately. Contact 97389893, mohammadshkaeermlr@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer 4 yrs experience in factories and car maintenance with DL seeks job. Contact 93521100.

Quantity Surveyor Indian 30 yrs. Experience. Strong Exposure in Contracts & QS activities in all type of construction field (Especially in Oil & Gas Projects). Mob & WhatsApp No. 7905 3616

B.Tech Electrical Engineer, currently residing in oman, experienced based on project management, site supervision/renewable energy sector seeking for suitable placement. Contact (mob) 79376313, (wsp) +91 8943932532, Email: adeebalr@gmail.com

M. Tech Structural Engineer with 14 years experience in Oman with ministries & consultants seeks suitable placement. NOC & D/L available. Contact 92497704 Email: fahadca@gmail.com

MANAGER

General Manager, Operation Manger, Sales & Marketing Manager having more than 20 + experiences with MNC companies in Qatar, UAE, India, experts in managing complete company operations, Sales & marketing, trading and contracting, fit out, FMCG, HR, heavy equipment's rental. Contact 968-94637991 Email: mohandashyd777@gmail.com

Indian male, engineering graduate with 28+ years executive experience in logistics, assets, purchase, disposal, inventory management and Automobile industry in Oman. Seeking managerial/suitable position in reputed firms. Contact 98504774, Email: thomasemte@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

Indian B.E Civil 3yrs experience available in Oman with NOC.Looking for Sales/Purchase job. Immediate joining GSM 72651777

12 years experienced person in FMCG industry, looking for a suitable placement. Holding valid Oman D/L. Contact 92428081

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian Female (45) – B.Ed Graduate. Primary, middle school teacher.Have 6 years exp. in CBSC School, Kerala. Looking an opportunity in Muscat Indian School. Contact Nos: 968-98378518 / 91 9495442210. Email: vkalluvilayil@hotmail.com

7 yrs exp in purchase, logistics, warehouse/inventory and 10 yrs exp in commercial operations. Having D/L, Contact 98531104

Warehouse Incharge & inventory controller having 6 years experience with Oman D/L seeks suitable job. Contact 97915240

LIFESTYLE

MINDFULNESS MAY GET WANDERING THOUGHTS BACK ON TRACK

A new study has suggested that practising mindfulness can help us refocus our thoughts. The study has been published in the 'Journal of Cognitive Enhancement'.

"While zoning out for a few minutes during a meeting may not hurt, it can impact you negatively if it goes on for long periods of time," said Lynley Turkelson, a University of Cincinnati doctoral student and lead author of a new study on mindfulness and mind wandering.

"When distracting thoughts or feelings come up, mindfulness helps us gently set them aside and refocus on what is right in front of us," said Turkelson.

Methods of practising mindfulness vary but include practices such as breathwork and meditation.

For example, Turkelson said, one can practice mindfulness by paying attention to the experience of eating a favourite food, "You may start by noticing the smell of the food before you eat it, what it feels like as you bite into it, how it feels in your mouth, and the taste. Or perhaps you pay attention to the flow of breath in and out of your lungs or on the sensations you experience in various parts of the body."

For the study, Turkelson, a doctoral student and fellow in UC's Department of Psychology, and co-author Quintino Mano, PhD, a UC associate professor of psychology, conducted a systematic review of research that looked at the relationship between mindfulness and mind wandering.

What they found is that while mindfulness — the ability to intentionally focus attention on the present moment — can be effective for reducing mind wandering, results did differ depending on the research methodology. For instance, people were sometimes unaware when they were distracted, so asking them to report their own mind wandering was not reliable. The study results showed it's better to measure mind wandering in other ways, such as using computer-based testing.

> "During COVID, people are facing even more distractions than normal, so it is important to find research-based ways to decrease mind wandering and improve attention

"During COVID, people are facing even more distractions than normal, so it is important to find research-based ways to decrease mind wandering and improve attention," said Turkelson.

Turkelson said that their systematic review looked at the research on this topic and synthesized the results so that researchers knew how consistent these findings were, as well as what still needed to be studied to improve our understanding of how mindfulness helped with mind wandering. - ANI

FEATURE

FROM BOB DYLAN TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN: WHY SONG RIGHTS SALES ARE BOOMING

Selling his song catalogue at a reported $500 million, Bruce Springsteen's deal is even higher than Bob Dylan's. But why are music superstars selling their publishing rights?

Cashing in while the going is good: The Boss has joined a long list of renowned artists seeking to secure their financial future

Publishing rights are a lucrative business, as Michael Jackson found out after he acquired 251 Beatles songs for more than $47 million in 1985 ($116 million at today's rate; €100 million) and doubled his money 10 years later.

But that catalogue was cheap by today's standards.

Bob Dylan sold all his song rights to Universal Music for what Rolling Stone magazine estimates to be between $300 million-$400 million in late 2020. Dylan had been one of the few artists who had retained the rights to their own catalogue. But the balladeer has joined a slew of top-selling music artists who have recently made their publishing rights prized currency in a song acquisition boom.

The Boss signs a mega deal

Now Bruce Springsteen has also joined in on the act.

The rock legend reportedly sold his entire catalogue to Sony Music Entertainment, for an estimated $500 million or more, as first reported by music industry magazine Billboard on December 16, citing undisclosed sources.

It is believed to be the most important deal ever signed for a single artist's body of work.

The transaction gives Sony ownership of Springsteen's complete collection of classic songs, which includes classics like "Born to Run," "Dancing in the Dark," and "Born in the U.S.A."

A trend among legends

Earlier this year, Tina Turner sold the rights to her music catalog to BMG, while Red Hot Chili struck a similar deal, selling their publishing rights to Hipgnosis Songs Fund for $140 million.

Young also sold the rights to 50% of his songs in 2021, including such classics as "Heart of Gold," to the same investment fund for a reported $150 million.

Michael Jackson wearing a gold and silver outfit sings into a microphone.

The musician Michael Jackson famously brought the song rights business to the fore in 1985 when he purchased the rights to 251 Beatles songs for $47.5 million (€40 million) — to the chagrin of Paul McCartney. Ironically, McCartney first gave Jackson the idea. The ex-Beatle had already lost the rights to his music in 1968 and has not been able to buy them back to this day.

Similar megadeals were also recently struck between Hipgnosis, a UK music investment and song management company founded in 2018, and Shakira, as well as with former Fleetwood Mac member Lindsey Buckingham, pop icons Blondie and disco legends Chic.

Indeed, Rolling Stone reports that Hipgnosis had made a rival $400 million bid for Bob Dylan's catalog before he signed with Universal Music for a similar sum.

What is driving the song sell-off?

The music economist Peter Tschmuck, of the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, said the motivations for these rights sales varied. "It could be an additional source of income, since, after all, many performance opportunities have been eliminated," he said of younger artists selling publishing rights in the midst of a pandemic.

Meanwhile, older artists like Dylan might be wanting to ensure that their music legacy is properly managed for future generations, Tschmuck believes.

Selling rights has also become necessary in the brave new world of online music streaming, where revenues are much lower than traditional hard copy record sales.

"There are still a lot of legacy contracts where artists are treated more or less the same way when they stream music as when they sell records," Tschmuck said. He added that what was a good deal for record sales is unsustainable for artists relying on low-subscription-price streaming services.

Diversifying music income streams

Song rights acquisitions can be highly lucrative in the long term as they can be exploited for up to 70 years after a musician's death.

The holder of music rights can also sell songs across diverse media such as films and streaming portals, as well as for advertising and cover versions. This expands the base for royalties way beyond record or streaming sales and radio airplay.

Hipgnosis, for example, holds the rights to four songs alone that can be heard in the fourth season of the hit streaming series The Crown. It's a glimpse into the way global content platforms like Netflix have also become a cash cow for music publishers, and partly explains the unprecedented money being paid for legacy artist publishing rights.

Hipgnosis has led the way into this diversified music rights space and, in three short years, the company has given the industry giants Universal Music, Warner and Sony Music a run for their money. The founders, Nile Rodgers and Merck Mercuriadis, are no strangers to the industry. Mercuriadis managed Elton John, Iron Maiden, Guns N' Roses and Beyoncé, while partner Rodgers was a member of the band Chic and producer for David Bowie and Madonna, among others.

According to the Hipgnosis website, the pair not only want to make a profit for their shareholders, but also offer artists fair sums for song rights: The-Dream, songwriter, producer and one of the first to strike deals with at Hipgnosis, received over £18 million (€21 million, $25 million) for his rights to songs such as Beyoncé's "Single Ladies."

Fear of exploitation

There has been a fear that selling off rights will lead to the commercial exploitation of classic songs. Hipgnosis founder Mercuriadis promised that music created by politically outspoken Neil Young would not be exploited to sell hamburgers and the like — in his 1988 song "This Note's For You," Young sang that he "Ain't singing for Pepsi, ain't singing for Coke."

"I built Hipgnosis to be a company Neil would want to be a part of," Mercuriadis said.

"We have a common integrity, ethos and passion born out of a belief in music and these important songs," he added. "There will never be a 'Burger of Gold,' but we will work together to make sure everyone gets to hear them on Neil's terms."

Fear that their music will be misappropriated has kept many artists from selling their rights in the past. "In the US, it's mostly been the fear that Trump will use the rights," said Peter Tschmuck, referring to backlash by artists such as Neil Young when the former US president played their music at rallies without explicit permission.

But following Trump's presidential loss, multi-million-dollar deals such as the one signed by the Red Hot Chili Peppers with Hipgnosis for their entire catalog in May 2021 provided a signal that such fears might have passed.

ROUND-UP

Family-size SUV Ford Expedition comes with exclusive benefits

The Ford Expedition is built to take you places as you enjoy the advantage of confidence and capability

MUSCAT: Ford is offering SUV enthusiasts an opportunity to own and enjoy the finest experiences with Ford, especially with the Ford Expedition. The Ford Expedition is available with service 3 years / 60,000 km and 1 year registration. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.) The offer is valid until December 30.

The Ford Expedition is built to take you places as you enjoy the advantage of confidence and capability. Eye-catching design, leading-edge features, powerful performance, impressive capability and more make the Expedition a perfect companion for every journey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGREEMENT

ARA Petroleum, Ministry of Education ink pact for digital studio project

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ara Petroleum, one of the group companies of The Zubair Corporation, to establish a digital studio project for Al Amal School for the Deaf.

The MoU was signed between Abdullah Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education on behalf of MoE and Al Zubair Mohammad Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation, representing ARA Petroleum.

As per the agreement, ARA Petroleum will finance the digital educational studio project, from the preparation of designs and special maps to the financing and fully-equipping of the digital educational studio.

This will be carried out through an agreement with a specialised company and as per the latest equipment and specifications approved in this field.

Commenting on the signing of the MoU, Al Zubair Mohammad Al Zubair said, "The implementation of this project stems from our policy aimed at strengthening partnerships with the public and private sectors to serve the local community. This will be carried out through the implementation of several community initiatives within the cultural, health, sports and economic fields.

"This joint initiative between ARA Petroleum and the Ministry of Education will provide an attractive environment for education and improve the quality of learning at Al Amal School for the Deaf, by supporting the segment of students with special needs.

"It will enhance their capabilities and develop them so that they can be an integral part of the community in the future. We hope that this project achieves its goals and visions, including the development and enrichment of the students' mental and educational capabilities, in addition to augmenting the students' means of communication with the people around them."

Dr Fathiya Khalfan Al Siddiya, Director-General of the General Directorate of Special Education and Continuing Education at the Ministry of Education, added, "The digital studio project at Al Amal School for the Deaf will contribute in providing a qualitative leap in the field of visual education for school students, making it easier for them to communicate with teachers and administrators in a way that an easy and enjoyable. In addition, the studio is expected to contribute to providing a huge leap in the field of visual education for school students.

"We hope that efforts towards public interest will continue and that the desired goals will be achieved through this cooperation across all educational aspects, to serve our students in general and especially those with hearing disabilities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank ARA Petroleum for its community initiative in financing this project, which will undoubtedly reflect positively on students and staff at Al Amal School for the Deaf."

EXPANSION

ahlibank opens new branch

MUSCAT: Aimed at enhancing its presence in the Sultanate, to provide quality customer service and easy accessibility to its diverse product portfolio, ahlibank has opened its newest branch in the Wilayat of Al Khabourah. The opening comes in line with the bank's strategic expansion roadmap for the year which entails bringing our services and products closer to customers.

Commenting on the launch, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM- Head of Retail Distribution, ahlibank, said, "We are delighted to open our new branch in Al Khabourah, where we seek to provide our comprehensive suite of services for the bank's existing and potential customers. ahlibank's growing network of branches is fundamental to and complements our ongoing efforts to bring our services closer to the people of Oman both online and offline."

"Given its strategic location, the new branch will be closer to its customers in the wilayat, ensuring fast and easy access to our innovative banking solutions. We are putting in concerted efforts in the direction of meeting excellent customer service levels throughout our branch network with the support of our well-trained staff," Al Balushi added.

The new site can be distinguished by its design and state-of-the-art equipment that reflects the bank's identity and business philosophy. The branch includes highly-qualified human resources, who harness their talents to ensure that the needs of the bank's customers are met, through a fast response mechanism.

The branch is also equipped with multiple facilities serving the comfort of customers.

ahlibank is committed to enhancing the satisfaction of its customers by providing wide-ranging banking services to them, using modern technologies and innovative solutions across its branch network in the Sultanate. Cementing its position as a centre of banking innovations, the bank continues its efforts to provide 'first-class' banking solutions for individuals, and corporates through a 'customer-first' approach.

FOR CHILDREN

Oman International Hospital's first open day a huge success

MUSCAT: Oman International Hospital (OIH), the newly soft opened super-multispeciality hospital in Al Ghubra, Muscat, organised an 'Open Day' for children on 19 December, which was hailed by its partners and visitors as a great success.

The first-ever open day event was organised by OIH in an exclusive collaboration with The Sultan's School and association with its business partners, Oman Air, Talabat, NBO, Sohar International Bank, Al Habsi Football Academy, A Maha, OQ, Waterfront and Zahra Luxury Yacht with the hashtag #Wecare.

The goal of the Open Day was to provide the young children with a general overview of the world of medicine inculcate healthy habits, give a firsthand experience of first-aid and distress support in case of emergencies.

Young students aged between 4 - 15 years from the Sultan's School and OIH major partners, along with several parents attended the event very ably coordinated and supported by the OIH team of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff.

The event started with the hospital's nurses, Tahira and Catryss educating the children about Covid -19 and how to be safely followed by Dr Mohammed Fawzy, Orthopedic Specialist, Dr Al Shaimaa Samy, Pediatric Specialist and Saida Al Maqbali, nutritionist, joining the floor answering some fun questions posed by the children about healthy habits, eating healthy and how to become a doctor. Football coaches from Al Habsi Football Academy energised the young children with fun-filled exercises.

The children were then taken on a tour of the hospital's various modern facilities and equipment including the radiology department. Radiologists, Samaneh and Nastaran educated the children about what it means to be a radiologist, about the human organs and also showed the children the X-ray of a teddy bear filled with toys.

Later, the children went on to learn firsthand how to do Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a person in case of emergency demonstrated by the hospital's ER Doctor, Dr Ali Barakat. The children also visited the OIH's word-class ambulance, where ER Nurse, Donnie explained the ambulance's various instruments to save patients and taught the kids first aid and other precautions.

After a lunch sponsored by Talabat, it was time to say goodbye and the children were presented with Oman International Hospital "Certificate of Completion" along with a toy 'Doctor's set' and the official 'Junior Sindbad' merchandise sponsored by Oman Air.

Marcelo Pereira CEO of OIH said, "We are very happy to be one of the first hospitals to do such activity and glad the children loved it and so did our doctors! We believe such entertaining yet educative initiatives not only open up young minds but also help shape their future."

ROUND-UP

Renaissance awarded MEDC's OMR9.3 million smart meter rollout contract

The OMR9.3 million ($24.2 million) three-year contract commencing January 1, 2022, includes installing 400,000-plus smart meters across all three MEDC zones

MUSCAT: Renaissance has been awarded Muscat Electricity and Distribution Company's (MEDC) smart meter rollout contract.

The OMR9.3 million ($24.2 million) three-year contract commencing January 1, 2022, includes installing 400,000-plus smart meters across all three MEDC zones.

Renaissance bagged the project based on the efficiency of its technical and commercial solutions as well as high KPI achievement in Zone 1 (Muscat, Muttrah, Amerat and Quriyat) where it currently carries out manual meter reading for MEDC.

The new contract adds MEDC's Zone 2 (Bausher) and Zone 3 (Seeb) to the project which involves automation, knowledge transfer, efficiency, and upskilling of Omani cadres.

The agreement was signed on December 16 by Salman Ali Al Hattali, Chief Executive Officer – Acting, MEDC and Stephen R Thomas, CEO, Renaissance.

Stephen Thomas said, "This agreement builds on the existing strong relationship with MEDC, a strategically important and valued client partner for Renaissance. The project is much more than automation. By hiring and upskilling Omani cadres, also contributes towards capacity-building and Omanisation goals. Renaissance being chosen over other strong and experienced contenders is testimony to its successful track record in executing technical contracts efficiently and sustainably. "

Renaissance will deploy 134 Omanis to carry out the work. In addition to 53 of its current staff from Zone 1, the company will welcome 81 more staff for zones 2 and 3. These staff members will be upskilled from meter reading to smart meter installation and connection and continue to receive further training.

They will remain employed by Renaissance, either for similar programmes introduced by other distribution companies or as part of its expanding facilities management and hard services team.

Renaissance's technical partner for the project, Tata Power (India) will provide in-country project management and capability-building expertise along with around 40 technicians to train the Omani team to install, connect and troubleshoot the meters.

HOLIDAY SEASON

Celebrate Christmas, New Year's Eve in style at Radisson Blu Hotel, Muscat

MUSCAT: The most wonderful time of year is here and Radisson Blu Hotel, Muscat is delighted to host the celebrations with an array of offers for Christmas and New Year's Eve. Bring your friends and family to partake in sumptuous fare, laughs and to make merry with year-end festivities that will make this holiday season truly memorable for you and your loved ones.

For Christmas Eve, enjoy a delicious international buffet with live cooking stations at Olivos restaurant and live music to keep you & your loved ones entertained all night. Or celebrate Christmas Eve with our homemade Italian delicacies, festive specials and our seasonal set menu at La Padella. Starting price from OMR 15 per guest. Friday 24th December from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Our special Christmas brunch buffet and live music will spread the festive cheer to all while Santa pays a special visit to surprise our little guests. Starting price from OMR 20 per guest. To add exceptional value, children under 6 years dine for free, while kids between 6 and 12 get a 50% discount. Saturday, 25 December from 1pm to 5 pm.

Say goodbye to 2021 in style at Olivos restaurant & terrace! Enjoy the latest tunes by our resident DJ, drinks, dance under the stars and an extensive selection of flavourful international dishes & live cooking stations for OMR 45 per guest. Friday, 31st December from 8pm to 1am.

NYE room package: Join the countdown to 2022 with a one-night stay including NYE's access to events at Olivos or O'Malley's and breakfast. Starting price from OMR 86. Guests can enjoy access to an outdoor pool and gym facilities. Splurge on ultimate relaxation with spa treatments available at the Fontana Health Club & Spa.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO gives OMR290,000 in special November Al Kanz draw

MUSCAT: Giving the gift of savings, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has wrapped up its latest Al Kanz Savings Scheme draw at its headquarters in Azaiba, handing out a total of OMR290,000 to 63 lucky winners across Oman.

This month, the popular scheme saw three Sadara customers win OMR 25,000 each and four Mazaya customers win OMR 10,000 each, in addition to 50 winners receiving OMR 500 each in the Salary Transfer Draw, and six winners receiving OMR 25,000 each in the Quarterly Draw. The bank is now planning for its biggest event of the year, the Mega Draw, with half a million Omani Rials up for grabs.

Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail and Digital Banking Officer at NBO, said, "2021 has been really exciting for the Al Kanz Savings Scheme and now we're coming to the end of the year, which is a perfect opportunity for customers to start their new year's savings plan. Plus, there is still plenty of time to make sure they're in for the chance to win in our next draw including the OMR 500,000 Mega Draw. Either way, it's the perfect opportunity to start saving."

Delighting customers across the country since 1995, the Al Kanz Savings Account rewards customers every month with prizes ranging from OMR 100 to OMR 250,000. Accounts are quick and easy to open and customers are automatically eligible to win by maintaining an average minimum balance of OMR 100. Every OMR 100 provides an extra chance in the draw, so the more money kept in the account, the more the chance of winning. Meanwhile, customers simply have to transfer their salary to NBO to be in for the chance of winning in the Salary Transfer draw.

OAB DIGIPASS

OAB launches new app for corporate and government customers

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to ensuring the provision of high-quality services that is simple and convenient, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently launched its new app, OAB Digipass, for its corporate and government customers.

The introduction of this new facility arises from the bank's continuous endeavours to extend a high level of banking experience to its customers across various sectors

The introduction of this new facility arises from the bank's continuous endeavours to extend a high level of banking experience to its customers across various sectors. OAB Digipass can be used to generate an OTP to access the bank's online banking facilities and is a digital alternative to the physical token that is generally used.

Commenting on the launch of the new app, Al Salt Mohammed Al Kharusi, Head of Corporate & Institutional Banking Division at OAB, said, "At OAB, we believe that is important for us to ensure that our customers receive the highest quality services, across all sectors. The launch of this app reinforces one of our key pillars, namely the enhancement of customer experience, through the provision of simple, efficient and convenient banking facilities. With OAB Digipass, our corporate and government customers will no longer need to use the physical token to generate their OTP to access our service.

"The app is an easier and efficient digital alternative, allowing them to carry out their banking transactions – no matter where they may be."

OAB Digipass is a more convenient way to enable corporate and government customers to access Oman Arab Bank's banking services remotely. The app also prevents potential cases of loss or theft, reinforcing the bank's commitment to ensuring security for all its customers by protecting their information, while also being an integral part of the bank's efforts towards the digitalisation of its services. OAB Digipass is available on Google Play and the iOS store.

"We believe that OAB Digipass will have a positive impact on the targeted segment, raising the bar on the quality of services that OAB provides to its customers. By ensuring an unmatched level of the customer experience through the implementation of easy and accessible innovations, we continue to reinforce our position as pioneers within the local banking sector."

Corporate Internet Banking (OABnet) is a one-stop shop for all the online banking needs for customers in the Corporate and Government sectors. Catered towards their daily respective needs, it enhances the efficiency of cash management by carrying out banking activities instantly. Under the umbrella of OABnet, Corporate and Government customers can access an array of facilities, including viewing and downloading their account statements, initiating payment for local and international transfers as well as uploading relevant files for various payments.

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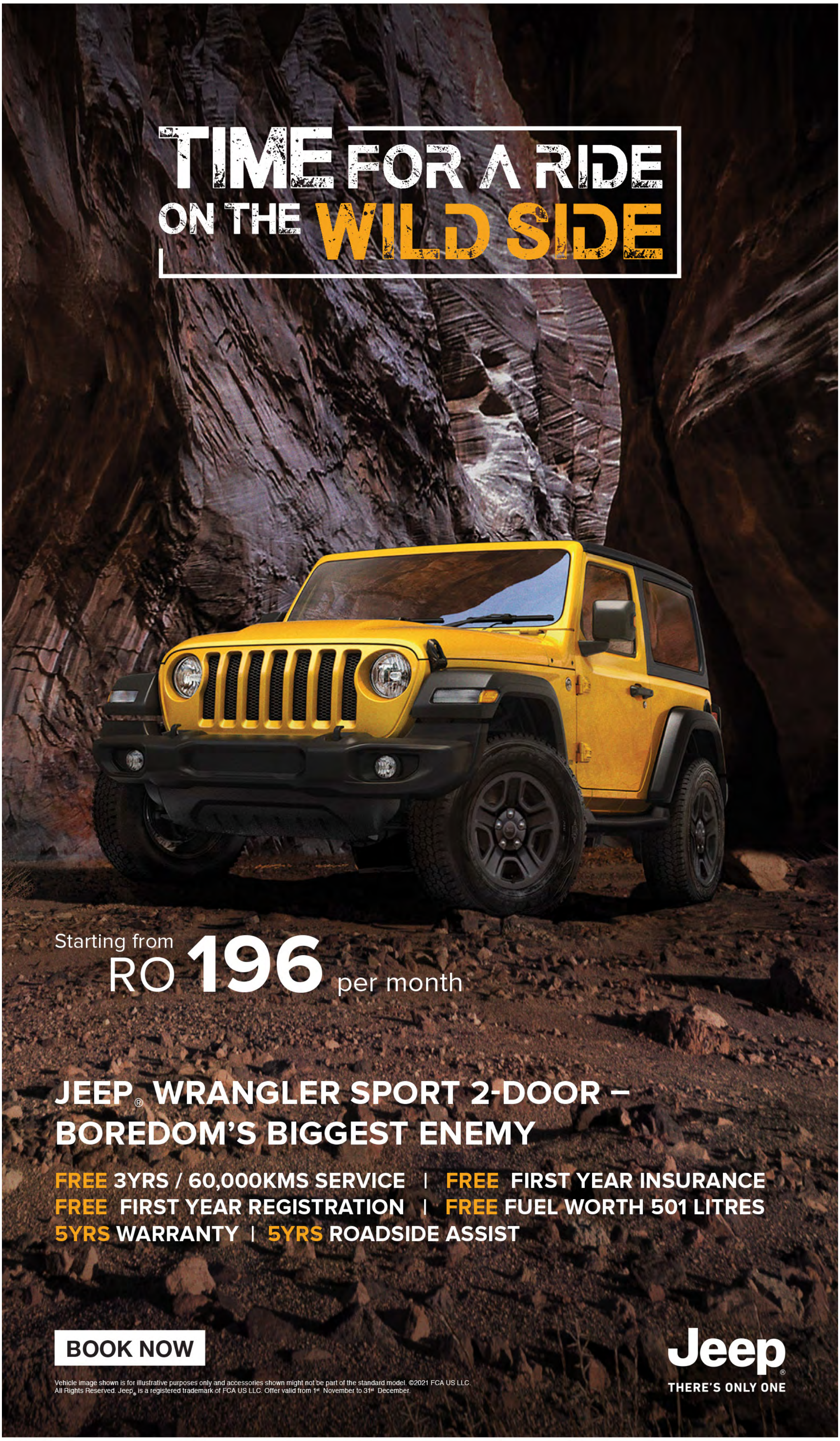

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