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OPERATIONS OF HOTELS VIOLATING COVID-19 GUIDELINES HALTED



486

TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVT APPROVED ISOLATION CENTRES IN THE SULTANATE

Individuals found breaking quarantine rules while in these centres have also been fined

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Many hotels that have been designated as isolation centres have been punished by having their operations halted for not following COVID-19 prevention protocols.

Depending on the seriousness of the violation, individuals breaking quarantine rules while in these centres have also been fined anywhere between OMR100 and 1,500.

Speaking exclusively to the *Times of Oman*, Hamoud Al Mandhari from the Relief and Shelter Sector of the Ministry of Social Development said the violations by hotels include quarantined guests gathering in large numbers, using common areas in hotels when they need to stay in their rooms, not wearing masks to stop the potential spread of infection, gathering in large numbers near common areas such as swimming

pools, and guests leaving their hotels without permission from the authorities before the end of their isolation period.

"We've noticed that there are some hotel establishments that have not followed the health and preventive protocols issued by the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19," he said.

"Hotels that have been found guilty of major violations have had their activities temporarily stopped. Our sector regularly follows up on monitoring hotels in which people can spend their institutional quarantine.

"We have a centre that also receives reports from people inside these hotels, whether they are regular guests or spending their isolation period there," he added.

Instructions for hotels to receive guests for institutional quarantine

- Proof of reservation through the traveller form for the institutional quarantine reservation
- The reservation must be confirmed and the guest registration process must be completed through the Sahala platform
- Directing the guest to the isolation location (room - apartment)
- Instructing the guests on all precautionary measures for institutional quarantine
- The health and safety of the guest is checked every 12 hours
- Adherence to the provision of basic meals for guests at the specified time
- Directing the traveller to take the PCR test at the end of the seventh day
- Follow-up with the guests PCR test result
- If the result is negative, the bracelet is removed at the hotel before the guest leaves
- If the result is positive, the quarantine period is extended for ten days (by agreement between the hotel and the guest)

"If we do hear of violations or receive reports of the same, we first visit the place in question, and if we do see that the hotel is indeed responsible for violations, they are first fined. Hotels that have conducted major violations, or repeated them more than once, have had their activities stopped."

Current regulations

Under current regulations, arrivals to Oman must compulsorily quarantine for a week, with a COVID-19 test done on the eighth day of their entry into the country, as well as one taken on arrival. All expenses must be borne by the traveller, although children and those aged above 60 do not need to enter isolation.

Hamoud Al Mandhari added

that a few travel agents in the country were also behind some of the violations. In some cases, they charged people who booked isolation rooms the same price as the visitors to the country on holidays.

"These travel agents had already booked some rooms for the purpose of tourism when they had been reserved for people who need them for quarantine," he explained.

"Travel agents are quoting a higher price for rooms, and guests only find this out when they come to the country. These agents are not honouring the agreement between us and them. The hotels are raising the prices for all quarantine guests and local visitors. By doing this, they are acting greedy and exploiting them." **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Palmyran objects at National Museum

1 Syrian and Palmyran archaeological objects restored and conserved by the restoration team at the National Museum were displayed during the visit of Dr. Faisal Al Miqdad, Foreign Minister of Syria yesterday. 131 Syrian archaeological objects were destroyed within the years of crisis. 9 Palmyran objects were restored in coordination with the Hermitage Museum. **>A5**

WORLD

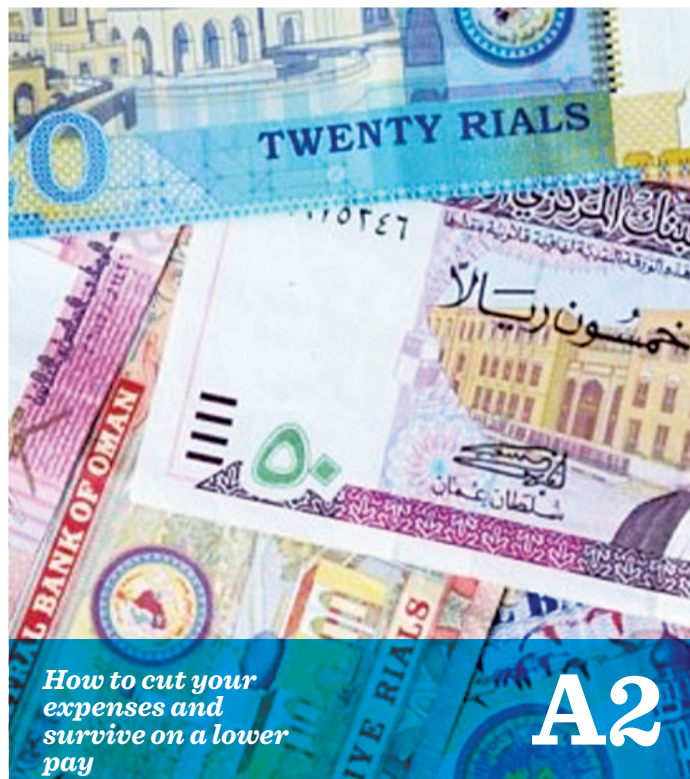
Minor tsunami after earthquake in Japan

2 A tsunami warning was issued for Japan after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck off the coast of Miyagi prefecture on Saturday. The first tsunami waves of up to 1 metre hit land shortly after the earthquake, local television channel NHK reported. There were no immediate reports of injury or major damage. At least 200 households were left without electricity. **>A7**

MARKET

Women register 115 patents in 2020

3 The number of women who registered a patent with MoCIIP in single or joint applications in Oman reached 115 in 2020, compared to 17 in 2019. This was stated by Engineer Ruqayya bint Mohsen Al Harrasiah, Patent Specialist at the Intellectual Property Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP). **>B2**



FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC

30% of Oman's population to get vaccinated by June

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 30 per cent of Oman's population will be given the coronavirus vaccine by the end of June, and 70 per cent by the end of 2021, a member of the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19 has said.

Dr Mohammed bin Saif Al Hosani, the Undersecretary for Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health, said these plans had been made under the country's national strategic vaccination plan.

"We aim to receive 5.4 million doses of the vaccine by the end of this year," he said, speaking to Oman TV. "The country will immunise 30 per cent of the population by the end of June 2021, and



70 per cent by the end of this year."

"91,000 people in the country have already received the vaccinations - this constitutes 57 per cent of our target groups," he said. "Around 30,000 people have received both doses, and 60,000 have been given a single dose so far."

The undersecretary said that the vaccination plan and the national strategy to stop the spread

of COVID-19 were proceeding satisfactorily under the current conditions, owing to abundant availability of vaccines. He added, however, that according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Health last December, about 20 to 25 per cent of Oman's population was infected with COVID-19.

Explaining that Oman was among the strictest countries when it came to selecting vaccinations for its people, Al Hosani revealed, "For us to select a vaccine, it must be registered with international monitoring authorities. The vaccines we use are safe and very effective in preventing people from entering intensive care: all indicators point to this." **>A2**

EDUCATION

'Indian schools to reopen only after full safety review'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian schools in Oman will only move towards full reopening after all factors concerning student and teacher safety have been looked at in collaboration with those involved in their operations.

Dr Sivakumar Manickam, who was recently elected the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman, added that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught educators that learning techniques for school students need to be modernised where necessary.

"The board will develop an equitable school reopening strategy that will include the entire stakeholder framework of our schools to establish a safe environment for teachers and students that will bring in trust and confidence," said Manickam, who is currently the

Head of e-Learning at Oman Dental College, a position he took up in September 2010.

He was previously employed as the Head of the senior section Physics Department at Indian School Muscat, where he first joined as a physics teacher. He retained a key interest in developing quality education at ISM even after leaving his teaching post, having served as a member of the school management committee, and the academic advisory council of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools.

"I had to resign these positions prior to running for chairman," revealed Manickam, who was one of the main developers of the ISO-VLE (Indian Schools Online Virtual Learning Environment) that has turned out to be instrumental in imparting education to Indian school students across Oman during the pandemic.

"I spearheaded this project and



ELECTED: Dr Sivakumar Manickam was recently elected the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman.

trained teachers to handle online-based teaching," he explained. "Immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic began, our schools were able to quickly adopt these new technologies and deliver uninterrupted education. Almost a full academic year has been completed through

this mode of teaching, and schools are now returning to blended learning with a mixture of online and onsite teaching sessions."

"School education is now being redefined with the growth of artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology," added Manickam.

"Preparing our children for such a rapidly changing world, post COVID-19, requires relevant and modernised education. This does not mean, however, discarding traditional teaching techniques and replacing them with computer screens."

"What it does mean is that we must deliver to our children core subject knowledge in a way that incorporates this ever-developing technology, which is efficient and engaging, in order to equip them with the knowledge and digital skills that the future will demand," he said.

On behalf of ISM alumni across the world - many of whom were taught by Dr Sivakumar during his tenure at the school, Mukund Manohar, president of the Indian School Muscat Alumni Association (ISMA), wished the new chairman and his board team all the success for their tenure.

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12.19pm
Asr.....	3.45pm
Maghrib.....	6.23pm
Isha.....	7.33pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4.55am

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VACCINES

<FROM A1 Pact for 3.02mn doses

To date, the country has signed contracts to obtain 3.02 million doses of vaccines from multiple manufacturers: Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson's. Negotiations with other companies will be made once they have reached the minimum requirements acceptable by international bodies.

"We hope getting vaccines will become easier by the end of the summer," said Al Hosani. "The vaccines will be made widely available by summer 2021, and we have extended the time between which both doses are given to people to 10 weeks."

The undersecretary went on to say that according to the agreement Oman has with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, it is hoped that more vaccine doses will reach the country by the end of this month. The contract with GAVI is for a million doses, but no more than 75,000 are expected to arrive in March.

"We hope we will have a total of a quarter of a million doses arrive to us by the end of this March, and this is expected to increase in April," explained Al Hosani, who also went on to dismiss the reported connection between blood clots being seen in some people who had been injected with the AstraZeneca version of the COVID vaccine."

SAVING TIPS

How to cut your expenses and survive on a lower pay

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With many people in the country feeling the financial pinch of the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of either delayed and/or reduced salaries, we've come up with five ways you can reduce your expenses during these unpredictable times.

Avoid eating out or takeaways
Depending on how many you're ordering for, where you're getting your food from, and what you plan on eating, ordering takeout or going out for meal can set you back quite a bit, especially if you do it too often.

With many suggesting taking up a hobby or learning a skill during the spare time we have because of the pandemic, learning to cook is a great way to save money and an essential survival skill.

"When you're hit financially because of the pandemic, you have got to spend on the basis of what you need, rather than what you desire," says Sarweshwar Biyani, vice president (finance and accounts) at SV Pittie Sohar Textiles FZC. "Sharpening your new or existing skills will be a low-cost investment for you during the pandemic."

Walk short distances instead of using your car
Fuel prices in Oman aren't that high, compared to other countries in the world, but every little bit of money saved during these testing times is beneficial. The next time you're headed out to the supermarket, or for an errand that is a short distance from where you are, why not walk, instead of taking your car? According to financial analyst Ramanuj Venkatesh, it has many benefits.

"What I've observed during the pandemic is a lot of people choosing to adopt sedentary lifestyles, their excuse being that most out-



door areas and recreational places are closed right now," he says. "Walking will not only save you money, but keep you fit, and the fresh air you get while outdoors will help with your immunity and work towards keeping diseases at bay."

Move to cheaper accommodation, if you can
Rents across many parts of the country have fallen during the ongoing pandemic, in part due to large numbers of expats - who traditionally occupy homes in apartment complexes - leaving, leading to a shortfall in demand that has resulted in realtors reducing rental rates to attract new tenants.

Doing a little bit of research and finding out where properties are cheaper than your area, as well as a little bit of haggling with the landlord in charge of the building you're considering moving into, will definitely help you here.

"Moving would be something you'd want to consider during the pandemic, but not at the cost of impacting your lifestyle too much," says Venkatesh. "Of course, if your lifestyle is too lavish, then you need to cut back on that first, but rent is one of the few fixed payments - along with utilities - that we need to pay every month. So if you can reduce that, then it will surely help you."

Postpone spending on luxury goods
Many people have cut back on luxury expenses during the pan-

dem, primarily out of necessity or circumstance. Despite many stores having slashed prices to attract customers, people are advised not to splash the cash on expensive items right now.

"Harsh economic conditions always give us an opportunity to learn better and optimised financial management," says Biyani. "A sort of analysis must be adopted by people during the pandemic-hit economic situation we're all experiencing so that we can manage our personal finances."

Venkatesh adds, "When I refer here to luxury items, I don't refer to only items used primarily for leisure, such as a TV or an iPad, but also more functional ones such as a microwave or washing machine. Of course, if you have something that needs to be replaced, by all means, do, but I would also recommend looking at items being sold by people who want to sell their goods on online marketplaces."

Buy groceries available on offer
Many supermarkets regularly have promotional offers these days to boost sales during the uncertain times of the pandemic. Basic goods that are needed on a day-to-day basis can of course be bought as and when needed, but it is advisable to wait for discounts to buy consumables that are used less often. "Existing personal expenses need to be rationalised on the basis of needs, during a time such as this," explains Sarweshwar Biyani. "Remember that the greatest opportunities often come from adversity."

"There are a lot of promotions offered both online and in-store," advises Venkatesh. "Right now, it is extremely important to get maximum value for your money. Don't compromise on quality, though: you don't want to fall sick just because you bought the cheaper item."

Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG
PO Box 533, PC 100, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel.: 24591055, Fax: 24591676

Notice For Annual Ordinary General Meeting

The Board of Directors of Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG is pleased to invite the Shareholders of the Company to attend the Annual Ordinary General Meeting (AGM) of the Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG, which will be held on Wednesday 31st March 2021 at 05:00 PM, through the electronic platform for holding General Meetings, which you can log in on the Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) and in the event the quorum is not achieved for the meetings, the alternate date to hold the AGM shall be Wednesday 07th April 2021 at 05:00 PM on the same electronic platform mentioned above to consider the following agenda items.

Agenda of Annual Ordinary General Meeting

- To consider and approve Board of Directors Report for the fiscal year ended 31/12/2020
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2020
- To consider and approve the Auditor's Report, Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account for the fiscal year ended 31/12/2020
- To inform the Annual General Meeting of the transactions entered into by the company with related parties during the fiscal year ended 31/12/2020
- To consider and approve the sitting fees for the Board of Directors and its Sub-Committees drawn by the members of the Board during previous fiscal year 2020 and to fix the sitting fees for the current fiscal year 2021
- To inform the Annual General Meeting on the donations spent for supporting social activities during the fiscal year ended 31/12/2020
- To consider and approve a proposal to allocate RO. 100,000/- for supporting social activities during the fiscal year ending 31/12/2021
- To appoint the External Auditors for the fiscal year ending 31/12/2021 and determine their fees

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
- Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 99866125 or email: fazlin.anam@galfar.com

Chairman Legal Advisor External Auditor

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Merger of Salalah Branches and Relocation

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مياه للشرب [ماي دبي] ٣٣٠ مل
Mai Dubai drinking water 330ml

MyCLUB points +5

2 Pieces
SAVE 50%
5 RIAL 840
2 RIAL 920

زيت الذرة [عاقية] ١.٥ لتر x ٢
Afia corn oil 1.5L x2 + 750ml x2

MyCLUB points +10

14 Pieces
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0 RIAL 500

صلصة حارة [مرحبا] ٨٨ مل
Marhaba hot sauce 88ml

MyCLUB points +10

6 Pieces
SAVE 50%
1 RIAL 320
0 RIAL 660

حمص مسلوق [لونا] ٤٠٠ غرام
Luna chick peas 400g

MyCLUB points +10

2 Pieces
SAVE 50%
1 RIAL 380
0 RIAL 690

خليط البسبوسة [العالي] ٥٠٠ غرام
Al Alali basbousah mix 500g

MyCLUB points +5

2 Pieces
SAVE 50%
1 RIAL 580
0 RIAL 790

شوفان أبيض [كويكر] ٥٠٠ غرام
Quaker white oats 500g

MyCLUB points +10

10 Pieces
SAVE 50%
0 RIAL 500

شعيرية [أحمد] ١٥٠ غرام
Ahmed vermicelli 150g

MyCLUB points +15

3 Pieces
SAVE 50%
4 RIAL 710
2 RIAL 355

أرز مصري [ديلي فريش] ٢ كيلو
Daily fresh Egyptian rice 2kg

MyCLUB points +10

6 Pieces
SAVE 50%
0 RIAL 960
0 RIAL 480

كاتشاب الطماطم [مرحبا] ٣٤٠ غرام
Marhaba tomato ketchup 340g

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2 Pieces
SAVE 50%
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TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR

'Oman's policy wise, balanced'

Muscat: Tunisian ambassador accredited to the Sultanate, Azzedine El Tayse described the Sultanate's policy, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, as wise and balanced.

He said in a speech to Oman News Agency on the occasion of the Independence Day anniversary of the Tunisian Republic that "His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik supports efforts for enhancement of the bilateral relations between the two countries, mainly on the economic front."

He pointed to the possibility of launching direct flights and sea voyages between the two countries as a number of Omani products are favoured in Tunisia, and vice versa.



He also valued the response received from Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) in terms of support of the economic relations and businessmen in both the countries.

He said that the exhibitions organised between the two countries

have contributed to showcasing the products of the two countries, however, the current developments of COVID 19, have restricted organising such exhibitions.

The deep-rooted relations between the two countries have seen further development since late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour assumed power, when a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed between the two countries, he said.

He also pointed to the visit of Tunisian President Kais Saied, which was the first visit the president made abroad, to offer condolences and sympathy on the death of late His Majesty the Sultan. — OMA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

OMAN-SRI LANKA DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka received at the Presidential Palace, Sheikh Jumah bin Hamdan Al Malik Al Shahi, the Sultanate's ambassador to Sri Lanka. The meeting discussed the relations between the two countries and issues of common concern. — OMA



Celebrating Arab Mother's Day



It is once again time to shower your mother with love, gifts, and some great moments as Mother's Day is being celebrated all across the Arab world today. It's a day dedicated to recognise and appreciate the wonderful role that mothers play in bringing up their children. She is the most important person in anyone's life and so this day is dedicated to honour her contribution in our lives.

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. In Oman, Arab Mother's Day is celebrated on March 21. It was introduced in Egypt by journalist Mustafa Amin and was first celebrated in 1957 which was later started in other Arab countries.

While every year this day is celebrated in many extravagant ways by organising special nights out for the mothers or organising a family gathering, this year due to the ongoing pandemic it's ideal to celebrate this special day at home. After all, quality time is the best gift that you can give your mother. So don't get disheartened if you aren't going out, it's the sentiment behind the day is what matters the most.

Gift of sleep

It's a proven fact that mother's get the least sleep, sans any age group. So this Mother's Day let your mother catch up on her missed sleep and this is probably one of the best gifts you could give her.

Breakfast in bed

We all are used to having served our favourite breakfast throughout the year. For a change prepare her breakfast and give her a pleasant surprise. You can also leave a note telling her how important she is to you.

Spend some quality time together

In our busy lives we hardly get time to spend with our mothers. So why not spend some quality time with it? It could be anything ... from cooking a favourite recipe together, watching a movie or simply having a carefree heart to heart chat.

Make something handmade

From making a simple handmade card with a thoughtful message or a hand-made gift ... it could be just anything that has your personal touch. The fact that you have taken out time to make it will make her feel special.

#ASaffaMoms



Shukran MOMS!

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CULTURAL COLLABORATION

PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA

Syrian foreign minister visits National Museum



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the diplomatic and cultural collaboration between the Sultanate and Syria, Dr. Faisal Al Miqdad, Foreign Minister of Syria visited the National Museum on March 20. He was greeted by Jamal bin Hassan Al Moosawi- Secretary General of the National Museum during an official visit to the Sultanate. The Syrian archaeological objects and the Palmyran objects were displayed as they were restored and conserved by the restoration team at the National Museum.

131 Syrian archaeological objects were destroyed within the years of crisis, furthermore 9 Palmyran objects were restored in coordination with the Hermitage Museum. The minister toured National Museum galleries. Among which, the Maritime History gallery where the Manuscript of “The Book of the Benefits of the Principles and Foundations of Seaman-ship” is presented in which the National Museum inaugurated for the Omani Navigator, Shihab al-Din Ahmed bin Majid as-Sa’adi. The manuscript was loaned from Al-Asad Library in the Syrian Arab Republic to the National Mu-

seum for one year. In the joint cultural and museum collaboration between both countries, the National Museum of Oman signed in 2019 along with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, which manages 5 national museums, a Memorandum of Understanding in the cultural and museum fields, as well as an agreement for the preservation and conservation of Syrian damaged findings during the years of the crisis; including a number of objects of significance and a special historical and aesthetic dimensions from the ancient city of Palmyra.

His Majesty sends cable of greetings to Namibia

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia on his country’s Independence Day anniversary.

Good health and happiness In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan wished the president good health and happiness and his country’s people further progress and prosperity. – **ONA**

TO BOOK QUARANTINE ROOMS

FROM A1 Passengers can book quarantine rooms in hotels using Sahalah app

Another violation is that more than one person is being booked into a room when the protocol states that people in quarantine must be provided single accommodation.

Quarantined guests “At other times, these agencies do not provide to quarantined guests the services that have been agreed upon, such as transportation, food, and health insurance,” said Al Mandhari. “To avoid such occurrences, we advise people to book their accommodation directly with the hotels, and not through anyone else.”

To enable passengers coming into Oman to easily book quaran-

tine rooms in hotels, the Sahalah platform was recently launched by the Ministry of Social Development in collaboration with other relevant authorities.

Pay for bookings directly The app also helps people pay for bookings directly and is linked to all the authorities responsible for taking care of passengers arriving to the country, from the time they arrive, until they finish their quarantine procedures.

The Omani platform, by way of organising institutional quarantine processes, also helps solve issues such as fake bookings and adherence to isolation rules. To make sure hotels do not violate

COVID protocols adopted by the government, and to help follow up on alleged violations, the Relief and Shelter Sector coordinates activities with other authorities, such as the Royal Oman Police, Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Ministry of Health, and eMushrif, the company that handles the tracking procedures for people under domestic and institutional quarantine.

Isolation centres In addition to inspections being carried out at isolation centres to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, people who spot violations are requested to contact the authorities on the hotline number

available to them to report such occurrences.

Violating procedures “Some people have been found violating the safety procedures,” said Al Mandhari.

“We’ve also seen hotels violating these rules, so they have been stopped from receiving quarantine guests. We sadly also see that there are some hotels that do not care if those who are staying with them need to be under isolation are violating regulations. They feel they do not need to do so, just because they’ve already gotten their money from these people. This is a careless and greedy attitude to have.”

NOTICE

(RESCHEDULE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY)
NON-RESIDENT NEPALI SOCIAL CLUB OMAN

With regards to NRN Social Club's letter 058/1921 dated 27th February 2021, the General Assembly was scheduled on 09 April 2021. However, due to unforeseen circumstances the General Assembly is now rescheduled for 26th March 2021.

New Date & Time:
Date: 26 March 2021-Friday
Time: 1 pm onwards

All others aspects of the General Assembly remain same.
We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

For details and Queries please contact below:
Non-Resident Nepali Social Club Oman
President: 91754079, General Secretary: 96748373
Fb Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NRNSC>

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The investigation showed how the vaccine caused blood clots in the brain in a few patients.



Astrazeneca: German researchers discover thrombosis trigger

A story on a Thrombosis trigger in Astrazeneca's Covid-19 vaccine reached 60,677 people and had 9,851 engagements

 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

23,000 VIEWS



LEGAL ACTION FOR VIOLATING THE TRAFFIC LAW

Video story on traffic violations

A video story on group of people arrested for traffic violations in Oman got 23,000 views and reached 52,100 people on Facebook

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Women's Football League picture gallery

A picture gallery of the launch of the Women's Football League had 845 likes on Instagram.





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SECURITY COOPERATION

US seeks to strengthen security ties with India



NEW DELHI: The US would like to elevate and strengthen its security cooperation with India, especially in information sharing and logistics, the US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

Austin was in New Delhi in an effort to strengthen cooperation between countries that are seeking to push back against Chinese influence in the region.

"India, in particular, is an increasingly important partner among today's rapidly shifting international dynamics," Austin said after meeting. "We discussed opportunities to elevate the US-India major defence partnership, which is a priority of the Biden-Harris administration. And we'll do that through regional security cooperation and military to military interactions and defence trade," he added.

Singh said that the meeting had focused on "expanding military-to-military engagement

across services, information-sharing, cooperation in emerging sectors of defence, and mutual logistics support".

Alliances in the Indo-Pacific region

India and the US are members of the Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, which also includes Australia and Japan.

The Quad held a summit last weekend, affirming their joint interest in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The members also agreed to cooperate on dealing with maritime and cyber security challenges from China. Austin also met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday in the first visit by a top official in the Biden administration.

The US foreign secretary will leave India on Sunday. He already made stops in Japan and South Korea — along with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken — as well as holding a telephone call with Australia's acting Minister

of Defence on Friday.

Austin warned US allies against any kind of action that could incur sanctions. He also confirmed that India had not received any S-400 missile systems from Russia and thus the possibility of sanctions was not an issue, Reuters reported.

The talks between the regional allies are seen as an attempt to reaffirm their partnership in the face of China's increasing assertiveness.

Surveillance drones

India was involved in several deadly border clashes with China last year. In response, Washington provided New Delhi with surveillance drones and cold-weather gear for Indian troops.

The two powers agreed on defense deals reaching over \$3 billion (€2.5 billion at today's rate) in 2019. Total bilateral defense trade had reached \$15 billion in 2019, up from almost nothing in 2008. **aw**

ACCIDENT



14 dead, over 30 injured as bus skids off road in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: At least 14 people were killed and over 30 injured when a passenger bus skidded off the road and plunged down a precipice in Passara, 357 km away from Sri Lanka's capital Colombo, on Saturday.

A police spokesman told Xinhua that the bus skidded off the road and plunged down a precipice at the 13th milepost on the Moneragala-Badulla Road. The accident was caused by negligence of the driver.

The deceased included nine men including the driver of the bus and five female passengers.

The injured have been admitted to nearby state hospitals. An investigation is underway. **Xinhua**



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CORONAVIRUS

Pakistan PM tests positive for COVID-19

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has tested positive for COVID-19 and isolated himself at his home, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Faisal Sultan said on Saturday.

Commenting on Khan's infection, Asad Umar, chairman of the country's National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), said in a tweet that "the prime minister got vaccinated on Thursday evening, but he got infected with the virus before getting his jab."

"He (Khan) got vaccinated on



Thursday evening and felt some signs of the disease on the next day, so obviously he was infected before being vaccinated because the COVID-19 symptoms take a few days to manifest," Umar told Xinhua. **Xinhua**



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WORLD

Japan hit by minor tsunami waves after 7.2 magnitude quake

Officials said that there were no immediate reports of injury or major damage

TOKYO: Authorities issued a tsunami warning for Japan on Saturday after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck off the coast of Miyagi prefecture. The first tsunami waves of up to 1 metre (3.2 feet) hit land shortly after the earthquake, local television channel NHK reported.

Officials said that there were no immediate reports of injury or major damage.

Precautionary measures Japan's Meteorological Agency (JMA) said that the quake hit at 6:09 p.m. local time (09:09 GMT/



UTC) at a depth of 60 kilometres in the Pacific water just off the coast of the Miyagi region.

A video shared by NHK showed how the earthquake was felt in Sendai city in Miyagi prefecture.

Tremors were also felt in the capital, Tokyo.

The Tohoku Electric Power Co reportedly shut down its Onagawa nuclear plant as it checked for any irregularities, while the Tokyo Electric Power checked on the condition of the Fukushima Dai-ichi power station, which was wrecked by the 2011 quake.

There were no reports of irregularities, the country's nuclear regulator told Reuters in an email. Several train services in the region were also suspended as a precautionary measure. The US Consulate in Sapporo told people in the area to "seek higher ground."

Pacific 'Ring of Fire'

Saturday's earthquake came not long after the country marked 10 years since the deadly 9.0-magnitude quake on March 11, 2011, also affecting the Miyagi region.

The event a decade ago led to a catastrophic triple disaster as a disastrous tsunami was unleashed and the Fukushima nuclear plant went into meltdown.

Many people were injured last month when another strong earthquake struck.

Japan is on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an area along the edge of the Pacific ocean which is characterized by strong seismic activity.

Construction regulations in Japan mean that buildings must be built to withstand the frequent earthquakes. **dw**

International spectators to be barred from Tokyo Olympics events



TOKYO: Fans who travel from abroad to attend events at the Tokyo Olympic Games will be barred from entry due to coronavirus risks, organisers announced on Saturday.

"In order to give clarity to ticket holders living overseas and to enable them to adjust their travel plans at this stage, the parties on the Japanese side have come to the conclusion that they will not be able to enter into Japan at the time of the Olympic and Paralympic Games," the Tokyo 2020 organizing body said in a statement.

The International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee "fully respect and accept this conclusion", the

statement added. The games were delayed from 2020 after the coronavirus outbreak. Organizers plan to go ahead with the events this year, despite continued high levels of infections.

Tickets to be refunded The move had been expected for several months. Nevertheless, around 1 million tickets have already been sold to fans overseas.

The Olympic organizers promised refunds to ticket holders who would no longer be allowed to attend. However, the refunds will be dealt with by authorized ticket resellers who charge fees up to 20%. It was not clear if the fees would be included in the refunds. **dw**

ANTI-COUP PROTESTS

Protests continue as death count rises in Myanmar

NAYPYITAW: Protesters came out onto the streets across Myanmar on Saturday in continued defiance of the military junta and their violent crackdown.

At least one person was killed overnight in the northern ruby-mining town of Mogoke when security forces opened fire.

"One [person] died on the spot last night while two others are in

critical condition in the hospital," a rescue worker told AFP news agency.

Photos shared on Twitter showed students and residents gathering on Saturday morning in the town of Bago, northeast of Yangon.

More than 230 people have died since the beginning of the coup on February 1.

Growing pressure from Asian neighbours

Asian countries have joined others in condemning the coup and calling for an end to the violence. On Friday night Malaysia backed a call by Indonesia President Joko Widodo for an urgent meeting by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"We in Malaysia, and the larger

ASEAN community, cannot afford to see our brotherly nation of Myanmar become so destabilised at the hands of a selected few, who seek to promote their own vested interests," Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said. The Philippines and Singapore also called for action against the coup which ousted elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Global condemnation

Condemnation and pressure from outside of Myanmar has continued to grow. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres repeated his condemnation of the military's violence on Friday, calling for a "firm, unified international response."

The coup was also formally condemned by the US House of

Representatives.

The US embassy in Yangon said in a tweet on Saturday that it welcomed "the work of the UN to collect evidence of human rights violations committed in Myanmar since the military coup. It is important that evidence is recorded so that those responsible can face justice and be held to account." **dw**

SPIKE IN VIOLENCE

Biden, Harris condemn anti-Asian violence following fatal shootings

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris condemned anti-Asian violence in the country on Friday, warning against silence and complicity in the aftermath of shootings this week in Atlanta, Georgia, in which eight people, including six Asian women, were killed. Speaking from Emory Uni-

versity in Atlanta after meeting with Asian-American community leaders, Biden acknowledged there has been "a skyrocketing spike" in hate against Asian Americans over the last year, while Harris sounded the alarm over a sobering reality that racism, xenophobia and sexism are all "real in America" and have

always been in existence. "Whatever the motivation," Biden said of the reason behind the Atlanta shootings, "we know this, too many Asian Americans have been walking up and down the streets and worrying, waking up each morning the past year feeling their safety and the safety of their loved ones are at stake." **xinhua**

On behalf of Elecnor SA Oman Management and Employees, we offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of

Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Nasser Al Kalbani

Project Manager - PDD-HQ

who recently passed away last Thursday on the 18th of March 2021.

May his distinct contributions and dedication be always remembered and may his soul rest in peace and grant his family and friends patience and comfort.

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OMAN, JORDAN PLAY A GOALLESS DRAW

Oman played out a goalless draw against Jordan during the national team's training camp, which is being held in the United Arab Emirates. Pictures- Oman FA



INDIAN SHUTTLE

PV Sindhu bows out

BIRMINGHAM: Indian shuttler PV Sindhu on Saturday crashed out of the ongoing All England Open after losing to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in the semi-final.

The reigning world champion lost to sixth seed Chochuwong in straight games 21-17, 21-9 in 45 minutes.

Chochuwong dominated the game with her attacking play and Sindhu was seen struggling on the court against the pace of the Thai player.

Sindhu showed her grit and resistance in the opening game but it was not sufficient to stop Chochuwong's commanding play on the court. In the second game, Chochuwong kept the momentum going and moved to the summit clash with ease. -ANI

OWCA beat Indian Social Club to become women's league champion



WINNERS: OWCA team holding the winner's trophy

Nayan scored 62 runs for OWCA, taking her tally of runs to 237 in 6 matches to become the tournament's highest run getter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nayan Anil's superb half century helped Oman Women's Cricket Academy (OWCA) to a sensational 11-run victory over Indian Social Club (ISC) Women at OC Turf 1 in Amerat on Wednesday.

ISC, which came into the final without losing a game, put OWCA in after winning the toss. Aware of the value of putting a fighting total on the board, OWCA crawled their

way to 113 for 4 in 20 overs,

Nayan leading the way with splendid 62, taking her tally of runs to 237 in 6 matches to become the tournament's highest run getter. Payal Kanojia, ISC's woman with the golden arm, picked up two wickets to become tournament's joint top wicket-taker along with OWCA's Sherya Dhuri, both taking 13 each. Afida Afthab contributed vital 19 to OWCA's total.

ISC Women found the going tough as OWCA bowled with

amazing discipline, restricting it to 102 for 4 in 20 overs despite Priyanka Mendonca's solid 50 not out off 60 and Trupti Pawde's 38-ball 35.

Saya Channa, Sherya Dhuri and Afida Afthab all bowled well, taking a wicket each. Shreya's 13 wickets in the championship came at an incredible economy rate of just 2.6.

OWCA captain Vaishali Jesrani was overjoyed and rightly so. "It feels amazing beating a de-

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fending champion that had yet to lose a game in the championship. We were a new face to the tournament. Nobody expected us to reach the final let alone winning it. We got our combinations right. All the girls were talented and skilled and delivered extremely well in all departments," she said.

Regular training

Vaishali was all praise for her coaches, saying regular training helped her side that bonded well and played as a unit.

"We had very few experienced players in the side that was composed of many newcomers playing the league for the first time. Credit must also go to our coaches Desmond Berhardt, Nilesh Parmer and Haider Ali who were excellent throughout the season," she added.

Commenting on the how her side was able to beat a side that had hardly put a foot wrong in the competition, Vaishali said discipline

was key to winning the final.

"We did not think too much about who we were playing and that it was a final. It was the game number 6 for us and we knew if we stuck to the basics and kept things simple we will do well. I though 112 was gettable on this pitch but we bowled and fielded with great discipline. That helped us again as we had secured a last-over win against Muscat Women in our previous group match. Our girls believed in themselves and came up trumps," concluded a delighted Vaishali.

Brief scores (Women's League T20): OWCA 113 for 4 in 20 overs (Nayan Anil 62 - 10x4, Afida Afthab 19 - 2x4. Payal Kanojia 2-26, Mamta Thakur 1-16) defeated ISC Women 102 for 4 in 20 overs (Priyanka Mendonca 50 not out - 3x4, Trupti Pawde 35 - 3x4. Saya Channa 1-16, Shreya Dhuri 1-15, Afida Afthab 1-20) by 11 runs.

TENNIS



Djokovic withdraws from Miami Open, citing COVID-19 restrictions

FLORIDA: World-number one Novak Djokovic has pulled out of the Miami Open which gets underway from March 22.

The Serbian star cited coronavirus restrictions while announcing that he will miss the upcoming tournament. Djokovic has now joined Spanish tennis players Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer in the list of players who have withdrawn from the Miami Open. "Dear fans, I'm very sorry to announce that this year I won't travel to Miami to compete. I decided to use this precious time at home to stay with my family. With all restrictions, I need to

find balance in my time on tour and at home. I look forward to coming back next year!" Djokovic tweeted.

Earlier, three-time Grand Slam champion and former world No. 1, Andy Murray, was granted a wildcard into the 2021 Miami Open.

Murray, who last played the Miami Open in 2016, is a two-time champion of the event having won the title in 2009 and 2013. In addition, he reached the event final in 2012 and 2015.

Last month, Djokovic defeated Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in the finals of the Australian Open 2021 at the Rod Laver

Arena to clinch his 9th Australian title.

The Serbian Djokovic came out all guns blazing and it seemed as if he did not want to waste time in winning his 18th Grand Slam, but Medvedev eventually came back and the set was tied at 5-5. However, in the end, Djokovic showed his class to win the first set 7-5 in about 42 minutes.

The 33-year-old Djokovic made light work of Medvedev in the second set and the Serbian won the second set with ease and as a result, he was just one more set away from winning his ninth Australian Open title. -ANI

NZ VS BANGLADESH

Boult donates \$500 to home club after winning Player of the Match award



DUNEDIN: Seamer Trent Boult, who laid the foundation for New Zealand's win with his four wickets in the first ODI against Bangladesh, donated \$500 to his hometown club Otumoetai Cadets on Saturday.

Boult took four as New Zealand thrashed Bangladesh by eight wickets in the opening game. The Kiwis took just 21.2 overs to seal the game after the hosts' bowlers ran riot to bundle Bangladesh out for 131 in the first ODI. Boult claimed the Player of the Match honours after bowling figures of 4/27 in the opening game and donated his award money to his home club.

"Trent Boult is the @ANZ_NZ Player of the Match with his 4-27!

Boult donated his \$500 club donation care of ANZ to his home club Otumoetai Cadets #NZvBAN" the BLACKCAPS tweeted.

Chasing a paltry score of 132, Martin Guptill and Henry Nicholls stitched a 54-run stand for the first wicket within six overs to dismantle Bangladesh's bowling. Taskin Ahmed provided the visitors with the first breakthrough when he removed Guptill.

But Nicholls and Devon Conway brought up a partnership of 65 as New Zealand reached triple figures. But just at the cusp of the win, Hasan Mahmud ended Conway's sluggish knock.

However, New Zealand had plenty of overs to get over the line and the hosts sealed the match in

the 22nd over to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Put in to bat first, Bangladesh was restricted to just 131 runs off 41.5 overs on the back of an all-round bowling performance.

The visitors had got off to a bad start as they lost skipper Tamim Iqbal in the fifth over. The Bangladesh captain was off to a flying start as he smashed a six in the third ball of the match. But it was Boult who had the last laugh as he trapped him in front of stumps.

Since then Bangladesh batsmen struggled to leave a mark as New Zealand seamers kept on taking wickets at regular intervals from both ends. Only Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim managed to score past the 20-run mark. -ANI

INVEST EASY PORTAL

As part of the improvements to the Invest Easy portal the service of requesting to hold promotional offers, discounts, marketing cards and advertising brochures have been included in the electronic portal.

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REGISTRATION OF PATENTS

The number of women who registered a patent with MoCIIP in Oman in 2020 reached 115, in single or joint applications, compared to 17 in 2019.

POULTRY PRODUCTION PLANT

A'Saffa Foods begins production from new expanded facility

MUSCAT: A'Saffa Foods announced the completion of its poultry production plant expansion in Thumrait. This new expansion adds several new facilities and expands on existing ones, enabling A'Saffa Foods to increase its production capacity to meet the high demand for white meat both locally and regionally.

In a conversation with Oman News Agency, Mohamed Suhail Al-Shanfari, the CEO of A'Saffa



Foods said, "Regardless of the fall-out from the pandemic, A'Saffa has committed to providing the local markets with its poultry products, as well as, to contribute towards enhancing the country's food security and help Oman achieve a higher rate of self-sufficiency. Furthermore, this new expansion was built in line with uncompromising standards for quality and stringent manufacturing standards and will increase the production capacity

to 45,000 metric tonnes."

The new expansion is in Hanfit, Thumrait with a total area of 50 square kilometres. It introduced several facilities like hatcheries, breeding farms, a feed mill, and a slaughterhouse, in addition to a wastewater treatment plant. A'Saffa Foods has also expanded its Foods Processing company, bringing the total production to 5000 metric tonnes of A'Saffa, Khayrat & Taybat products. A'Saffa Foods

Processing has a logistics subsidiary company which has cold storages of higher standards, and a fleet of trucks ready to provide customers all across Oman with fresh and frozen products at all times. The current hatcheries have increased two-fold where a new technique has been incorporated by Aveda S which will increase the production capacity to 45 million birds a year.

A'Saffa has also built 10 new

environmentally and biologically controlled farms with a total of 90 hen houses with an area of 1,650 sq m and a capacity of 32,000 birds each. A'saffa Foods has also built a state-of-the-art feed factory with a total area of 46,250 sq m to meet current and future production needs. The production capacity of the factory is 50 metric tons per hour and the factory will contain two production lines with 25 metric tonnes each.

KEMPINSKI HOTEL MUSCAT

Kempinski appoints director of finance



Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its strategy and continuous vision to develop and promote Omani talents to occupy important executive positions, Kempinski Hotel Muscat is pleased to announce the appointment of Mohammed Al Harrasi as Director of Finance, with effect from 1 March 2021.

As the first Omani director of finance in Muscat and an experienced professional hotelier, Mohammed brings over 25 years of experience in hotel operations to his new role, and we are confident that he will be a valuable addition to the executive team as we continue to deliver sustained profitable growth.

Mohammed joined Kempinski Hotel Muscat as Director of Purchasing in 2017, where he has managed to understand and fully commit to every DNA value in a way that is uniquely Kempinski. He complements our strong performance-oriented culture, and his impressive reputation for execution and achieving results makes him the right choice to lead our finance team.

Mohammed was one of the highly deserving winners of the 'Hospitality Championship 2020' awards, in recognition of his exemplary achievements in supporting Omani Craft Industries by purchasing locally crafted items to be used at the hotel, not to mention his continuous efforts to enhance the career development of local talents in his department.

Before Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Mohammed served as Logistics Manager at the hotel Crowne Plaza Muscat.

In his role, he developed new strategies to streamline processes and reduce costs, ensured that quality, quantity, customer satisfaction and financial commitments were met and performed metrics reporting and data analysis tasks to identify issues and opportunities for process improvements.

He also served as Purchasing Manager at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa in 2015. He was responsible for all supply chain management duties, including monitoring vendors for quality, service and price through standard purchasing specifications, assessing budgets and organising storage.

Mohammed said, "I am proud to hold the position of Director of Finance at Kempinski Hotel Muscat. The hotel has a prominent position in the Sultanate through the services and products it provides. Therefore, I am proud to join the management team. The hotel has given me opportunities. It is wonderful to develop my skills and experience, and this upgrade is only a translation of their confidence in me and in my ability to assume this responsibility. This position is very important."



Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG
PO Box 533, PC 100, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.
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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

I am pleased to welcome you all on behalf of the Board of Directors to the Annual General Meeting of Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG and present to you the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Overview

The Group's performance during the year 2020 has resulted in net loss of RO 28.3 million in comparison to net loss of RO 6.2 million in the year 2019.

The Parent Company's performance during the year 2020 has resulted in net loss of RO 26.1 million in comparison to loss of RO 20.1 million in the year 2019. The performance was substantially impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, related idling of resources and additional costs, time and cost overruns in major projects. Management and Board is confident to collect the long outstanding receivables of RO 42 Million against which provision is created in the books of account, which will result in reversal of these provisions in the near future.

The year 2020 had been very challenging due to spread of COVID-19 infection. However, with concerted timely efforts taken by the organization through awareness videos, posters, campaigns, and vigilant monitoring of our day-to-day business activities, we were successful in containing the spread of COVID-19 within our workforce. Galfar adopted all the measures initiated by the Supreme Committee for Covid Management and aligned itself completely. In addition, Galfar was able to isolate heavily populated camps as and when required to prevent the spread of the virus and protect the health of the people as its first priority.

The objectives were clear to follow the rules being laid down and control the spread of the Virus. At all sites we managed to achieve controlled numbers of cases.

The liquidity issues of the Company continued on account of delay in receipt of certified payment from the Government and its related entities. The unpaid certified receivables were at RO 64 Million at closing of the year. This has impacted ability to do business and has impacted our profitability.

Some claims due to the changes in government legislation and Ministerial decisions, like increase in fuel prices and the minimum wages for National workforce are outstanding. The time taken by some clients and consultants to settle contractual matters and close out contracts has become significantly longer than it was a few years ago. This affects the recovery of retention money, which again affects the cash position. Though the delay in projects close out and the associated payments do not affect our contractual rights, but as per the interpretation of the applicable International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS') provisions have to be made for them.

Operations (Parent Company)

During the year 2020, the Parent Company was awarded new contracts worth RO 135 million which includes the Construction of 16" Export Pipeline with Associated Facility from Oman Oil Company for RO 11.5 Million, Rehabilitation project Fahud Runway with PDO for approximate value of RO 9.4 Million, and 'Dualization of Adam / Thumrait Road Project - Part 4' for RO 115 Million. The award of these projects has strengthened the order book of the Company which stands at approximately RO. 376 Million as of Dec 2020. Combined with the Company's restructuring efforts this strong order book presents positive forecast for the company to pass through current economic crisis and to pursue growth, diversification and capability building in the future.

The summary of the financial performance of the company including group companies is as follows:

Particulars	In RO millions	
	2020	2019
Total Revenue	208.9	248.8
(Loss) / Profit from operations	(23.2)	(14.7)
(Loss) / Profit for the year after Tax	(28.3)	(6.3)

The Board and management continue to explore avenues to strengthen the company's financial position in a challenging external environment. Measures have been put in place to control the manpower expenses and overhead expenses which are expected to reduce cash outflow and improve the operating financial results going forward. The company has also implemented its turnaround Strategy and will follow it through in 2021.

With the Government in the process of boosting tax revenues with introduction of VAT, the Company is preparing itself to realign its business process.

Organisation

Galfar prides itself to be the largest employer of national workforce in the private sector and leads in overall Organization in the construction industry. The Company today employs more than 4000 Omani Nationals and continues to actively recruit, train and retain these employees in technical and managerial cadres.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Company has contributed to local communities wherever we deliver our projects. In addition, we are active in supporting innovation and safety campaigns throughout the country. The Company procured goods in Oman for RO 37 million and Subcontracts for RO 51 million.

Outlook

Galfar approaches 2021 with an optimistic approach especially as the Company continues to maintain significant order book of jobs in hand at above RO 370 million (FY19: RO 401 million) out of which RO 43 million (FY19: 111 million) is related to oil and gas sector. Through implementation of various strategic objectives in the transformation strategy, the focus is to achieve positive return from this order book which will enhance the company financial position as well as further strengthening it by winning new contracts for each business unit.

Galfar is evaluating various options with regards to financial restructuring in order to improve the financial position and liquidity situation in the company in order to set the Company on a forward-looking path.

On Record

The Directors take this opportunity to thank the customers, shareholders, suppliers, bankers, business partners/associates, financial institutions and the Government of Sultanate of Oman for their consistent support and encouragement to the Company.

On behalf of the Directors, I convey my sincere appreciation to all employees of the Company and its subsidiaries and associates for their hard work and commitment.

Galfar pledges its full loyalty to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his government in their endeavors to build even further on the outstanding legacy of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour, in the years to come.

Majid Salim Said Al Fannah Al Araimi
Chairman

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020

	Parent Company		Amount in RO '000s	
	2020	2019	Consolidated 2020	2019
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	30,857	41,313	35,922	47,032
Intangible assets	340	283	372	294
Right of use assets	801	1,439	1,104	1,862
Investment in subsidiaries	3,923	3,923	-	-
Investment in associates	5,466	5,466	5,099	4,943
Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	125	125	145	145
Retentions receivables	11,060	8,042	11,060	8,042
	<u>52,572</u>	<u>60,591</u>	<u>53,702</u>	<u>62,318</u>
Current assets				
Inventories	10,349	9,034	12,417	10,712
Contract work in progress	34,157	56,486	35,195	57,466
Contract and trade receivables	116,530	133,880	122,283	141,105
Advances, prepayments and other receivables	16,833	25,222	15,606	26,255
Deposits with banks	2,311	2,307	2,420	2,329
Cash and bank balances	2,537	2,538	4,370	4,246
	<u>182,717</u>	<u>229,467</u>	<u>192,291</u>	<u>242,113</u>
	<u>235,289</u>	<u>290,058</u>	<u>245,993</u>	<u>304,431</u>
Total Assets				
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	41,522	41,522	41,522	41,522
Share premium	18,337	18,337	18,337	18,337
Statutory reserve	13,840	13,840	14,427	14,426
Foreign currency translation reserve	-	-	(338)	(320)
Accumulated losses	(55,063)	(28,952)	(53,965)	(25,695)
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent Company	18,636	44,747	19,983	48,270
Non-controlling interest	-	-	907	906
Total equity	<u>18,636</u>	<u>44,747</u>	<u>20,890</u>	<u>49,176</u>
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	10,732	11,321	10,819	11,713
Lease liability	319	850	948	1,288
Employees' end of service benefits	12,940	14,818	13,154	15,020
Advance from customers	5,530	7,411	5,530	7,411
Deferred tax liability	-	-	363	323
	<u>29,521</u>	<u>34,400</u>	<u>30,814</u>	<u>35,755</u>
Current Liabilities				
Term loans - current portion	8,746	13,711	9,050	14,418
Lease liability - current portion	527	467	886	644
Short term loans	27,896	27,050	27,896	27,050
Bank borrowings	10,069	34,204	10,069	34,261
Trade payables	70,798	69,627	79,412	79,815
Other payables and provisions	67,756	64,450	65,548	61,804
Provision for taxation	1,340	1,402	1,428	1,508
	<u>187,132</u>	<u>210,911</u>	<u>194,289</u>	<u>219,500</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>216,653</u>	<u>245,311</u>	<u>225,103</u>	<u>255,255</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities	<u>235,289</u>	<u>290,058</u>	<u>245,993</u>	<u>304,431</u>
Net Assets per share (RO)	<u>0.045</u>	<u>0.108</u>	<u>0.048</u>	<u>0.116</u>

Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Parent Company		Amount in RO '000s	
	2020	2019	Consolidated 2020	2019
Contract revenue	194,075	227,361	194,933	229,095
Sales and services income	2,865	4,027	13,989	19,713
Total revenue	<u>196,940</u>	<u>231,388</u>	<u>208,922</u>	<u>248,808</u>
Cost of contracts and services	(212,965)	(224,172)	(225,458)	(239,842)
Gross (loss)/profit	<u>(16,025)</u>	<u>7,216</u>	<u>(16,536)</u>	<u>8,966</u>
Other income	3,779	2,510	4,010	2,581
General and administrative expenses	(6,018)	(6,517)	(7,582)	(8,136)
Provision for impairment of receivables and other current assets, net	(2,860)	(17,756)	(3,073)	(18,146)
Impairment loss on investment in a subsidiary	-	(149)	-	-
Finance costs, net	(4,987)	(6,670)	(5,173)	(6,846)
Share of profit from associates	-	-	174	167
Loss before tax	<u>(26,111)</u>	<u>(21,366)</u>	<u>(28,180)</u>	<u>(21,414)</u>
Income tax expense	-	(48)	(88)	(95)
Loss for the year from continuing operations	<u>(26,111)</u>	<u>(21,414)</u>	<u>(28,268)</u>	<u>(21,509)</u>
Discontinued operations				
Profit on sale of Investments, net of tax	-	1,265	-	15,215
Loss for the year	<u>(26,111)</u>	<u>(20,149)</u>	<u>(28,268)</u>	<u>(6,294)</u>
Attributable to:				
Owners of the Parent Company	(26,111)	(20,149)	(28,269)	(6,298)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	1	4
	<u>(26,111)</u>	<u>(20,149)</u>	<u>(28,268)</u>	<u>(6,294)</u>
Other comprehensive (loss)/income				
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss: Foreign currency translation reserve on remeasurement of foreign operations	-	-	(18)	-
Foreign currency translation reserve reclassified to profit or loss on disposal of foreign operations	-	-	-	2,578
Total comprehensive loss for the year	<u>(26,111)</u>	<u>(20,149)</u>	<u>(28,286)</u>	<u>(3,716)</u>
Loss per share for the year (RO)	<u>(0.063)</u>	<u>(0.055)</u>	<u>(0.068)</u>	<u>(0.052)</u>

Notes: The Complete Financial Statements are available at Issue and Listing Department of Muscat Securities Market. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request at the Company's address: P.O. Box No. 533, Postal Code 100, Sultanate of Oman.

MARKET

NEW FACILITY

New service added to Invest Easy portal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of the improvements to the Invest Easy portal the service of requesting to hold promotional offers, discounts, marketing cards and advertising brochures have been included in the electronic portal.

This decision was taken by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) saying that this new facility will contribute to strengthening the partnership between the public and private sectors with the aim of encouraging investments, stimulating the local economy, encouraging local capital and attracting foreign investments to contribute to achieving the goals of Oman 2040 Vision.

The ministry also emphasised that the adding of this service to Invest Easy portal comes within the framework of the ministry's plan to modernise various services that fall within its authority.

The move was to cope with the economic and commercial changes, as well as the expansions witnessed by the Sultanate's markets. It also ensures the Sultanate's obligations toward the numbers of regional and international agreements.

"The Invest Easy portal has



been created to facilitate the establishing of commercial and industrial projects, supporting the import and export activities and saving them time and efforts of the investors, commenting on this improvement, Amal Bint Abdullah Al-Fahdia, Head of Commercial Licenses Department at the Department of Commercial Affairs at MoCIIP, said.

"Hence, by adding this new service to the portal, the requests to hold promotional offers, discounts, marketing cards and advertising brochures will be received electronically along with attaching and uploading the required documents via Sanad offices or online self-service through the portal," she added.

REPORT

UAE's economy projected to grow by 2.5%, 3.5% in 2021, 2022 respectively

ABU DHABI: The Central Bank of the UAE projects real GDP to recover to positive growth of 2.5 per cent in 2021, with non-oil GDP growing by 3.6 per cent and oil GDP remaining flat based on the OPEC+ production schedule and announcements.

Non-oil GDP growth

In a report issued, the apex bank said real non-oil GDP growth is expected to be driven by increasing fiscal spending, pick up in credit and employment, relative stabilisation of the real estate market, boosted by recovery in confidence and the Dubai EXPO in 2021.

In 2022, a full recovery is expected, with overall real GDP increasing by 3.5 per cent, while the non-oil real GDP rising by 3.9 per cent, added the report.

"This will be the result of the continued fiscal spending growth, healthy banks' credit growth, strong improvement in employment and recovered business sentiment, with part of Dubai EXPO 2021 taking place in 2022 as well," it explained. -WAM

Women in Oman registered 115 patents in 2020

The Sultanate has announced the completion of the first phase of the evaluation process of the project of strengthening the role of women in innovation skills

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of women who registered a patent with Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) in Oman in 2020 reached 115, in single or joint applications, compared to 17 in 2019.

This was stated by Engineer Ruqayya bint Mohsen Al-Harrasiah, Patent Specialist at the Intellectual Property Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

Oman has announced the completion of the first phase of the evaluation process of the project of strengthening the role of women in innovation skills.

The ministry said that the nomination of the Sultanate by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to participate in the project of strengthening



the role of women in innovation aims at enhancing the innovative capabilities of the participating countries.

This project aims to enhance the participation of inventor women in the national innovation system by supporting and increasing the opportunities for women in utilising the supporting chances, services and opportunities to create cooperation networks among the stakeholders of this project.

"The project of strengthening the role of women in innovation will continue for four years in cooperation with WIPO," Engineer Ruqayya Al-Harrasiah said.

The completed first phase of the comprehensive evaluation process in the Sultanate included the availability of basic information on how to use the intellectual property (IP) system by female inventors, innovators and businesswomen in the Sultanate, identifying the challenges and obstacles facing the inventors and businesswomen innovators in utilising the IP system to protect and market their inventions, she pointed out.

"The evaluation process also includes the identification of

challenges faced in attracting the attention of markets to women products, with its production based on implementing the intellectual property standards," Engineer Ruqayya Al-Harrasiah said.

"It also includes the addition of the possibility of listing female volunteers, innovators, lawyers and businesswomen who would like to provide assistance to other female inventors and businesswomen," she added.

She pointed out that the Intellectual property and development agenda of WIPO has addressed the issue of "Women and Intellectual Property", where it recognised the importance of promoting opportunities for gender equality, empowering female innovators, and the importance of promoting a comprehensive and accessible IP system for all, to bridge the existing gender gaps in term of the intellectual property.

She emphasised that the current phase of the programme includes the implementation of many workshops and various activities in the innovation filed, intellectual property and entrepreneurship filed, to spread awareness on the innovation and technology culture among women.

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ECONOMY

Australia's post-pandemic economic recovery looks promising

NEW DELHI: International migration has been a quiet achiever for Australia. The demand for skilled workers in Australia as the government pushes for post-pandemic recovery is looking positive.

The top areas in demand of skilled workers include the following: Health care and social assistance, professional, scientific and technical services, education and training and construction. Australia's migration modelling demonstrates that a post-COVID-19 recovery can be driven by business and consumers. Australia's response to COVID-19 has clearly accelerated migration possibilities. The agility shown by the government and businesses in responding to the challenge of COVID-19 has been embraced as the default and several pathways have been opened up for people across the globe to migrate to Australia.

"There has always been a demand in the health care sector, tech, infrastructure, logistics and many. Moreover, we are likely to see a high-demand due to COVID-19. A prominent sector to look out for is IT services," commented Thara S Namboothiri, Flyworld on the situation. -ANI

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Omani, 7 yrs experience in the field debt collection& PRO work looking for a suitable placement. Contact 99648284

2 years Accountant experience with NOC - Oman & 4 year Admin/ Accountant assistant experience in India. Contacts +96891746925, +919744304725. Email lenglev@gmail.com

Accountant 2 Years Oman Experience with NOC, 2/2 - Admin/Ac-countant Indian Experience. Contact 91746925 Email: lenglev@gmail.com

Looking for part time accounting job. Contact 91019796

27 yrs male Sudanese Accountant 3 years experience MBA holder. Contact 94706138

Accountant, 4 years experience in Oman with DL # 95762756

26 yrs B.Com graduate with 3 yrs experience in accounts & logistics. seeking suitable placement.NOC available. Contact 91362146

Indian CPA 15+ years of experience in Oman & UAE as finance manager / chief accountant on visit and have NOC. Contact: 79007124 Email: shkkader@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. 9 yrs. Contact 93191575

Experienced Pakistani Light Duty Driver. Excellent English/Arabic Speaker, Great knowledge of Muscat Roads/Areas. Looking Suitable placement. Contact 79250786

Heavy vehicle driver with 4 yrs experience looking for job. # 94241127

Looking for driving job with car, 4 yrs experience. Contact 97379365

Looking for driving job. # 98763258

Looking for a driver job (16 years experience in Oman). # 93092377

Sr.Accountant, Male, Semi qualified CMA US, MBA-Fin, 18 years exp in finance & accounts with Oman DL seeks suitable placement. Contact 78392239

MBA Finance 16+Exp of Oman in Accounts up to finalization & Bank Facility LC, LTR, looking for suitable senior position. Contact 92383882

Accountant: looking for Accounts job, having morethan 10 years experience, can handle up to Finalization, with Valid D/L, seeking suitable placement. Contact 92800781

Indian Male, B.Com, MBA, 10yrs experience in accounts & export coordination with Focus, Oracle & Tally seeks suitable placement. NOC, D/L available. Mob: 98747867

Well experienced accountant looking part time job(including VAT) Contact 78075878

Accountant, 15 yrs of professional experience including 8 yrs in Oman looking for suitable placement. Contact 79898089

Accountant with 7 yrs experience along with Sales & Marketing in Oman with D/L. Local release available. Contact 91367217

Part time accountant having 13 yrs experience seeking job. # 79102100

Indian Male Accountant, M.Com 14 years experience in Oman with D/L & NOC seeks suitable placement Contact 99757409

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Pre school teacher with 6 years of experience as Early years teacher at Eurokids International Pre school at India. Qualified with Early Childhood Education in Montessori methodology. Ready to join immediately. Contact number: 78213774

MA [English], M.Ed, IELTS 7.5 , 19 years teaching experience in college and schools. Seeks teaching or administrative position. # 92571205

Indian lady teacher [Bsc BioTech; currently pursuing B.Ed (8th sem)] with 6 years of experience handling secular and Islamic studies looking for suitable opportunities. 96950115, sahil.nms89@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Commercial/Secretarial with Stenography/Documentation/Administration cum Basic Accounts 20+ years experience working in oman with NOC & D/L looking for a suitable job. Contact 92925926, 97704828, Email frrancis7@gmail.com

Indian female MBA (HR), PGDBA, BE, 7 yrs of experience in HR & administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 92474376

Indian Male, 12 years experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post. Holding Oman D/L. Email: vinrai99@gmail.com, Contact 79734085

Indian female BE MBA has DL, looking for job in Muscat. # 97613235

Bcom fresh graduate, 23, with good arabic speaking skill looking for an opening in assisting Administrative/ Accountant job roles. Available to join immediately. Mob: 78018480 Email: saadsakeer2009@gmail.com

Indian male - BE MBA, 12 years of experience in HR ADMIN & Logistics (incl. 3 yrs of Oman experience) on visit. Contact 79857135

Indian female MBA, 3 yrs Oman experience, looking for suitable job (Oman D/L). Contact 99257214. Email sansshetty@gmail.com

Indian Female Bcom. 7 years experience. Exe. Secretary,Admin/Coordinator. DL. Contact 92243552/91190552.

Indian Female with 15 years experience in Administration with excellent communication skills, on family visa with D/L. Part time also willing. Contact 91469220

DESIGNER / AUTOCAD D/MAN

20+ yrs Exp. Architectural, Structural & ELV Draftsman Looking freelance job. Contact 99718163, Email: riyasoka@gmail.com

Srilankan, looking for MEP draftman / Const supervisor. Dip in MEP draftman with 3-4 yrs experience. Contact 93988825. Email amenulas@gmail.com

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Accounts/Finance Manager well experienced (29 Years), expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, monthly MIS, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact 98803439

Looking for management position (MBA & BBA), having 15 yrs experience in Oman/KSA, sales, logistics & procurement (FMCG & non food, household, electronics able to communicate 7 language with Arabic. Having D/L. Contact 98056640. email mafascv@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

BSc Hospitality Management Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia. Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry. Contact 94575782 Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

CONNECT

JOB WANTED

FINANCE

Indian Male 32yrs (CMA, MBA-Fin.) with 10 Yrs (8yrs in GCC Manufacturing & SAGQ) experience currently working as Asst. Finance Manager expertise in MIS reporting, Accounting upto finalization, Budgeting, Financial modeling, Business Analysis, IFRS, ERP & Advance Excel, seeking similar position in the Finance department.

Contact 99250104, Email: hyder065@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Omani female looking for a job, BSc in Process engineering (Done four different internships in process engineering), marketing experience as well.

Contact: 95119284
alya_alsiyabi93@outlook.com

Omani Information Technology Field

Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.

Contact: 71771213
Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

HR / Admin

Indian Female looking for job opportunities in HR/Admin or similar field. MBA with 7 yrs of experience in Oman, UAE and India in HR, Admin, Payroll n others. Experience in all HR functions. Available to start immediately.

Contact 99653715

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.

aminol2424@gmail.com
79417515

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.

Contact: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer

Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.

Contact/ Whatsapp No.: 95051103,
Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

EGYPTIAN CIVIL ENGINEER

2 yrs experience in Site & Design with Driving License seeks job

Contact 97500522
Email: mohamdelgeziry@gmail.com

ELECTRICAL MANAGER

Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.

Contact: 968-94029112
Email: sakthiveljothi@gmail.com

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator

Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Please contact – 78022980

PROJECT ADMIN/CEO OFFICE MNGMT/HR/OPS CORPORATE & MKTG. COMMUNICATIONS/ADMIN

Indian, Masters, excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp in Airports Project, Hospital, Media in Project Coordination, Corporate & Mktg. Communication, CEO & Chairman Office Mngmt, Operations, Admin, HR. Immediate. NOC.

CONTACT 99283938

FINANCE

Indian Female (MBA Finance) having 15 years (Oman) of work experience in Banking / Finalization / Audit; seeks suitable placement.

Contact 94953826 / 92824146

ACCOUNTANT

A certified VAT professional having Masters degree & 10 years of GCC experience in senior positions, is available to handle accounts & VAT compliance.

Contact 71990782

Finance Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

CIVIL ENGINEER

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL

Contact No. 92180869
E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.

GSM: 78259755

IT PROFESSIONAL

With 15+years of experience. Currently working as Head Of IT Support for a reputed company in Muscat for last 7 years. MCSA, CNA, ITIL certified. Experience in IT infrastructure, IT project management, Resource Management & Service Desk seeks suitable placement as IT Manager/System Admin.

Contact 92514687 Email: hi.binu@gmail.com

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.

Call 97015841
Email khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

GIS Engineer

Indian Male, Age 24, B.E. Computer Engineering and Masters of Science in GIS (Geographic Information System)s from U.K. Seeking suitable placement in GIS field. Having Oman Driving License. Resident of Oman. Ready to join immediately.

Contact: 99738614,
deepitkotian14@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian, Female, MCOM with B.Ed. Having 2 Years' experience in Office accounts (Inventory Checking, Book keeping, Payroll) and training experience (ICT teaching, Lecture methods-Accounting) in schools. Looking for suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin / Teacher jobs. Currently on Visit visa, Residing in Wadi kabir, Muscat.

Contact 97131091, Email: gokulsbg@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Indian Bachelor, B.Com, 4 yrs experience as ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT seeks suitable placement. D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 96324484

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman (Currently available in Oman). Experience in Engineering / Construction/Structural Steel Projects, Manufacturing & Trading Concern. With administrative skills with D/L & NOC. Looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 78039935

FINANCE MANAGER

INDIAN MALE, FINANCE MANAGER WITH OVER 20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH NBFC, IT, MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES. GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS. SEEKING SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES. LOCAL RELEASE CAN BE ARRANGED.

CONTACT +968 95808315 / 94411825

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Construction engineer with 10 yrs experience in Oman consulting offices 7 experience in government project. Contact 96965100

Planning engineer, Indian more than 20 yrs experience in Oil & gas, pipeline building & MEP projects scheduling using primavera P6 seeks suitable job. NOC available. Contact 92651105
Email reji-mathai@hotmail.com

Indian male, electric engineer 1 year experience in project coordination and MEP looking for suitable placement. Ready to shift location. Contact: 71148202. Email: Muhammadmuzammil878@gmail.com

B.E Civil engineer Male, with 2 years of professional experience in municipal house construction project. Equipped with a valid D/L. Fluent in English & Arabic. Contact 96749821
Email mhassan9610@gmail.com

Civil engineer with 9 years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

Indian female M.Tech in Electrical power system having 4+ yrs of experience in Oman seeking suitable placement. Contact 79733520, 94306164

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman experience in all kinds operation of civil & MEP and interior fit- out field with valued Visa and D/L, 95206259, looking placement

Electrical engineer 9 years experience in primary substations, OHL, and underground cables. With a valid D/L. Contact 98223842

Indian Male B.E Civil 6Y experience currently available in Oman. Ready for Immediate join Looking for Any job. Contact 91406778

Senior Civil Engineer with 12 years Exp in government and private construction projects. looking for a suitable position. Contact 95962450. Email: solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

B.E Mechanical engineer, 25 yrs with 2.5 yrs of experience in MEP execution & estimation is seeking suitable placement. Contact 94846765. Email akshaygopinath@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer (RE) with over 10 years of experience on major projects (Residential, Commercial & Industrial). # 78270396

B.E in Mechanical Engineering with 2 yrs of experience in fire fighting & MEP. Currently working as estimation & design engineer is looking for a suitable placement. Contact 94417169

Indian B.Tech Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/ MEP engineer. NOC available. Contact 99873092
Email ranjithbr17@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Optometry, Looking for an optometry job, completed BSC optometry and having 1-year experience, Job-Training also willing, 23yr Indian Female on a family visit. Contact 95905256, 96973213
Email id - jilshaismail@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926. Email mubashirosmann89@gmail.com

HSE, professional having 20+ yrs of experience in HSE field in building,airport construction & oil & gas. Contact 90125179

Omani National Female with have Bachelor Degree in water technology. Contact 94421774

Technical supervisor, ELV, CCTV, IP/HD, Fire alarm & ups, electrical work. Have D/L. Contact 94625245

Tower crane operator. NOC available. Contact 91519095

Indian male civil supervisor, 25 yrs experience in galfar Oman.Cli-ent approved permit holder OETC scaffolding tag inspector, reservior, HDPE, DI pipeline, earth works shuttering, reinforcement, concrete. Contact 97680142
Email awadhesh37@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male, 10+ yrs experience in the field of purchase,store,asset coordinatorValid D/L. Immediately available for joining. Contact 71596360. Email praveenskurup82@gmail.com

Procurement, purchase officer having master degree searching for job. 07 yrs exp in oman in a well known construction & maintenance group of companies. NOC available. Contact 92587919, 99423614. Email jahanzeb_athar@yahoo.com

Indian, purchase assistant, store keeper 9 years working experience in oman. Valid Oman D/L(light) Looking for suitable job. Contact 98615731
Email: sanalk73@gmail.com

Indian male, 16 yrs experience in a multinational freight forwarding & logistic co,worked under the capacity of Senior operation executive/senior accountant (Ocen freight,air freight, land transport, warehouse operations & finance & accounting). NOC available. Contact 93587605

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Store Incharge, Sales associate, customer service, retail, warehouse logistics and merchandiser with D/L. Contact 95042624

SALES / MARKETING

14 yrs of Sales experience in FMCG, valid D/L. Looking for Supervisory / Management position. Contact 71554818. Email: mohammedsultan1977@gmail.com

MBA marketing having 12 years of experience in sales of various B2B products.Experience in making and implementing marketing plans. Capable to market any good product. Call 91690869

Indian Male 15 years Experience (MBA) looking for job in Sales & Marketing, Currently in Oman with Valid Driving License and Valid Visa. Contact 91127809

Indian male (24) BBA, 2year experience in sales and administration. Contact 94890534
Email: jebinahmed@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer, 4 yrs experience in Oman & 1 yr in India, have Oman valid D/L.Looking for suitable placement. Contact 91521567

Indian male, 38 yrs old MBA graduate, 14 yrs experience in Oman. looking for appropriate placement in sales & marketing job in Muscat region having valid D/L. Contact 92255983
Email vijukrishnann@gmail.com

Indian males Sales officer with 3 years experience capable to manage from quotation till finalization tally. Contact 79880058

Indian Male, Graduate having 8 yr Oman & 7yr India experience in Marketing and Sales field looking for suitable placement. Contact 79584458, 92369044. Email: rkumarkotian21@gmail.com

Indiam male MBA post graduate, 9 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing, Oman DL holder. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 71537034

B.Tech MBA, Indian 10 yrs experience, sales,marketing IT. Contact 90725202

TOUR / TRAVEL

Seeking job in Travel & Tourism. 12 years experience, Graduate (B.Sc) IATA Certified professional presently available in Oman. Contact 968 92477622, 79842322
Email: tahaspm@gmail.com

Looking for a Ticketing Staff job. completed bachelor of tourism studies, IATA along with Galileo and Amadeus. 21yr Indian female on the resident visit. Contact 96263312, 96973213
Email farseenapa21@gmail.com

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168. e-mail: anwarijalil51@gmail.com

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NEXO awarded five-star Green NCAP rating

The rating was based on three indices, each of which contained several metrics: clean air, energy efficiency and greenhouse gases

DUBAI: Hyundai Motor's second-generation fuel cell electric vehicle, NEXO, has received a maximum five-star rating from Green NCAP, the independent organisation that ranks vehicles based on their energy efficiency and emissions.

The rating was based on three indices, each of which contained several metrics: clean air, energy efficiency and greenhouse gases. As a fuel cell electric vehicle, powered by hydrogen and producing distilled water as its only emission, NEXO naturally scored full points on both the Clean Air and Greenhouse Gas index. Its excellent rating for energy efficiency was a fur-



ther testament to the quality of the product, proving that fuel cell mobility is a mature technology and a viable transportation solution.

In its report, Green NCAP wrote, "[With Hyundai NEXO] there are no tailpipe emissions other than water. As a result, the NEXO scores full points for both the Clean Air and Greenhouse Gas indexes. Energy efficiency is also very high and the NEXO emerges with an average index just high enough to earn the car a maximum five-star rating."

"We're proud to announce that NEXO is the latest Hyundai model

to have been awarded a five-star Green NCAP rating, joining the ranks of IONIQ and KONA Electric. This is further proof that we are achieving our goal of making high-quality, eco-friendly mobility solutions available to all," says Andreas-Christoph Hofmann, Vice President Marketing and Product at Hyundai Motor Europe. "Our flagship fuel cell electric vehicle has been recognised not just for being an environmentally-friendly zero-emission vehicle, but also a strong product with very high energy efficiency."

Hyundai's NEXO is a fuel cell

electric vehicle and the technological flagship of Hyundai's growing eco-vehicle fleet. It combines the practicality of an SUV crossover with advanced electrified technology, comprehensive driver assistance functions and innovative design features.

NEXO is the third Hyundai model to receive a maximum five-star rating. In 2019, Green NCAP also awarded the five-star rating to the battery-electric version of Hyundai IONIQ. Meanwhile, in 2020 the organisation also awarded the Hyundai KONA Electric the maximum score.



College of Pharmacy at National University launches first short course

MUSCAT: The College of Pharmacy at National University has launched its first short course entitled Fundamentals of Medication Management and Patient Safety Assessment for fresh pharmacy graduates.

The course was designed to discuss basic concepts of a wide range of topics related to medication management and patient safety such as medication errors, communication skills and drug adherence, patient safety and risk assessment and polypharmacy.

Dr Safiya Al Shahi (MD), a paediatric critical care specialist at the Royal Hospital and a certified patient safety officer conducted a four-hour workshop and discussed all related aspects of patient safety in addition to relevant topics conducted by an expert from the

College of Pharmacy at NU.

Dr Majed AbuKhadher, the course convener, emphasised that this course has provided a platform for fresh graduates to refresh their knowledge in medication management and patient safety through interactive sessions and group discussions during the course.

This short course is part of community engagement initiatives to provide continuous education for pharmacists working in a community or hospital settings. Participants appreciated the efforts of conducting such a course and their feedback about the course was overall positive.

This course was thankfully sponsored by Taiba Pharmacy. The Deanship of the College of Pharmacy appreciated their generous support.

ROSE SEASON PACKAGE

Roses are blooming at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort

MUSCAT: Moments of relaxation and tranquillity are in full bloom with the return of the highly anticipated Rose Season at the Middle East's highest resort.

Every spring, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort welcomes the spectacular rose season that transforms the surrounding slopes of the fabled green mountain into a riot of colour with an abundance of indigenous pink Damask roses that burst into full bloom every year from mid-March until May.

In honour of this exquisite natural wonder, the resort is offering a special Rose Season Package for two, which includes an overnight stay in a room or villa, breakfast at Al Maisan, a 'Rose Water of Al Jabal Al Akhdar' tour and a Rose

Rescue Ritual at Anantara Spa, starting from OMR 250. With the roses in full bloom and a range of experiences to enjoy, from F&B to adventure and spa, a fully immersive multi-sensory treat awaits guests at Oman's leading resort.

With the 'Rose Water of Jabal Al Akhdar' tour, guests can witness the enchanting bloom and heady aroma of the Damask roses cascading down the mountain slopes. Accompanied by an expert Mountain Guru, embark on a 90-minute guided tour of the famed damask rose farms of Jabal Akhdar and one of the oldest rose distilleries to discover the ancestral technique of extracting varieties of pure rose water from the harvest petals.

During the tour, guests will have



the opportunity to watch the local rose-pickers in action as they work their way through the different stages of rosewater production, from plucking the blossoms from

the stems to placing them inside traditional mud ovens, known as 'Al-Duhjan', for distillation. With a variety of climbing routes and hiking trails, guests can explore the

mountain landscape and soak in the beauty as bushes groan under the weight of flowers in full bloom and the sweet scent of roses wafts in the air.

For a more laidback experience, guests can also look forward to a luxurious and soothing spa treatment at the world-renowned Anantara Spa, where the essence of fragrant roses and the expert touch of wellness therapists will see them leaving in the pink of health. The signature 90-minute 'Rose Rescue Ritual' utilises the soothing, balancing and hydrating qualities of the luxurious Damask roses for a session that pampers from head to toe, starting with a rose-themed welcome drink, then a milk and rose petal foot ritual. The session

also includes a calming and nourishing rose-themed express facial followed by a body massage with balancing rose oils, all within the confines of the resort's elegant spa.

Spectacularly secluded in the Al Hajar mountain range at 2000m above sea level, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort beckons the inquisitive traveller with an array of inspirational experiences, from mountaintop yoga and trekking to stargazing, archery and mountain biking. The Rose Season package starts from OMR 250 and includes:

An overnight stay in a room/villa for two, Breakfast at Al Maisan for two, One 'Rose Water of Al Jabal Al Akhdar' tour for two and One Rose Rescue Ritual at Anantara Spa for two.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Milipol Qatar 2021 attracts 7,924 visitors

DOHA: Milipol Qatar 2021, the leading international event dedicated to homeland security and civil defence in the Middle East, closed a three-day run at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Centre. The number of visitors reached 7,924 and an on-site declared sales tally worth QR390 mn Qatari Riyals. The event is held under the patronage of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani who visited Milipol Qatar 2021 on Tuesday, March 16.

Milipol Qatar 2021 was a watershed in the event's history in that it was held against a background of strict health, safety and hygiene protocols implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Nevertheless, the show attracted 150 exhibitors from 17 countries and five national pavilions representing Brazil, France, Germany, the UK, and the USA. 54% of the exhibitors were new to Milipol Qatar. The exhibitor line-up was a showcase of advanced technology include breakthroughs in the fields of robotics, biometrics, trace and detection technologies, communication, and control systems as well as counter-drone systems, big data, smart sensors, 5G, and AI-based cybersecurity and video analytics.

The exhibiting turnout was largely attracted by industry forecasts which predict the Middle East's homeland security market will grow to be worth \$19.7bn by the end of 2022. Milipol Qatar was one of the industry's first opportunities to meet face-to-face since the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has supercharged the industry's response to a rapidly changing world. National security is focusing on protection from and response to cybercrime, pandemics, humanitarian crises, and climate change," explained Lagrenée. "These changing priorities were in evidence amongst the highly sophisticated



technology on display at Milipol Qatar 2021 and which will find its way into the industry's newly formed mainstream."

The show was inaugurated by Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, along with other dignitaries from 30 countries which included Ministers from Ukraine, Moldova, Pakistan, Lebanon and Iraq.

Some 257 delegates also attended the two-day Milipol Qatar seminar series which was addressed by 16 experts who explored the future of the industries and a pathway to a safer world focusing on cybersecurity, civil defence and mega events security.

Milipol Qatar was organised by Qatar's Ministry of Interior in partnership with Paris-based international event organiser Com-Exposium, acting on behalf of the GIE Milipol headed by Civipol, the technical implementer of the French ministry of the Interior. The event meets a large part of the

security objectives of the State of Qatar in line with the country's National Vision 2030, while also addressing wider regional needs.

Milipol Qatar 2022 is now scheduled to be held from May 24-26.

Milipol Qatar 2021 has secured Barzan Holdings, the Qatar organisation which is helping to revolutionise the country's defence and security sector as the event's strategic sponsor. Other main sponsors include Abdullah Abdelghani & Bros and Eshhar Security Services while Outbox, Ooredoo and Al Hazm are Diamond Sponsors. Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co. is the event's Platinum sponsor while Gold sponsors are Huawei, Stork Motors, Notification, and the Jaidah Group. Silver sponsors are MSC and Dell Technology while Bronze sponsors are Mannai Corporation, Nutech and Salam Technology. Communications is the event's official social media sponsor with Milaha being the official freight forwarder and Qatar Airways as the official carrier.

PROMOTION

March into a world of savings with Mitsubishi models

MUSCAT: The ongoing promotion of Mitsubishi models by General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, provides customers with an opportunity to march into a world of savings thanks to an attractive range of offers on its entire range of vehicles. The promotion's benefits include cash gifts of up to OMR 4,200, free service for up to two years, attractive EMI rates, and much more.

Commenting on the promotion, Manoj Ranade, the General Manager of GAC, said, "Our current promotion has been going strong ever since it was launched last month. This is not surprising considering the wide range of benefits we are offering with this promotion including cash gifts, free service, free registration and more. However, we are now approaching close to the end of the promotion."

"I highly recommend customers looking to purchase a Mit-



subishi do so as soon as possible and get behind the wheel of their dream Mitsubishi before the offer closes out at the end of the month."

The two-month promotion which ends on 31 March 2021 includes the Pajero, Montero Sport, ASX, Eclipse Cross, Outlander, and the Attrage, with EMIs starting from OMR 129, OMR 125, OMR 89, OMR 129, OMR 99, and OMR 49, respectively.

Customers purchasing a vehicle will also receive cash gifts ranging from OMR 1,500 to OMR 4,200 depending on the model,

1-year Free Insurance on all models except L200.

All models will also come with one-year free registration as well as six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance. Select models will also come with a 2 years/20,000km free service package.

"Given all the benefits and possible savings, this is the perfect time to get the Mitsubishi you have always wanted. So, if you are in the market for one, we recommend making the most of this promotion before it ends on March 31," added Manoj Ranade.

OFFER

Exclusive benefits on Toyota SUV

MUSCAT: Now is the best time to own your favourite SUV with Toyota. Cash gift from OMR1000 up to OMR4200, comprehensive 1-year insurance or cash gift in lieu of Insurance from OMR175 up to OMR300 and Service from 2 years / 20,000 km up to 5 years / 50000 km (Prospective buyers are advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Please visit the nearest Toyota showroom for exact details).



ROUND-UP



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0% interest up to three years on Nissan Altima

The special promotion will be available till March 23, 2021, on Nissan Altima purchased for personal use



MUSCAT: As part of a special offer, Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), is extending 0% interest up to three years on Nissan Altima which is known for its classy design, fuel economy, driving performance, technology, and comfortability. Other interest slabs on Nissan Altima include 1.99% for four years or 2.49% for five years or 2.99% for six years.

Nissan Oman is also offering a wide range of benefits on Nissan Altima including periodic maintenance service, cash gift, free registration and free insurance on the model. The special promotion will be available till March 23, 2021, on Nissan Altima purchased for personal use.

A senior official of Nissan Oman said, "We have received a tremendous response to the Nissan Altima since we announced the offer. It is popular because it offers an outstanding drive, enhanced handling, fuel efficiency and thoughtful technology solutions. Its powerful high-performance engine and a range of other options add to its appeal. We would like to remind you that the offer is coming to end soon, and request interested customers to take advantage of the promotion at the earliest."

Nissan Altima is also cherished by owners in Oman for its good

looks, striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior have brought the car a lifetime of fans. The vehicle offers those who drive it effortless power while furthering remarkable fuel economy.

Special interest rate

A special rate of interest is available on Nissan Altima. On select models of Nissan Altima customers can get 0% up to three years or 1.99% for four years or 2.49% for five years or 2.99% for six years. For all tenures beyond six years, normal interest rates will apply for the full tenure of the loan. This rate is applicable for individual purchase with private registration only and is subject to Finance/Credit approval. Customers can opt for only one of the interest rate options. EMIs will be highest at 0% for three years scheme.

This offer is valid till stocks of this unit last. This benefit will be applicable for financing through select finance companies only. Customers purchasing in cash,

LPO, a credit will not be eligible for special interest rate benefit. Terms and conditions apply.

Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan Altima starting EMI is OMR 163. These EMIs are calculated basis a 2.99% rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure and the special interest rates are applicable on select stocks of these models.

Nissan Altima customers can enjoy free insurance in Oman and UAE for the first year for private registration.

Customers can enjoy a free periodic maintenance service package for 3 years/ 60,000 km on Nissan Altima. This offer is valid for 10,000km service intervals.

Under the special promotion, customers can avail of assured cash gift ranging from OMR 2200 to OMR 2600 on Nissan Altima.

Nissan Altima patrons can enjoy free registration for the first year.

Nissan Altima has advanced safety features for those seeking a more focused driving experi-

ence. Owners vouch that with its advanced technology and in-built design, Nissan Altima is a pleasure to drive.

The Nissan Altima 2.0L Turbo, which has a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology has been creating waves within the mid-size sedan segment since its launch. The sedan's advanced VC-Turbo engine – the company's first production-ready variable compression ratio engine – is one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created. Similarly, Nissan Altima 2.5L features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two

The Nissan Altima 2.0 has the world's first variable compression turbo engine. The engine is so smart that it anticipates what the driver wants. The Altima's shape-shifting VC-turbo engine lets the driver enjoy a lot. Nissan Altima 2.5 L unlocks the pure joy of driving through its innovative latest technology and Nissan Intelligent Mobility feature that responds to the world around in real-time.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT



Alizz Islamic Bank conducts Bushra prize savings account monthly draws

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank organised the latest monthly draw event for Oman's first Sharia-compliant Prize Savings Account, Bushra, recently.

The draw was held at Alizz Islamic Bank head office, in the presence of a number of senior staff members of the bank.

Three winners received the monthly prize of OMR 25,000 each. The special monthly draws for men & women were also conducted, which include one male winner from each branch, receiving 500 OMR each and one female winner from each branch, receiving 500 OMR each as well.

Alizz Islamic Bank launched the Bushra Prize Savings Account in 2016 as Oman's first Sharia-compliant prize savings account offering daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annual cash prizes as Hiba (gift) from the shareholders. The account, which comes with the approval of the Sharia Supervisory Board, reflects the bank's efforts to deliver innovative and high-quality products and ensure a premium customer experience.

Bushra Prize Savings Account is based on the Sharia principle of 'Mudaraba' under which the

bank invests customer savings in Sharia-compliant financing to generate the best possible returns and profits. The customer acts as the capital provider while the bank takes up the role of 'Mudarib' or entrepreneur. All customer funds, along with the bank's capital, are pooled and invested in Sharia-compliant investment options. The profit generated is being shared between the bank and the customer on predetermined ratios. Cash prizes offered under the scheme are a gift from shareholders' funds. The minimum amount required to be eligible for all the draws is only RO 100, and customers also receive monthly generated profit on their deposited amounts.

Speaking on the draw, Murtadha Jawad Al Lawati, AGM – Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications said, "The Bushra prize savings account encourages the habit of saving and gives customers the ability to multiply their wealth. We strive to help customers invest their money and achieve their desired financial returns by saving their funds, and we are always keen to deliver the products & services that customers want and need."

TADHAMUN PROGRAMME

Bank Muscat distributes tablets and laptops to school, university students

MUSCAT: In line with its leading role in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Bank Muscat has started the 8th edition of its annual Tadhamun programme. The programme is currently distributing 1,150 tablets and laptops to school and university students from low-income families. The distribution of the devices is being organised in cooperation with Wali offices and charity organisations across different governorates of the Sultanate and reflects the bank's strong partnership with the community.

Speaking on the occasion, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Manager, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said, "The sustainability and CSR strategy pursued by Bank Muscat is focused on bringing long-term benefits to the community and the nation. Bank Muscat is proud to partner with the Government of Oman to develop Omani human resources and empower the youth. This is in keeping with our vital role in Public-Private Partnership and should also be seen in the context of the new challenges brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that deserving families across the Sultanate will benefit from this initiative to make education easily accessible at home using the latest technology."

Since its inception in 2013, Tadhamun has assisted over 1,300 social welfare families across the



Sultanate. All Tadhamun activities are carried out after taking extra measures for the safety of all participants. Bank Muscat has been a pioneer of CSR activities in the country. Its long-running programmes are benefiting communities across all governorates of Oman.

In 2020, Bank Muscat was felicitated by the Ministry of Social Development for its role in supporting people with disabilities.

It was also honoured for its CSR, Sustainability and Community Service at the Fourth Oman Forum for Partnership and Social Responsibility in 2020. The bank has more than 10 CSR programmes, including Tadhamun, Jesr Al Mustaqbal, Green Sports, Meethaq Little Investor, Al Wathbah Academy, Mal'iyat financial literacy program, amongst others.

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Promotion valid from 25th February 2021 to 24th May 2021. Raffle draws on 25th March, 26th April and 25th May 2021. Three draws in total. Winners will be intimated in 7 days from the draw date. Pictures shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Customers to retain purchase receipts and scratch coupons to claim the gift. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Terms and conditions apply.

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