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HIS MAJESTY SENDS GREETINGS TO LAOS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Thongloun Sisolith of Laos on the occasion of being elected as a new president of his country. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere congratulations, wishing President Sisolith success in leading the friendly Lao people towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished relations between the two countries further development and growth. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 28 | 18 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company

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CBO

OMR100 million government development bonds issued

MUSCAT: On behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) announced the new issue of Government Development Bonds (GDBs).

The size of the new issue is OMR100 million (with an option to increase the size) with a maturity period of seven years and will carry a coupon rate of 5.50 per annum.

Auction

The issue will be open for subscription from April 4 to 19, 2021 while the auction will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. The issue settlement date will be on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Interest on the new bonds will be paid semiannually on October 22 and April 22 every year until maturity date on April 22, 2028.

Noteworthy, investors may apply for these bonds through the competitive bidding process only and may submit bids through commercial licenced banks operating in the



Sultanate of Oman.

Furthermore, investors with applications of OMR1 million and above may submit their bids directly to CBO, at their own discretion, after getting them endorsed from their banks. Prospectus and application forms can be obtained from any commercial licenced

bank operating in the Sultanate; or through CBO Official website (www.cbo.gov.om).

Collateral

Notably, the Bonds are direct and unconditional obligations of the Government of the Sultanate, represented by MOF. The Bonds can be used as collateral to obtain loans from any local commercial licenced bank and can also be traded at prevailing market rates through Muscat Securities Market (MSM).

The details of the bonds allotted will be recorded in the register maintained by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCDC).

Therefore, investors must provide the same bank account details registered with MCDC in order to ensure the smooth processing of their bids and the receipt of the coupon payments and principal amount on their scheduled dates.

The 67th GDB issue is offered to all investors, residents and non-residents (irrespective of their nationality). **-ONA**



MUSCAT-SHARJAH

Oman Air's new flights to Sharjah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air has launched its new service between Muscat and Sharjah, UAE.

The Sultanate's national carrier will operate the 3 weekly flights (Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays) with Airbus 330 aircraft.

Wednesday and Sunday flights from Muscat will depart at 14:25 and arrive in Sharjah at 15:40. Flights from Sharjah will depart at 17:15 and arrive in Muscat at 18:30.

The Saturday flight from Muscat will depart at 20:15 and arrive in Sharjah at 21:30, while the flight from Sharjah will depart at 23:00 and arrive in Muscat at 00:15. Oman Air will maintain its comprehensive safety programme throughout all elements of the travel journey to ensure that guests fly confidently.

CAP ON ATTENDANCE IN OFFICES, SPORTS ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED



Restricting teaching to distance learning, the Supreme Committee suspends physical attendance of students in schools

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Supreme Committee has decided to suspend all official and private sports activities, and restricted attendance to 50 percent in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and

other legal entities in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases.

It also decided to suspend physical attendance of students in private and international schools with an exception to Class 12 to limit the infection.

The Committee noted that

reports on epidemiological investigation in schools show an increase in COVID-19 positive cases registered among the administrative and teaching staff and students in private and international schools.

These cases emerge from society-based infections, as well as the non-abidance of some schools with the health measures, which include reporting of positive symptoms and instances of individuals who mingled with infected persons in society and in schools.

To protect all members of society from further propagation of the disease, the COVID-19 Supreme Committee decided to suspend

students' physical attendance in private and international schools and to restrict education therein to online learning, except Class 12 students as is the case with government schools.

The decision takes effect from Sunday, 4 April 2021, till further notice. Also, to address the sharp increase in cases of infection with COVID-19 virus in different governorates of the Sultanate, and to avoid more spread of the virus in the society during this time, the Supreme Committee decided to suspend all official and private sports activities with effect from Thursday, 1 April 2021.

The Committee also decided

to downsize by 50 percent the number of employees who attend at the workplace in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities. Employees who do not attend at the workplace have to perform their tasks online. This decision takes effect from Sunday, 4 April 2021 till further notice.

The Supreme Committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, to discuss updates on the pandemic, measures of protection and ways of avoiding the spread of the virus. The Committee prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect everyone against all harm. **-With inputs from ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman, Albania ink visa exemption deal

1 Oman and Albania signed at Oman's Embassy in Riyadh an agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports. **>A5**

WORLD Doubt over WHO's virus origin report

2 The US has led a chorus of concern over a World Health Organization (WHO) report into the origins of the coronavirus. **>A6**

MARKET Oman Tank Terminal, Port of Duqm ink pacts

3 Two agreements were signed by OQ owned Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO) and Port of Duqm Company (PODC).

>B1

LOVE FOR NATURE

Meet the Omani adventurer who is not afraid of snakes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani amputee who specialises in the research of snake venom has travelled hundreds of kilometres to study the reptiles and understand their behaviour.

Ahmed bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, who works at the University of Nizwa's Natural and Medical Sciences Research Centre, credits being brought up in lands primarily used for agriculture with his love of nature.

Despite suffering an accident while on his bicycle when he was just eight years old, Ahmed's fascination with the great outdoors has seen him spent many hours photographing the wonders of nature



and researching wildlife indigenous to the country.

"I was raised in a village full of farms, surrounded by mountains in the north and deserts to the south," he explained. "Wherever I



went, I found something that appealed to me and satisfied my constant curiosity for knowledge and research. As a result of this, I was never bored."

"I have been willing to travel hundreds of kilometres in search of snakes, particularly the rarer breeds," he added. "When I was a child, I acquired some snakes, and became fascinated by their world. I would watch them with focus, observe their behaviour, and from this, I developed a passion to research them, which is now my daily job."

The many years he has spent handling snakes has enabled Ahmed to deal with extremely poisonous species such as the Arabian cobra and the puffer snake.

Although he has been bitten previously, he used his experiences as an opportunity to learn and continued to improve his understanding of the reptiles.

"There are a wonderful and beautiful diversity in the wildlife of the Sultanate, which is blessed with varying terrains," said Ahmed. "Because of its landscape, which includes plains, mountains, vast deserts, open beaches, as well as various islands – and due to its strategic location – Oman sees many birds migrate here for the winter, and in the summer, there is increased activity among reptiles."

"There are at least 101 different reptile species and 540 varieties of birds, of which migratory birds make up 75 per cent," he said.



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زيت دوار الشمس (عافية) ١.٥ لتر x ٢ + ٧٥٠ مل x ٢
Afia sunflower oil 1.5L x2 + 750ml x2



كريمة (العلالي) ١٦٨ غرام
Al Alali cream delight 168g



أرز بسمي (تيلدا) ٥ كيلو
Tilda basmati rice 5 kg



مياه للشرب (مسافي) ٥٠٠ مل
Masafi drink water 500ml



أرز بسمي طويل الحبة (عمير) ٣٥ كيلو
Amber Gold 1121 basmati rice 35kg



معكرونة (مرحبا) ٤٠٠ غرام
Marhaba macaroni 400g



دجاج كامل (بردكس) ٨٠٠ غرام
Perdix whole chicken 800g



شعيرية (أحمد) ١٥٠ غرام
Ahmed vermicelli 150g



حليب مجفف (بشير) ٢ كيلو
Bashir milk powder 2kg



معجون الطماطم (مرحبا) ٧٠ غرام
Marhaba tomato paste 70g



مناديل للوجه (هديل) ١٠٠ منديل
Hadeel facial tissue 100's



جوز ٥٠٠ غرام، الولايات المتحدة
Walnut 500g, USA



لوز ٥٠٠ غرام
Almond 500g



كاجو ٥٠٠ غرام
Cashew 500g



فسق ٥٠٠ غرام
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0 RIAL 490

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7 RIAL 900

4 RIAL 890

دجاج كامل (ساديا) ١٢٠٠ غرام
Dhofar whole chicken 600g



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SAVE 44.16%
2 RIAL 310

1 RIAL 290

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0 RIAL 890

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Masafi facial tissue 150's



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1 RIAL 690

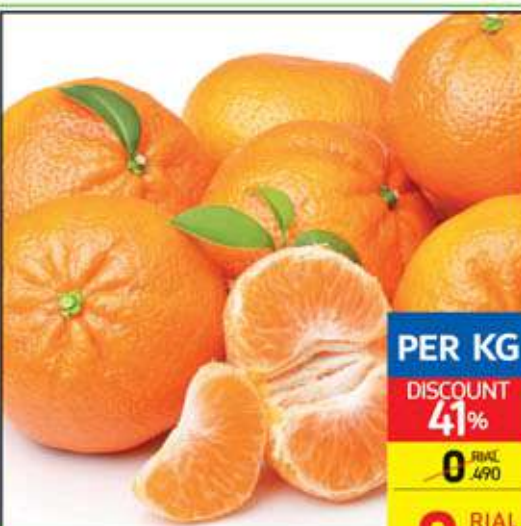
شامبو (بانين) ٤٠٠ مل + بلسم ٣٦٠ مل
Pantene shampoo 400ml + conditioner 360ml



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Mandarine, Egypt



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WHAT TO DO DURING NIGHT LOCKDOWN

World Book Day, also known as International Day of the Book, an annual event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to promote reading, publishing, and copyright is a few weeks away. Celebrated on April 23 this day about celebrating the wonderful power of books and the joy of reading. It's

especially meant to help encourage a love of reading in children, but people of all ages can recognise and celebrate the day. In Oman owing to the rising cases of COVID-19, the night lockdown has been implemented and why not use this time to immerse oneself in the world of books. Reading is therapeutic and in these stressful times it is all the more helpful to calm your mind. While you can read your favourite

paperback book while sipping tea there are few free online platforms where you can read and choose from hundreds of digital books. Project Gutenberg, a volunteer-run effort to digitise and preserve books has most of the titles available on the platform. The Online Books Page has a list of over three million free ebooks. Kindle Store has free books. All you need to do is search for "Free Books" on the Kindle store, you'll find over

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TO DO LIST

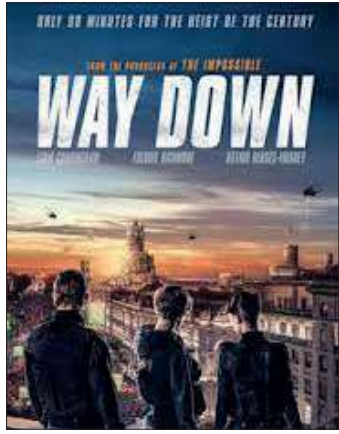
5 things to do in Oman this weekend

While it's true that the pandemic is making weekends feel like the rest of the week, you can bring in the change. After spending a good working week, you need some time to rest and the weekend is a chance for a real break. Set your priorities right.



1. Enjoy the flavours of Thailand in Muscat

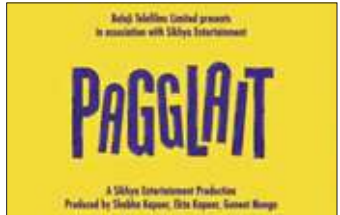
The ongoing Thai Food Weeks brings the exquisite flavours of Thailand. Organised by the The Royal Thai Embassy in collaboration with the authentic Thai restaurants in Oman, the event will run till April 12. Made by talented and experienced Thai chefs from five Thai restaurants - Charm Thai, Mai Thai, SoiSoi, Thai Corner and Tiptara, the tailor-made videos will unveil the secret recipes of well-known Thai signature dishes namely. Each traditional step, method and all ingredients will be introduced to the audiences in a simple way, making a sophisticated Thai dish easy to be prepared at home.



2. Watch the latest film in theatres

This week there are plenty on platter. Take your pick. Way Down, starring Famke Janssen,

Freddie Highmore, Astrid Bergès-Frisbey is about Thom, a genius engineering graduate whose interest is piqued by the Bank of Spain whose safe, built over 100 years ago, has no blueprints and whose security. Bennett's War, starring Michael Roark, Allison Paige is about Marshall Bennett who is a young soldier with the Army Motorcycle Unit who survives an IED explosion in combat, and is sent back to the U.S with a broken back and leg. Watch Arabic film Ya Baada, starring Bashar Al Shatti, Nour Al Ghandour, Ghadir ElSabti. After Hamad returns from travelling, he met with Basma on her birthday and fell in love with her instantly. The start of a love story happens between them, but Hamad's family oppose this love due to the different traditions of the two families. They manage to defeat the odds and get engaged anyway, however Hamad discovers that he has Leukemia, Basma insists to continue to embark on their journey of marriage standing with her lover through hope of healing and faith.



3. OTT new releases

If you missed watching Hindi film Pagglait on Netflix last week, make sure you don't miss this week. Starring Sanya Malhotra, Sayani Gupta, Ashutosh Rana the story is about a young woman widowed just months after her wedding. Surrounded by family members and friends with their own ideas about how she should grieve for her husband, Sandhya realises she must assert her will if she wants to live a life of her own choosing. Also watch Air Strike (2018) - WW2 drama starring Bruce Willis, Adrien Brody and Liu Ye, Concrete Cowboy (2021) in which Idris Elba features as a 15-year-old boy from Detroit sent to live with his father in Philadelphia. Just Say Yes is a Dutch ro-

mantic comedy movie and Madame Claude is a French period drama set in 1960s Paris.



4. Watch the sunset

Find a great spot to catch the sunset. Drive past one of the beaches in Oman during the evenings. Try to get that perfect shot. In Oman every beach has its own unique beautiful sunset. You can park your car and watch from the comfort of your car. You can also get down and watch but make sure you are alone with your family.



5. Enhance your garden

With the temperature soaring you cannot hang out for long in your balcony or garden and owing to the pandemic you prefer to stay at home. Utilise this time to enhance your garden if you have one, fix a wonky shelf, mend the leaking tap, clean your carpet and sofa. Weekends are the perfect time for getting these tedious things get done. Give everyone in the family something to do.

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MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Ministry launches new individual licencing and electronic platform

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation on Wednesday launched 'Individual Licencing' services and an electronic platform codenamed 'Training: A Hand That Builds Oman.'

The step comes within the ministry's drive to develop a schema of private training in line with the government's digital transformation approach and future goals of Oman Vision 2040.

It is hoped to constitute a new cornerstone in private training, provide a legal and professional climate and serve as an incubator to 'invest' the competences of national cadres and enable them to impart their expertise and experiences to society.

In its first phase, the platform focuses on 'individual licencing', which is designed to enable people having expertise to offer quality training that contributes to upgrading cognitive economy. The applicants can register through the platform and get their prospective training programmes endorsed prior to being presented to the public.

The second phase of licencing, currently being shaped out, covers 'institutional licencing, while the third phase will focus on "relations and partnerships".

Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, who launched the platform, said

that "The sector of training in the Sultanate has been accorded a great importance by the government since the dawn of the Blessed Renaissance."

She added that this vital sector brought about many achievements that contributed to meeting labour market needs.

She pointed out that expansion in training programmes enhanced the empowerment of skilled human resources and encouraged them to play their desired role in boosting the march of comprehensive development.

Meanwhile, Talal Sulaiman Al Rahbi, Deputy Chairman of the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-Up Unit, said that the electronic platform comes within the efforts of the government to provide training services via electronic platforms.

This, Al Rahbi explained, will enhance future skills and tap the expertise of human resources in various spheres of national action. Expressing a similar opinion, Sayyid Salim Musallam Al Busaidi, Labour Ministry's Under-Secretary for Human Resources Development, said that the new platform seeks to simplify procedures and attract investments, particularly during exceptional conditions like circumstances posed by COVID-19 pandemic. — **ONA**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



RIYADH



Oman, Albania sign visa exemption pact

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Albania signed at Oman's Embassy in Riyadh on Wednesday an agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the governments of the two countries by His Highness Sayyid Faisal Turki Al Said, Sultanate's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sami Shiba, non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Oman. — **ONA**

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Masaken Al Waha LLC would like to invite Specialized Companies to Participate in the following Tender:

Tender No	Description	Last date for Collection	Submission Date	Tender Fees (R.O)
MWAHA/0004/2021	Integrated Facilities Management Services For Masaken Al Waha Village - Sohar	11 April 2021	11 May 2021	100/-

Tender Fee:
Prior to collection of the Tender Document, interested Bidder is required to deposit a non-refundable 'Tender Fee' into the Masaken Al Waha LLC's Bank Account as per the below details and Email the payment receipt issued by the bank along with Bidder Name to info@masakenalwaha.net before the deadline for Tender Document Collection.

Account Name: Masaken Al Waha LLC
Bank Name: Bank Sohar, Qurum Branch
Account Number: 005020036315
Amount: OMR 100/-

Tender Collection:
Tender Documents will be sent to the bidder's Email upon receipt of Bank Payment Receipt, Company CR & Company Profile.

Tender Clarification:
Bidder shall submit any inquiries or clarification regarding the Tender electronically to a dedicated email address info@masakenalwaha.net as per the Tender Schedule.

Tender Submission:
Bids shall be submitted electronically to a dedicated email address info@masakenalwaha.net no later than 03:00 PM on 11th May 2021.

Please Notes:

- Bids received after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, will not be considered.
- The Tender Committee is not bound to accept the lowest offer or any other bid.
- The Bid shall be valid for Ninety (90) days from the last date of submission of the Tender.



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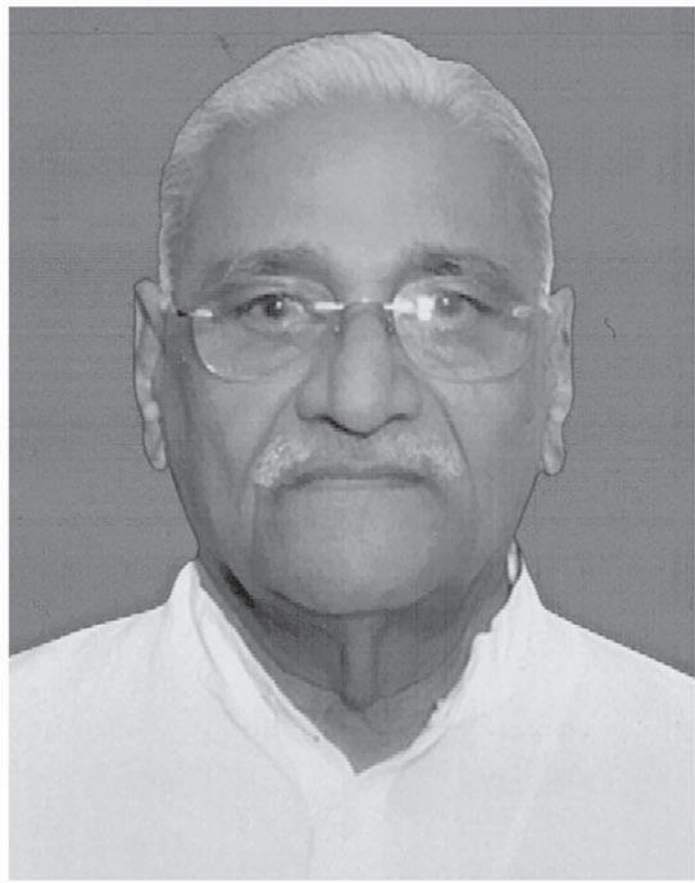
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14 countries doubt WHO report on origins of virus

Even WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus admitted that the experts found it difficult to get raw data



WASHINGTON: The United States has led a chorus of concern over a World Health Organization (WHO) report into the origins of the coronavirus.

A joint WHO-China study published on Tuesday said transmission of the virus from bats to humans through another animal is the most plausible explanation of the origins of the pandemic. The report added that a China-responsible laboratory leak is “extremely unlikely.”

The US, however, was among 14 countries to express skepticism over the investigation, saying it lacked

the data and samples required.

WHO: Impossible to draw conclusions

Even WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus admitted that the experts found it difficult to get raw data and that the report did not gather sufficient evidence from which to garner concrete conclusions.

“I do not believe that this assessment was extensive enough,” he told the UN health agency’s 194 member states in a briefing on Tuesday.

“Further data and studies will be

needed to reach more robust conclusions,” he continued.

“Although the team has concluded that a laboratory leak is the least likely hypothesis, this requires further investigation, potentially with additional missions involving specialist experts, which I am ready to deploy.”

US-led statement cites lack of access

The United States released a statement along with 13 of its allies, saying the inquiry had fallen short, amid accusations that Chinese of-

ficials failed to give proper access to investigators. Nevertheless, neither Tedros nor the US-led statement mentioned China directly. The US State Department said the 14 countries were calling for “momentum” for a second-phase look by experts and pointed to the need for further animal studies “to find the means of introduction into humans” of the coronavirus.

The countries expressed support for WHO’s experts and staff, citing their “tireless” work. But the statement said the study had been “significantly delayed and lacked access to complete, original data and samples.”

Critics have accused China of using delaying tactics and that Beijing took too long to grant permission for a WHO investigation.

The State Department named Australia, Britain, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovenia and South Korea as the co-signers of the statement.

Beijing, however, hit back at suggestions it was anything but helpful during the process, saying that it had demonstrated “openness, transparency and a responsible attitude.”



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



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

INDONESIA

Cockpit voice recorder of crashed Sriwijaya Air found

JAKARTA: The cockpit voice recorder (CVR) from a crashed Indonesian Sriwijaya Air passenger plane has been found, the country’s transport ministry said on Wednesday.

The recorder could provide vital additional clues for investigators looking into the cause of the fatal incident.

The 26-year-old Boeing 737-500 plunged into the Java Sea on January 9, minutes after takeoff from Indonesian capital Jakarta. All 62 crew and passengers on board were killed.

Divers found the casing and

beacon of the CVR within days of the crash, but it took until Tuesday evening for them to locate the memory unit under a meter of mud.

“We found the CVR last night. It will take about three days to one week to decipher the data,” Indonesia National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT) head Soerjanto Tjahjono said.

“After that we’ll transcribe and match it to FDR [Flight Data Recorder]. Without a CVR, in the Sriwijaya 182 case it would be very difficult to determine the cause.”

REPLACEMENT

Brazil President Bolsonaro appoints new military chiefs

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro will replace the commanders of the country’s army, navy and air force, the defense ministry said Tuesday.

The announcement comes a day after the embattled head of state overhauled his cabinet with six substitutions, including a new defense minister.

“The decision was communicated in a meeting on Tuesday with incoming defense minister (Walter Souza) Braga Netto and outgoing minister Fernando Azevedo,” the government said in a statement.

Bolsonaro on Monday sacked a string of officials, including Defense Minister Azevedo. Some local media reported that the military chiefs had quit in protest at the unexpected ministerial reshuffle.

What other changes has the president made?

The highest profile casualty on Monday was Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo. He had most recently been under fire for comments and actions that critics said impeded faster access to coronavirus vaccines as the coronavirus batters Brazil.

The president named Carlos Alberto Franco Franca as the new foreign minister after Araujo tendered his resignation



earlier in the day.

Bolsonaro also named replacements for the justice ministers as well as three other ministers in his biggest Cabinet overhaul since he came to power in January 2019.

Earlier this month, the president fired his health minister, whose tenure coincided with most of Brazil’s 314,000 Covid-19 deaths and became the target of fierce criticism. Merely in the course of the pandemic, Bolsonaro has had three different health ministers.

Why was Araujo forced out?

Araujo — himself an ideological ally of the president — has come under fire from sources close to

Bolsonaro for failures to secure vaccine supplies.

His strong affinity with former US President Donald Trump is believed to have made him unpopular with the Joe Biden White House. Brazil has had little success in securing a share of US vaccine stockpiles.

Araujo has also been criticized for making quips against vaccine superpower China, similar to Bolsonaro’s own. As well as being a potential source of the vaccine, China is one of Brazil’s major trading partners.

The minister’s frequent attacks on environmentalists and the left were also increasingly being viewed as distractions from tackling the pandemic.

UNPREDICTABLE SECURITY SITUATION

Germany urges citizens to leave Myanmar over rising instability

BERLIN: Germany advised its citizens to leave Myanmar late due to “an unpredictable security situation” amid a crackdown on anti-coup protests that has left hundreds dead.

In a statement published late Tuesday evening, Germany’s Foreign Ministry strongly recommended leaving Myanmar, following in the footsteps of Great

Britain, particularly while commercial flights are still available.

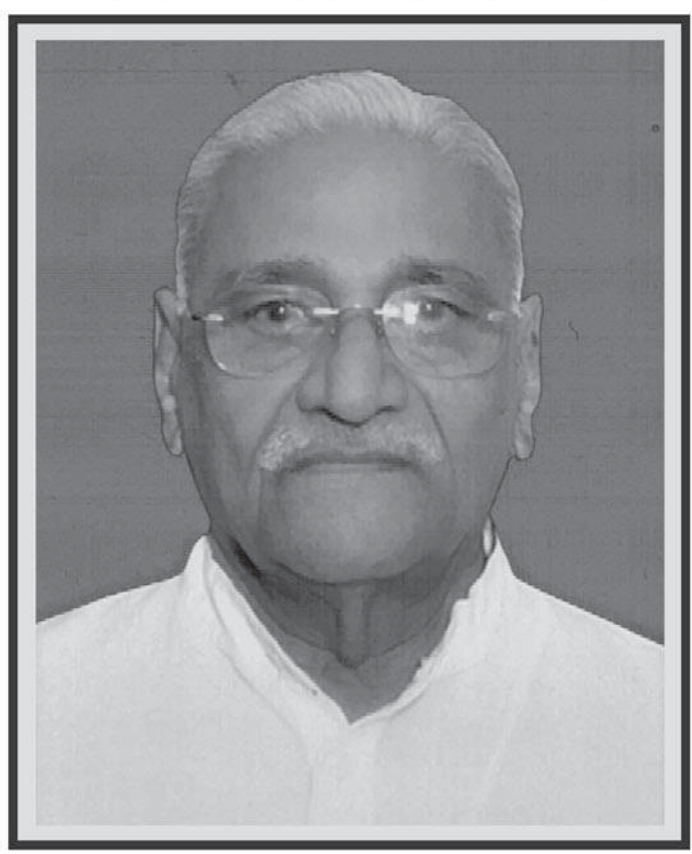
In addition, German nationals still in the country were urged to avoid crowds and not participate in protests.

The ministry made the move as a result of a “further increase in the use of force by the security forces,” the ministry said in

a travel advisory published on its website. The United States has also ordered its non-essential diplomats and their families to leave Myanmar. Washington also issued advice to its citizens, warning against travel to Myanmar, and saying it had ordered all non-essential government employees and their families to leave.

CONDOLENCE

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Sergio is irreplaceable, fantastic: Guardiola

Dhananjaya and Dinesh keep Sri Lanka in contest

Guardiola's remarks came as Aguero would be leaving Manchester City at the end of this season



MANCHESTER: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has said that striker Sergio Aguero is irreplaceable and no one can ever be able to take his place as he is fantastic. Guardiola's remarks came as Aguero would be leaving Manchester City at the end of this season, having spent 10 years at the club.

MANCHESTER CITY: Aguero is Manchester City's all-time highest goal-scorer and he will now be leaving the club as a free agent.

"We have still two months ahead, and I saw the training session, how brilliant he was and his commitment. Sergio is irreplaceable. I could say in terms of numbers he can be replaceable, it's not easy when you see more than 360 games played and more than 250 goals, the amount of titles," Guardiola told Sky Sports,

as reported by Goal.com "So it's the legend, the best striker this club has ever had for this century through the years, but is irreplaceable in the souls, in the hearts, in the minds of our fans, of our people, of the players that played alongside him and all the managers who worked with him," he added. Aguero is Manchester City's all-time highest goal-scorer and he will now be leaving the club as a free agent. "He's a fantastic person, a human being, and I'm pretty sure if his mind is still aggressive like he is, he can extend his career longer and longer than maybe two or three or four or five years," said Guardiola. Manchester City Chairman, Khaldoon Al Mubarak has revealed that a statue of Aguero has been commissioned to stand alongside those currently in work to honour Sergio's former teammates David Silva and Vincent Kompany. **-ANI**

W I V S S L
ST JOHN'S: Dinesh Chandimal and Dhananjaya de Silva ensured that Sri Lanka do not fall behind on Day Two of the ongoing second Test against West Indies here at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium. At Stumps on Tuesday, Sri Lanka's score read 136/3 and the visitors still trail by 218 runs in the first innings. Chandimal and de Silva are currently unbeaten on 34 and 23 respectively. After bundling out hosts Windies for 354, Sri Lanka lost an early wicket as skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (1) was sent back to the pavilion by Alzarri Joseph in the ninth over of the innings. Lahiru Thirimanne and Oshada Fernando then put on 46 runs for the second wicket. However, just when things started to look easy for the visitors, West Indies got wickets in quick succession as Kyle Mayers first dismissed Fernando (18) and then Kemar Roach bowled Thirimanne (55). This brought Chandimal and de Silva to the crease and the duo ensured that Sri Lanka does not lose more wickets till the end of the day's play. Earlier, resuming the day at 287/7, overnight batters Kraigg Brathwaite and Rahkeem Cornwall saw off the first hour as they both went past their personal milestones. Brathwaite registered a century while Cornwall went past the 50-run mark. The 103-run stand between the two was finally brought to an end by Suranga Lakmal as he dismissed Cornwall (73). Soon after, Kemar Roach (9) and skipper Brathwaite (126) were also dismissed by Dushmantha Chameera, as the hosts were bowled out for 354. Brief Scores: West Indies 354 (Kraigg Brathwaite 126, Rahkeem Cornwall 73, Suranga Lakmal 4-94); Sri Lanka (Lahiru Thirimanne 55, Lahiru Thirimanne 34*, Kyle Mayers 1-6). **-ANI**

ICC RATINGS

Bhuvneshwar gains 9 slots to reach 11th place in ODIs

DUBAI: After making a successful comeback in the ODI series against England, India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who took three for 42 in the final match, has gained nine slots to reach the 11th position, which is his best since being 10th in September 2017. Shardul Thakur's haul of four for 67 in the same match sees him force his way up to 80th from 93rd. There are quite a few changes in the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings that considered performances from the last match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series between New Zealand and Bangladesh and the last two of the series between India and England.



KL Rahul has moved up from 31st to 27th, all-rounder Hardik Pandya has achieved a career-best 42nd position among batsmen after scores of 35 and 64, and Rishabh Pant has entered the top 100. England all-rounder Ben Stokes has advanced four places to 24th scoring 99 off 52 balls in the second ODI and is up to second among all-rounders, while Jonny Bairstow has retained seventh place after touching a career-high 796 rating points with his player of the match effort of 124 in the same match. Moeen Ali is up nine places to 46th among bowlers. Bangladesh's Mahmudullah is up seven places to joint-40th

among batsmen after an unbeaten 76 while for New Zealand, Matt Henry has moved up five slots to a career-best third position among bowlers after a haul of four for 27. Jimmy Neesham has gained 16 places to reach 62nd among bowlers. New Zealand batsman Devon Conway has attained a career-best fourth position in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings, thanks to his match-winning knock in the series opener against Bangladesh in Hamilton on Sunday. The left-hander, who has been keeping wickets in the series, smashed a superb 92 not out off 52 balls as New Zealand posted a massive 210 for three and won the match by 66 runs. He has advanced five positions and finds himself in the top five after only 13 matches, on the back of consistent performances against the West Indies, Pakistan, and Australia since his debut in November 2020. Glenn Phillips, who has unbeaten knocks of 24 and 58 to show and won the player of the match award in the second T20I in Napier as New Zealand took a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series, has also attained a career-best status. He has moved up 32 places to 26th in the weekly update to the men's rankings, carried out on Wednesdays. **-ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has declined, with prices for delivery by May 2021 reaching \$63.18, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman declined by 30 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$63.48. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,708.70 points, up 0.74 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.65 per cent at 533.91 points. National Finance up 7.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Arabia Falcon, down 9.52 per cent, was the top loser.



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Oman Tank Terminal Co. and Port of Duqm ink two key pacts

These agreements represent the strong partnership between the two companies to strengthen Duqm's status as the upcoming regional hub for petroleum and petrochemical products

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Two agreements regarding a sub-usufruct (land lease) and a berth operating licence was signed by OQ owned Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO) and Port of Duqm Company (PODC).

The two pacts were signed recently at OQ's head office in Mus-

cat by Hilal Al Kharousi, Chief Commercial Officer- representing OTTCO, and Reggy Vermeulen, CEO, Port of Duqm Company.

These pacts represent the strong partnership between the two companies to jointly strengthen Duqm's status as the upcoming regional hub for petroleum and petrochemical products.

OTTCO is planning to build ad-



PARTNERSHIP: The two agreements were signed at OQ's head office in Muscat by Hilal Al Kharousi, Chief Commercial Officer- representing OTTCO, and Reggy Vermeulen, CEO, Port of Duqm Company.

- Supplied picture

ditional storage infrastructure in Duqm port with a designed capacity of up to 300,000 cubic metres, as part of Duqm Liquid Export Ter-

minal, to provide storage for the import and export of petroleum and (green) petrochemical products, making this development a

next step in strengthening Oman's independent terminal network.

Hilal Al Kharousi, Chief Commercial Officer said, "These stra-

tegic agreements are an example of integrating our efforts with our partners in Duqm Port and will boost the progress of the Special Economic Zone of Duqm to become a global hub contributing the economic developments of Oman."

Van Hoof, CEO, OTTCO said, "In our journey towards becoming Oman's independent terminal network company, we are pleased with the collaboration between our two companies in strengthening the port's prospects as an investment destination, feeding into the Sultanate's economy and promoting the Port of Duqm competitiveness as a regional storage hub."

Reggy Vermeulen, CEO PODC stated, "We are delighted to formalize this collaboration, with OQ and OTTCO."

"This is a major step in the Support toward the development of National capability and success of the Port of Duqm," he added.

FOR ADDITIONAL WORKS

Tender Board awards projects worth over OMR3 million



MUSCAT: The Tender Board on Wednesday held its 2nd meeting for 2021 under the chairmanship of Dr Said Hamad Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Tender Board.

The Board approved OMR3.37 million worth tenders and additional works for the following development projects:

- Renewal of leasing contract in Asalah Towers in Al Ghubra, Muscat, for the Directorate General of Roads and Transport at OMR370,375.
- Renewal of the contract signed with ARABSAT for broadcasting channels of Oman TV on Hotbird for duration of 5 years at OMR1,164,240.
- Renewal of leasing contract of accommodation for students at Sharia Sciences College in Al Khuwair, Muscat, for duration of 3 years at RO 378,000.
- Extending leasing contract for the National Centre for Statistics and Information at Ghala, Muscat, for duration of 6 months at OMR125,000.
- Additional works of the internal tender related to consultancy services for the supervision on

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr Said Hamad Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Tender Board

internal designs of Innovation Complex - Muscat at OMR58,752.

- Additional works of the tender related to establishing Al Batinah Expressway (Second package) at OMR702,853.
- Additional works of the internal tender related to consultancy services of the supervision on 600 residential units with internal roads and lighting in the Wilayat of Sohar, Governorate of North Al Batinah at OMR129,200.
- Additional works of the internal tender related to consultancy services of the supervision on 272 residential units and public utilities in the Wilayat of Ma-

hut, Governorate of Al Wusta at OMR67,133.

- Additional works of the internal tender related to consultancy services of the supervision on 1050 residential units with internal roads and lighting in the Wilayat of Al Khabourah, Governorate of North Al Batinah at OMR9,718.
- Additional works of the internal tender related to consultancy services of the supervision on 2500 residential units with internal roads and lighting in the Wilayat of A'Suwaik, Governorate of North Al Batinah at OMR26,420.
- Additional works of the internal tender related to consultancy services of the supervision on 150 residential units with internal roads and lighting in the Wilayat of Shinas, Governorate of North Al Batinah at OMR13,000.
- Renewal of leasing contract related to provision of medical cadre, a nutritionist and technicians for offering specialised care to disabled people at Dar Al Aman Rehabilitation Centre in Al Khoudh, Muscat, for one year at OMR329,250. - OMA

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MSM index ends higher

At the session close, local investors were net buyers for OMR276,000 while GCC and Arab investors were net sellers

Services index was up by 0.69 per cent before closing at 1,544.89 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
16,660,391.....	1,731,328.....	674.....	20,463,423,218.....	14.....	8.....	22.....	44.....

[illegible]

Entity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414</
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Sensex cracks by 627 points

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices plunged by over one per cent on Wednesday amid profit booking by traders across counters on the last trading day of FY21.

The BSE S&P Sensex closed 627 points or 1.25 per cent lower at 49,509 while the Nifty 50 edged lower by 154 points or 1.04 per cent to 14,691. Sectoral indices

at the National Stock Exchange were mixed with Nifty financial service lower by 1.9 per cent, private bank by 1.8 per cent and IT by 0.9 per cent. But Nifty PSU bank rose by 1.5 per cent and FMCG by 1 per cent.

Among stocks, home loan lender HDFC closed 3.9 per cent lower at Rs 2,504.05 while HDFC Bank lost by 3.8 per cent to Rs 1,494.40

per share.

ICICI Bank ticked lower by 1.5 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank by 1.4 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 2.5 per cent and Hero MotoCorp by 1.7 per cent.

However, UPL, Grasim, ITC, Hindustan Lever, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors and Tata Steel traded with a positive bias.

— ANI

World Bank raises India's GDP forecast to 10.1% from 5.4%

WASHINGTON DC: A strong rebound in private consumption and investment growth is likely to push India's FY22 growth to 10.1 per cent, according to the World Bank, much higher than the 5.4 per cent it had projected in January.

However, considering the uncertainty in 2021-22, the World Bank also gave a range of economic growth for India - 7.5 to 12.5 per cent, according to its South Asia Economic Focus Spring update report.

Government consumption

The government consumption is expected to rise by 16.7 per cent 2021, largely reflecting strong fiscal stimulus in India. Other demand categories are also revised up, said the World Bank, as the vaccination drive is expected to improve business activity and spur incomes in contact-intensive sectors.

As the largest country in the region, India's increase was enough to make South Asia the only major region in the developing world to see an upturn in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2020. The World Bank said India was the only country in the region to see an increase in FDI during 2020, though from a low base. FDI was equivalent to 1.5 per cent of GDP. — ANI



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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PO Box:30, C.P.O, PC:111 | Muscat, Sultanate of Oman Tel: +968 24589127 | Fax: 24589099 Website: www.pepsioman.com | email: info@pepsioman.com

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Tender No.	Tender Name	Last date for Tender Clarification	Last date for bids submission	Refundable Deposit
ORC/02/2021	Sale of Cancelled Vehicles	08/04/2021	11/04/2021	RO. 300/-

Oman Refreshment Company SAOG invites bids for the sale of "CANCELLED" Vehicles of different makes and models on "as-is-where is condition".

List of cancelled vehicles can be obtained from the Central Procurement Department, Oman Refreshment Co.

Vehicles can be inspected at our yard in Oman Refco premise between 09.00 AM & 12.00 noon on any working day (Sunday-Thursday) till the last clarification date stated above.

- Tenderers are requested to pay a deposit in cash as per above table, payment receipts will be handed upon receipt of ID card copy and two business cards of the company's representative. The deposit will be refunded if the bid was unsuccessful, subject to presenting the payment receipt.
- The Tenders are to be submitted in sealed envelope and to be signed, stamped and addressed to Oman Refreshment Tender Committee and marked with Tender Number & Name.
- The bids should be sent to the Secretary, Oman Refreshment Tender Committee, Oman Refreshment SAOG Head Office located next to Al Ghoubrah's traffic lights, opposite Avenues Mall.
- The submission date/time shall be on or before the deadline specified in the above table. Any proposal submitted after the given date/time will not be considered.

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Indian male fresh MBA graduate in finance seeking entry level placement as accountant/admin. D/L available. Contact 91209360
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Email pac_3rd@yahoo.com

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Contact 79880058
Email naveelkhan524@gmail.com

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Indian MBA finance with 3 yrs Oman experience in accounting.NOC available. Contact 79396446.
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Indian male 23 yrs, B.Tech (EEE) is looking for suitable job, presently on visit. Contact 95055966

24, Mechanical Engineer, currently in Oman Looking to work as back-office Sales/Purchase coordinator in any field. Contact 79121923 / 78043052

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

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

Civil Engineer (B.TECH) Indian, 1 year experience in site and design, currently in visit visa seeks job. Contact 91282483, 96345471

Indian Mech. Engineer with 14 yrs exp. in various industrial activities looking for short/long term project manager/engineer post anywhere in Oman. Visa available. Contact / whatsapp 95326432

Exp 18 yrs Infrastructure engineer, looking job, have visa. Contact 79041286

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 ranjithb17@gmail.com

Indian B.tech Electrical male engineer having 14 yrs experience in construction, looking for suitable placement as Estimation Engineer/MEP engineer/MEP Qs. NOC available. Contact 92121940 Email abyeee@gmail.com

Planning Engineer, Indian BE (Mechanical), 20 yrs experience in using primavera (P6) with NOC, D/L. Contact 79822993

Civil engineer diploma with BBA, NEBOSH IGC, valid Oman D/L, 9 yrs experience building construction, network tower erection, gas pipe line project. Contact 00971501140652, 95305786

B.Sc civil engineer, 10 years experience (supervision, execution, project, QS, roads, building with PMP certified & HSE certified) Oman D/L valid. NOC available. # 91347385.

Indian Male (23) Fresh Mechanical Engineer, experience in quality control, CNC, research & automation. Available for immediate joining. Contact 71502536

Indian Graduate 3 years experience looking for suitable job. Contact 968 94575752

Sudanese civil engineer, 10 yrs experience (Supervision & execution, projects, management, dams, roads) with Masters degree in Business Management. Contact 93214768

B.E civil engineer having 14 yrs of Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Please contact: 72132426

Site civil engineer, 9 yrs experience building construction. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 94334402. Email nishath.ind91@gmail.com

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Indian Female (MBA Finance) having 15 years (Oman) of work experience in Banking / Finalization / Audit; seeks suitable placement.
Contact 94953826 / 92824146

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

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

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PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

Indian male, experience of 12 Years in Oman as a Purchasing officer and store manager. D/L NOC available looking for suitable job. # 97099785, maniugcc@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

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Seeking job in Travel & Tourism. 12 years experience, Graduate (B.Sc) IATA Certified professional presently available in Oman. Contact 968 92477622, 79842322 Email: thahaspm@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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Indian Male 15 years Experience (MBA) looking for job in Sales & Marketing. Currently in Oman with Valid Driving License and Valid Visa. Contact 91127809

MBA with Engineering (Indian female) working in a reputable company in Oman, with 3 years of experience in Content writing, Digital marketing, Vendor & Budgeting. management, Contact 98945207

Indian male with 10 years GCC experience in Luxury Watches & Jewellery currently in Oman with valid driving license looking for a job in Sales/Marketing. Contact: 91901852

Indian male (30) MBA with Oman experience in sales & marketing, valid Omani D/L on visit. Contact 79755795 Email dhajwani2@gmail.com

34yrs Indian, MBA marketing, B.Com, 9 yrs experience (2 yrs GCC-Dubai) seeking Sales, admin, accounting job. Contact 78167383

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

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Data Sources Readership: IPSOS NRS 2017, Web reach: Effective Measure/Narrative, Google Analytics January 2020; Social media numbers verified online as of January 2020; *Whatsapp subscribers x 4 pass-on rate



OWN A SPACIOUS LUXURY SUV LINCOLN NAVIGATOR WITH EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

A twin-turbo V6 engine that can produce 450 horsepower provides smooth power whenever you need it, delivered through a 10-speed transmission

MUSCAT: Now own the large and spacious family-size luxury SUV – the Lincoln Navigator with exclusive benefits. They include cash gift OMR6,000 – OMR8,000, 0 per cent interest rate up to 5 years, service 5 years/100,000km, registration and V-Kool signature tint package. (Conditions apply. Visit the Lincoln showroom for details).

A twin-turbo V6 engine that can produce 450 horsepower

provides smooth power whenever you need it, delivered through a 10-speed transmission. Navigator’s lighter, high-strength aluminium-alloy body helps create a more refined ride. While on the move, the Navigator is also easy to adjust to changing conditions. With the turn of a dial, the driver can adapt the Navigator to changing road or weather, and enjoy a smooth, confident ride. Additional available technology includes: Trailer Backup Assist, which automatically steers the vehicle to turn a trailer the desired amount – meaning less time required to perform the task; Navigator is expected to deliver more towing capability than any other premium full-size SUV; 360-degree camera and enhanced park assist, which reduce stress from parallel and perpendicular parking. The system integrates views from four cameras to create an overhead image so the driver can see all around the vehicle; Adaptive cruise control, which automatically slows Navigator in stop-and-go traffic – resuming speed when traffic allows. The Navigator is designed to be intuitive and easy to use. A 12-inch configurable instrument cluster allows drivers to choose the information they want to be displayed. An available Head-Up Display can

show selected information on the windshield instead of the instrument cluster. This helps drivers keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel. It does not fade in the sunlight and is visible even with polarised lenses. The interior layout is clean and uncluttered, with a simple, soothing ambience. At night, interior ambient lights sequentially illuminate each of the SUV’s three rows. During the day, a panoramic roof fills the cabin with natural light. Inside, spaciousness comes in all three rows, including storage in each to keep the cabin clean and organised. An available rear-seat entertainment system allows passengers to stream content wirelessly with an Android device to one of the 10-inch adjustable screens mounted on the rear of the front seats. Occupants can enjoy available Revel Ultima audio with 20 speakers that work in concert with Navigator’s interior design and acoustics. Standard SYNC 3 enables clients to manage audio, phone, navigation and more from the vehicle touch screen or steering wheel-mounted controls. Second-row passengers have their audio and climate control, while third-row seats feature power recline capability. In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

CROSSOVER

BAIC X35 now available at attractive monthly instalment

MUSCAT: BAIC X35, a benchmark in the crossover segment, is available on a low EMI rate of OMR 66 for six years loan tenure (terms and conditions apply). Extending a blend of superior ride and assertive design, the 1.5-litre engine powered crossover BAIC X35 has been innovatively engineered. Gulf Great Sands LLC, the exclusive importer of BAIC in Oman, is offering the low EMI on the X35 crossover to augment the buying experience. A Gulf Great Sands spokesperson said, “An amalgamation of style, comfort and technology, BAIC X35 crossover offers “more for less”. The phenomenal crossover has an inspiring charisma and is ideal for all automotive enthusiasts. The EMI is competitive with its innovative technology, features, safety and fuel efficiency makes it a very attractive option. BAIC X35 should be the car of choice whether for families, executives or daily use.” The BAIC X35 comfort has styled, with enhanced SUV exterior appeal, sunroof, front and rear parking sensors, rear-view camera as standard. The 1.5-litre engine powered X35 has an aggressive widebody SUV exterior styling, class-leading space, high fuel economy, newest technology features and safety is standard therefore meant for everyone in the family. BAIC X35 has illuminating remarkable styling cues; it offers excellent fuel economy of 15.7 per litre (as per GSO standards) along with confidence enhancing the driving experience. A perfect choice for the youth and small families in Oman, the BAIC X35 crossover is about responsive performance and value for money. Its stylish exterior features include a sunroof, height-adjustable headlight and long wheel-



The BAIC X35 comfort has styled, with enhanced SUV exterior appeal, sunroof, front and rear parking sensors, rear-view camera as standard.

base of 2560 mm. The vehicle’s smart interior boasts of steering mounted switches for Cruise control, Audio, Bluetooth, ample Boot Space, a Seven-inch screen with Rear View Camera, Piano finish multimedia control button, front Driver and Passenger airbags, Front and Rear parking sensor, ABS + EBD + ESP (Bosch 9.1ESP) and Tyre Pressure Monitoring System. The Comfort Grade variant of BAIC X35 is available at the Gulf Great Sands showroom at Wattayah. One of China’s top auto groups,

BAIC boasts of 60-years of engineering expertise. The company, which was established in 1958, has eight major production bases and a cumulative output of 12 million cars. Part of the Bahwan International Group (BIG), Gulf Great Sands LLC (GGS) is an exclusive distributor of BAIC and many other reputed international automotive brands in Oman. **Low monthly instalment** The monthly instalment for BAIC X35 crossover starts from:

OMR 66 on BAIC X35 crossover Monthly instalments are calculated based on a 20% down payment at a flat rate of interest of 3.1% for 72 months period. It is also subject to credit approvals from banks only. **BAIC X35: For Every You** Designed for everyone, BAIC X35’s Front Design has a strong SUV stance with Double Grill, Lenticular headlamps, Three-hole lower guard plate, Square Fog Lamps and C-shaped LED

Daytime Running Lights. BAIC X35 has tough body contour, chrome-plated rear under guard, Dual front air inlet grill, Front and Rear Fog Lamp which add to the SUV styling appeal of this crossover. BAIC X35 has 60:40 split rear seats, Piano style multimedia controls, stylish air outlet grill. The easy to read 7” suspended display screen makes the journey comfortable, classy and convenient. Specifications for Model: X35 Comfort 4AT Technical: Engine Capacity –

1.5L (1499 cc), Drive Type – 2WD, Power – 111hp, Dimensions (Lx-WxH) – 4286x1815x1655mm, Transmission – 4AT, Wheel Base– 2560mm, Kerb Weight – 1270 Kg. Safety: ABS+EBD, EBA, ESP, TCS, HHS, TPMS, Driver & Passenger Airbags, Engine immobilizer, Front and Rear parking sensor, rear-view mirror, Auto-lock with speed sensor, Centre lock. Exterior: 16” Alloy Wheel, Rear Defroster, Door mirror-elec. Adjustable with turning signal (LED), Headlight height-adjustable, Front and Rear fog lights, DRL and sunroof. Interiors: Leather and multi-functional Steering Wheel, Fabric seat, Rear Seat foldable (40/60), Auto AC, 6-way manual for driver and 4-way manual for passenger seats. Technology: Cruise Control, Bluetooth, 7” display screen + Smart Call System, Radio, USB, Sound adjustable - speed sensing, 4 Speaker, Remote Key. Suspension: Front-Macpherson independent suspension, Rear-H type torsion bar. The X35 1.5 L comfort dual/colour 4AT – P20 includes X35 1.5 L comfort 4AT – P20 features plus roof and outside rearview mirror in white colour only.

ROUND-UP



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Meethaq Easy Payment Plan for its customers



The Meethaq Easy Payment Plan is available at 0 per cent profit rate on high-value purchases made using a credit card

MUSCAT: In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and commitment to offering an attractive value proposition for customers, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has announced the availability of an attractive Easy Payment Plan for the benefit of all its credit cardholders.

The Meethaq Easy Payment Plan is available at a 0 per cent profit rate on high-value purchases made using a credit card. It allows customers to purchase goods and services and then pay conveniently for them over a pe-

riod of 12 months. Customers are not required to provide any additional documents and the scheme ensures affordability for high-end products and services.

Meethaq currently offers the following credit cards to its customers – Hafawa Visa Signature Credit Card, Meethaq Titanium Mastercard Credit Card, Meethaq Standard Mastercard Credit Card and the Meethaq Lulu Credit Card. The cards are based on the concept of Ujrah, which is free from any interest-based charges. Meethaq Credit Cards offer a large number

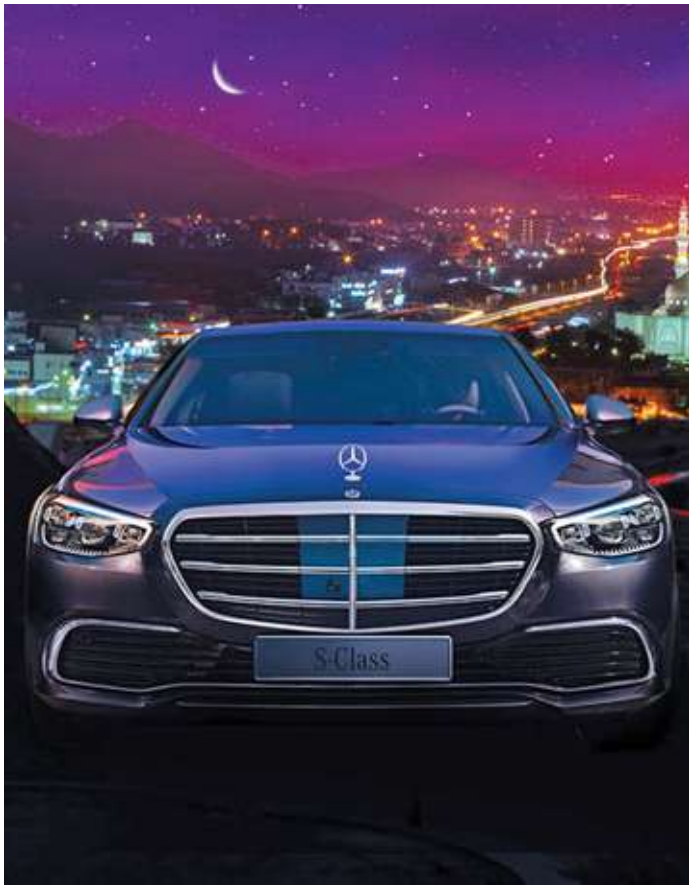
of unmatched Sharia-compliant services and rewards which include convenience and flexibility for customers in performing day-to-day transactions at shopping malls, restaurants or during travel. In particular, the Easy Payment Plan scheme will help Meethaq customers to avail themselves a wide range of goods and services and allow them to make the repayments over 12 months conveniently, following Sharia principles.

Meethaq Credit Cardholders are eligible for this scheme at over 160 participating merchant outlets from various consumer good business segments which include jewellery, electronics, home furniture and medical service segments. Customers purchasing any of the participating merchants should request the Easy Payment Plan at the time of being billed for the transaction. Each time a purchase is made through the Easy Payment Plan, the available credit limit in the credit

card account will be reduced by an amount equal in value to the purchase amount. However, with every monthly instalment payment, the available balance will increase by that amount. The bank will collect payments as per the standing instructions given by customers. The Easy Payment Plan is also aimed at motivating a change in consumer behaviour and more details about the plan including the minimum eligible amount are available at <https://www.meethaq.om/en/cards/Pages/epp.aspx>.

Meethaq has adopted the best practices in Islamic banking and finance worldwide to combine a robust model, which protects customers and complements the Islamic banking industry. Every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

Drive home in your dream car this Ramadan with a host of special benefits from Mercedes-Benz Oman



MUSCAT: Making journeys more peaceful and comfortable, Mercedes-Benz Oman is celebrating this Ramadan with a host of special offers on its range of new models. Drivers can now own one of the most luxurious and innovative cars on the road with a host of great benefits.

Available from April 1 until May 31, the Mercedes-Benz Oman Ramadan offer extends across the new Mercedes-Benz cars and SUVs stock range, with the exception of the Mercedes-AMG G-Class.

Customers can enjoy a five year/75,000km service package, four years Mobilo on-road assistance and three years unlimited

mileage warranty.

The offer also includes free registration for the first year and a complimentary gift from the Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Collection.

“The holy month of Ramadan is a special time and we’re excited to celebrate it with our valued customers by offering them unbeatable offers that cater to them and their family’s needs. With the help of our dedicated team, customers can discover the car of their dreams and rest assured that they will enjoy quality, performance and excellent after-sales care for years to come,” said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman.

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Al Maha Oil Products Marketing Company launches campaign for prepaid card users

MUSCAT: Al Maha Oil Products Marketing Company launched its second campaign for its prepaid card use, which will continue throughout April and next May, out of its keenness to strengthen the relationship with the community and proud of its choice of Al Maha stations and its multiple products.

The campaign allows customers who fill in fuel from its stations spread across the Sultanate, with five rials or more using prepaid cards, to enter the weekly draws, where 20 winners will be chosen even week to win free fuel worth 20 rials per week,” in addition to free additional litres and a choice of 10 Weekly winners randomly” from the pioneers of Al Maha stations and giving them a free fuel card worth 5 rials during the campaign period that extends to the end of May.

It also allows double the chances of winning the raffle draws whenever fuel is filled more, which enhances the opportunity for Al Maha customers in all its stations, more than 224 stations Fuel service.

Ahmed bin Bakhit Al-Shanfari, Head of Marketing and Business Development at Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co., expressed his great happiness at launching the second campaign, which is an extension of the first campaign because of the success



and high demand of Al Maha customers to fill in the vehicle fuel using prepaid Al Maha cards, in loyalty to the company’s customers and proud of their stature.

Stressing that the company is always keen to interact with its customers to introduce joy and happiness in the souls of community members.” I also like to stress the need for vehicle drivers to register the fuel card number by sending it to the phone No 93214022 in order to enter the electronic withdrawal and benefit from the additional litre feature directly when you fill in the card,” he said.

He added that the extra litre award was added along with other prizes that contribute to achieving more and more benefit for Al Maha customers, and to encour-

age them to use prepaid Al Maha cards that allow holders of many advantages, especially with regard to regulating fuel consumption, and safe use electronically instead of dealing in cash.

Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co. pays great attention to its customers by ensuring the provision of services and products to meet their requirements of fuel, oils and other service facilities such as providing vehicle service, shopping stores, restaurants, and pharmacies, which makes them integrated service centres as one of the main objectives of Al Maha is to keep pace with the current and future needs and aspirations of customers.

Al Maha stations are spread in all governorates of the Sultanate,



where the current number exceeded 224 stations, a translation of the basic objectives for which it was established to be the companion of everyone, carrying out its responsibilities towards society to support the various sectors.



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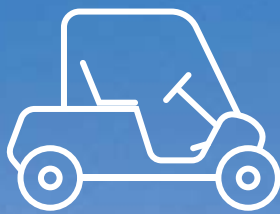


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85 nationalities

Al Mouj Muscat is now home to more than 19,000 residents of 85 nationalities



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Private beachside

Elegantly situated in a private beachside avenue, these exceptional properties impress from the very first moment



Luxury

Times of Oman Special Supplement | Thursday, April 1, 2021



Golf Beach Residences at Al Mouj

LIVING STEEPED IN ELEGANCE



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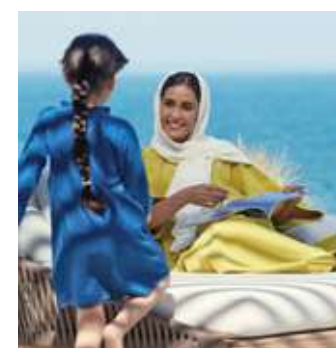


Luxurious

Golf Beach Residence villas have up to six luxurious bedrooms, dedicated formal and family spaces and garage and shaded parking for up to three vehicles.



Located in the lap of luxurious, sophisticated living, the state-of-the-art Golf Beach Residences at Al Mouj Muscat offer its residents the very best Oman has to offer. Overlooking the pristine blue waters of the Arabian Sea, with vistas that include fine golden beach sands and the verdant green of the nearby golf course, these amazing villas are the very essence of modern refinement.



Elegant style

Designed by a carefully selected team of international architects, these villas flawlessly meet the needs of everyday family life as well as the requirements of more special occasions. Villas that surpass all expectations with their contemporary luxury and elegant style.



GBR's upscale neighbourhoods offer an ideal, idyllic home for families who seek to bring to their lives peace, quiet and serenity. From enjoying lazy weekends in these oceanfront villas, to sailing, golfing, and spending time with friends on the beach, the joy these homes bring are limitless. To find out more about this uber-cool, up-and-coming project, we interviewed **Al Mouj CEO Nasser Al Sheibani.**



Al Mouj has become one of Oman's hottest properties. What led to this?

We are trying to create destinations ... rich personal communities where enjoyable moments can be spent, and where we provide everything needed in the way people want to live, work and relax. This is how we create exceptional destinations that attract everyone every day. Since our launch in 2006, the idea to provide a better tourism offering for people in the Sultanate provided the lead for us to move forward with a clear vision.

What motivated you to bring out the luxury Golf Beach Residences?

After the highly successful introduction of the luxurious six-bedroom Zunairah Mansions, at the end of 2017, we knew that there was a demand for exceptional homes and a luxurious lifestyle. We have already sold a number of properties, due to the unique location of the homes and the high-end features. What we're seeing is that we're not just getting new buyers, but a number of repeat customers are interested in adding to their property portfolio here.

What can prospective buyers expect with these stately homes?

What distinguishes us from competitors is that in terms of value, the first and most decisive factor in real estate is its location. These homes are located in upscale neighbourhoods overlooking the ocean, and are easy to reach from Al Mouj Golf Club, for a relaxed game of golf. It is a very safe and quiet place, very suitable for families, there is a lot to do, such as sailing or golf, or spending time on the beach or spending time in the St. Regis resort or the Marina, that have the sort of unlimited opportunities to spend the day however you want. This very beautiful setting, so close to your home, is what makes Golf Beach Residences so special. Each villa comes with a free buggy and an electric charging station as part of our future proofing efforts.

What are the various options available to clients?

We have three types of villas for prospective buyers. These start with luxury four-bedroom villas, and go all the way up to our refined and sophisticated six-bedroom ones. Prices for these upscale properties begin at OMR 490,000 and can cost up to OMR 3 million. A unique concept for our Golf Beach Residence villas are the garden suites that we have along with each home. When we sold our earlier properties, a lot of our buyers wanted us to add an extra space in their gardens or backyards, after they had purchased the property. Because these were so popular and in-demand, we decided to include these as part of the new villas. These rooms are completely customisable: whatever you want to convert that space into: an outdoor kitchen, a kids' play area, a study, a rec room, it can be whatever you set your mind to. This has proven to be a very well received addition to our villas.

Can we expect more unique offerings in future?

We have plans to launch more exclusive residential products, including apartments and villas, which can be customised according to a family's changing needs, based on the feedback received from the market. Demand for our properties is now high – in the beginning, we had to establish the brand, so there was not as much known about it – but now, we have gained a reputation of being an upscale, luxury destination that is recognised as one of the leaders in the market. — Times News Service



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*Easy Monthly instalments are calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 year loan tenure for the respective CHANGAN basic models. Subject to credit approvals from financial institutions. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only and actual may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the Changan Showroom.



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Payment Plan



بطاقات بنك مسقط
bank muscat cards
"الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٥٠ ريال"
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 150 R.O.
Offer valid for Bank Muscat credit card holders only
Upto 12 months

HSBC

"الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٠٠ ريال"
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 100 R.O.
Offer valid for HSBC credit card holders only
Upto 6 months

البنك الوطني العماني
NBO

"الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٥٠ ريال"
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 150 R.O.
Offer valid for NBO credit card holders only
12 months

بنك عمان العربي
OMAN ARAB BANK

"الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٠٠ ريال"
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 100 R.O.
Offer valid for OAB credit card holders only
3 / 6 / 9 and 12 months

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