

HM GREETES EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Abdel Fattah el Sisi of Egypt on the occasion of the 6th of October Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President el Sisi. His Majesty also wished the brotherly people of Egypt further welfare and prosperity. - **ONA**



HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM KSA KING

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable on his country's National Day. In the cable, King Salman expressed his utmost appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's honest sentiments and prayers. He wished His Majesty good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RECEIVES PHONE CALLS FROM ARAB LEADERS >A5

DAMAGE SUFFERED BY PEOPLE'S HOMES AND OTHER PROPERTIES BEING LOOKED INTO

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF SHAHEEN TO BE PROVIDED AT THE EARLIEST

PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR TO ASSESS AND DEAL WITH HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



RESTORING BASIC SERVICES FIRST PRIORITY FOR MINISTERIAL COUNCIL



Council of Ministers offers condolences to affected families, reviews relief work

MUSCAT: In incarnation of His Majesty the Sultan's attention to the nation and citizens and his Royal keenness to protect the safety of citizens and residents and, in constant follow-up of the impacts of the adverse climatic conditions (Shaheen) on parts of Oman, the Council of Ministers on Tuesday held a session during which it reviewed the efforts exerted by all departments and sectors to restore normalcy to the affected areas.

The Council of Ministers

expresses heartfelt condolences and deep sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives and those who went missing during the climatic conditions, wishing that the deceased would have the Almighty's greatest mercy.

Appreciation for efforts

The Council of Ministers also voices thanks and appreciation for all efforts made to diminish the damages and impacts incurred to citizens

and their properties.

Positive effect

This humanitarian contribution, the Council said, had a positive effect in tempering the condition, thanks to the efforts of the National Committee for Emergency Management, the State's military, security and civil sectors and the private sector, in addition to the National Committee for Civil Defence, the Civil Aviation Authority and media organisations. >**A5**

Efforts are on to restore damaged roads, power lines and communications networks

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Restoring basic services such as electricity and water, and providing the basic necessities to people affected by cyclone Shaheen are among the first pri-

orities that need to be tackled by the ministerial committee formed to assess its impact.

The sector delegated with providing basic services has been directed, in coordination with the concerned authorities, to expedite

the restoration of the damaged main and secondary roads. They were also instructed to take the necessary precautions for public safety when restoring electricity and communications networks.

Set up by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to measure the damage caused by Shaheen, as well as direct the required reconstruction and relief measures, the committee recently held its first meeting under Finance Minister Sultan bin Salem Al Habsi and chairman of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers.

The meeting, which was held at the Royal Oman Police station in wilayat Suwaiq, also looked at the damage suffered by people's homes and various properties across the governorates, during the cyclone. The committee also aims to provide various forms of support and assistance necessary to mitigate the impact of Shaheen as soon as possible.

The committee also discussed the work of the sectoral teams operating under the National Committee for Emergency Management, and took decisions that

would prioritise protecting lives and quickly restoring normality to those directly affected.

During the meeting, it was decided that the public health sector would carry out emergency work to assess and deal with the health and epidemiological conditions, and to operate specific locations to collect and distribute food supplies and basic necessities to families, in coordination with the Omani Authority for Charitable Activities (OACA) and volunteer teams working in the affected areas.

The committee also conducted

a field visit to inspect the initial damage in some areas affected by the cyclone.

"We are continuing to send emergency relief materials to be distributed to the affected people in the governorates of South and North Al Batinah," Mohammed bin Hamoud Al Dhahli, chairman of the OACA, told Oman News Agency. "We announced a national campaign to collect and receive donations from individuals, institutions and merchants to help those affected by these exceptional climatic conditions." >**A4**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Stimulus package issued to mitigate COVID-19 impact on individuals, institutional borrowers

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has issued a number of directives to all banks and finance leasing companies (FLCs), including the announcement of a stimulus package of procedures and incentives aimed at containing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of individuals and institutional borrowers.

Taking into account, the current economic scenario and in continuation of previously issued instructions, the CBO, has issued further directives, to banks and Finance & Leasing Companies, to extend the grace period for repayment to borrowers as given below:

- Omani citizens laid off from work – the deferment of instalment/interest/profit is to be extended until December 31, 2022 or until the borrower concerned obtains another job, whichever is earlier, with the suspension of charging any interests during the deferment period.
- Omani employees with re-



duced wages – The instalments, interests, and profits of all affected borrowers of this category are to be postponed until December 31, 2021, with the suspension of charging any interests during the deferment period and along with permission to exceed the debt burden ratio.

- Pensioners from the public and private sector – Banks shall continue to modify the terms of repayment of existing personal loans/finance, so that the maximum debt service ratio does not exceed 30 percent of the monthly pension if it is equal to or less than OMR1,500, and 35 percent if

the monthly pension is more than OMR1,500.

■ Riyadh card holders– Banks and Finance & Leasing Companies shall continue to postpone the instalments, interests and profits due from them until the end of December 31, 2021. The lending institutions and the borrower should mutually work out before the end of this period to restore the normal repayment schedule or to reschedule the loans according to the expected cash flows of the borrowers concerned.

CBO emphasises that, it is necessary for the borrowers, especially the companies which previously benefited from these procedures, to take into account the importance of reassessment of their financial conditions, before the expiry of the grace period on December 31, 2021. Accordingly, it is advised that the entities falling under this category shall work with their lenders to plan and reschedule their loan payments.

- **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Royal flights, RGO support relief work

1 Helicopters of the Royal Flights and Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) are operating flights to areas affected by the tropical cyclone Shaheen. >**A3**

WORLD Sorry for disruption, says Zuckerberg

2 Apologising for Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram disruption, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said services are returning online on Tuesday. >**A7**

SPORTS England cricket team in Oman for training

3 England Cricket team is holding a preparatory camp in the Sultanate from October 5 to 15, 2021. >**AB**





OMAN



PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr	12:00pm
Asr	3:23pm
Maghrib	5:55pm
Isha	7:05pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:46am

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Muscat, Tuesday, October 6, 1992

Price: Baisas 100

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INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL
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In this issue



Landscaping is in, vegetables are out

US dollar rates

Indian Rupee	28.49
Pakistan Rupee	25.09
Sri Lanka Rupee	44.00
Philippine Peso	25.00

Courtesy of the British Bank of the Middle East, Oman

Weather

Partly cloudy to cloudy skies will prevail over Muscat and surrounding areas of Dhufayin in the afternoon and evening with isolated thunderstorms. Mainly clear skies will prevail over the rest of the Sultanate.

Temperatures recorded in other cities:

Muscat 32 (30), Abu Dhabi 35 (30), Dubai 33 (31), Riyadh 36 (37), Jeddah 42 (100), Bahrain 34 (30), Kuwait 40 (104), Amman 34 (30), Doha 33 (31), Cairo 33 (31), Karachi 31 (38), Bombay 30 (36), Paris 10 (50) and London 14 (57).

TEMP	MAX	MIN
Suez	34	25
Mexico City	34	27
Buenos Aires	37	25
Rio de Janeiro	35	28
Beijing	35	25
Shanghai	35	25
Seoul	35	27
Harbin	35	27
Yokohama	35	27
London	35	27
Paris	35	27
Rome	35	27
Madrid	35	27
Amsterdam	35	27
Brussels	35	27
Frankfurt	35	27
Munich	35	27
Zurich	35	27
Geneva	35	27
Basel	35	27
Vienna	35	27
Berlin	35	27
Stockholm	35	27
Copenhagen	35	27
Helsinki	35	27
Tallinn	35	27
Riga	35	27
Vilnius	35	27
Kiev	35	27
Moscow	35	27
Novosibirsk	35	27
Oymyakon	35	27
Vostok	35	27
Antarctica	35	27

1992 - The Year of Industry

NEWSBREAKS

Gorbachev fined

MOSCOW — Russia's highest court yesterday fined ex-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for refusing to testify about the activities of the former Soviet communist party, Inter-Tan news agency reported. It said constitutional court chairman Vadim Zorkin imposed the maximum fine of just 100 roubles (30 cents) for non-appearance.

Two days earlier Gorbachev was banned from travelling abroad until he agreed to take the stand. The court is considering the legality of the party itself and of a ban imposed on it by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Former party leader Gorbachev refuses to have anything to do with its activities, saying it is being manipulated for political purposes. — Reuters

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Courtesy of the British Bank of the Middle East, Oman

Voting brisk in Kuwait election

KUWAIT — Kuwaiti men queued yesterday to vote for their first fully-elected parliament in six years.

The official Kuwait News Agency reported that more than half the voters in 21 of the 25 constituencies had cast ballots by early evening.

Kuwaiti women marched twice on polling stations, demanding the right to vote and stand as candidates.

Protected by armed police, long queues formed at polling stations. Men went inside one by one to cast their ballots in an election precipitated by Iraq's August 1990 invasion and the Gulf war in which the US-led coalition liberated the emirate seven months later.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, promised the elections while he was in exile at the height of the Gulf crisis.

Some 51,000 people, a fraction of Kuwait's 600,000 citizens, registered to vote. Voters must be male, over 21 and be able to trace their roots in Kuwait back to before 1920.

In Jabra, 50 km north of Kuwait City, Major Adnan al-Baqer supervised security at a polling station. He said detectives were mingling with the crowd, hunting for candidates or their supporters "buying" votes.

He said no one had been arrested.

"Vote-buying" is illegal.

Voters showed their identification cards to a judge, received a ballot form and cast votes in private for two candidates. Their cards were then stamped to show they had voted.

The judge at Abdullah al-Saleh constituency, Mishaal al-Jarawi, turned over an open wooden ballot box to show it was empty before voting began punctuated at 8 a.m.

At the polling station in Khaitan suburb, judge Khalid al-Mutairi said election officials had helped about a quarter of those who turned up to cast ballots because they could not read.

A total of 278 candidates are contesting 50 seats in the parliament, divided into 25 two-member constituencies.

The emir dissolved the previous parliament in 1986 because of security concerns at the height of the war between Iran and Iraq.

The emir will appoint a new cabinet two weeks after the election. According to the constitution, ministers will become members of parliament.

Several opposition groups are running against pro-government candidates who avoid political disputes and focus on what services they can offer their constituents.

The main opposition groupings are the Kuwaiti Democratic Forum of Leftists and Arab Nationalists, the Islamic Constitutional Movement, the Sunni Backers of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic Popular Movement and the National Islamic Coalition of Shi'ites.

Among other contenders are a grouping of former members of parliament, the constitutional bloc of top merchants from the chamber of commerce and tribal and independent candidates. Candidates took no concrete positions. When 700 votes is usually enough to win one of the 50 parliament seats, no one risks alienating even one vote.

Both candidates and voters say what hangs in the balance is what kind of parliament the ruling family accepts as necessary for democracy in Kuwait. "It's the first election after liberation and the first after the suspension of the constitution in 1986. So the people are enthusiastic to see democracy is back and they hope democracy will prevail," said candidate Hamad al-Jouan.

The lawyer-politician, who was shot by an unknown assailant after Kuwait was liberated in February 1991, was sitting outside a polling station in his wheelchair.

Voters questioned at random said they did not want a confrontational assembly, but neither did they want a weak one. — Agencies

Kuwaiti women protest against vote ban

By Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Editor-in-chief

KUWAIT — Kuwaiti women yesterday urged the national assembly, to be constituted after yesterday's parliamentary elections, to grant them full political rights by rescinding all laws that restrict the application of constitutional principles relating to women.

About 120 women marched on a polling station in the Shuwaibh suburb of the capital in the morning and about 60 women later marched to another station in the Mishref suburb, witnesses said.

The women, barred from standing as candidates or voting, demanded the same rights as men who turned out in large numbers to cast ballots.

"In this historic moment of Kuwait's history," the women declared in their petition to the new national assembly, "we would like to reaffirm that the demand for political rights of Kuwaiti women is to correct the wrong policy towards women's rights."

"Backward legislations" which harm the women in terms of their legal and human rights since the independence of Kuwait must be amended, the petition said, adding that they pose as a "substantial obstacle against Kuwaiti women's ambitions, the democratic system and national unity, while asserting the discrimination based on sex or social background."

The petition further stated that "the just application of the Constitution in its totality will not be achieved unless all laws which restrict the implementation of constitutional principles be demolished, e.g. as in the case of the election law of 1962 which violates the constitutional rights of Kuwaiti women and, in particular, the principle of equality for men and women."

The petition then urged the "application of the principles of the Kuwaiti Constitution, and justice to Kuwaiti women in order for them to gain full rights after the restoration of democracy in our country."

"The National Assembly should give priority to the issue of political rights of women, which is considered one of the fundamental rights of all human beings as stated clearly in Article 21 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights which emphasises that: Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely-chosen representatives."

The women carried brightly-coloured banners at both marches reading "We're going to join you in 1996" and "Men and women together in the Parliament in 1996."

They marched in front of the polling stations but did not attempt to go inside. Both events took place peacefully.

The majority of the 278 candidates say they favour letting women vote and stand for parliament. Only the Islamic Popular Movement (IPM) of conservative Sunni Muslims, fielding seven candidates, is unenthusiastic, diplomats said.

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Hassan al-Bokhah of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

His Majesty wished the Brunei Sultan good health and long life and the Brunei people prosperity under his wise leadership.

At the same time, His Majesty received a cable of greetings from Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan as the president passed through Oman's airspace on his way back to his country.

In his cable, President Khan wished His Majesty good health and happiness and the Omani people progress and prosperity.

In reply, His Majesty thanked the president for his good wishes, and expressed the hope that he would enjoy health, well-being and arrive safely in his country. — OMA

250 feared dead in world's worst aviation disaster

AMSTERDAM — Rescuers hunted through charred ruins yesterday after an Israeli jumbo jet slammed into two crowded apartment blocks, engulfing flats in flames and killing more than 250 people on the ground.

The death toll looked certain to be the worst for the number of non-passengers killed in a plane crash.

By mid-afternoon, only six bodies had been recovered from smoldering wreckage of the two adjoining nine-storey buildings hit by the El Al cargo plane shortly after it took off from Amsterdam early on Sunday evening.

"You can imagine that in this terrible mess it is difficult to find people, let alone identify them," Amsterdam police chief Erik Nordhoff said as he surveyed the ruins.

Many people are inconsolable, resident Mariette Akkerboom said.

"I comforted a Surinamese woman whose son had gone out shortly before the crash to fetch a bicycle from a friend. That friend lived in one of the flats that was hit. She had no idea where her little son was or if he was alive or dead."

Officials said it would take several days to recover and identify the victims because their bodies were so badly charred.

In many cases we will have to identify the victims by their teeth or jewellery," said one policeman at the scene.

The remains of the victims are being taken to a makeshift mortuary set up in a hangar at Schiphol airport.

A Reuters reporter at the scene said the aircraft had been shattered so badly there were only a handful of pieces bigger than a suitcase. The jumbo punched a 30 metre wide hole through one corner of the buildings, sending burning debris flying over a wide area.

It was like a bomb hit. There was a huge bang and a fireball and then people were running everywhere," said one local resident.

Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, who was attending a European Community meeting in Luxembourg, said: "We are all very shocked and saddened... everybody cannot understand how such things happen."

Two Israeli inquiry teams left Jerusalem yesterday for Amsterdam to investigate the crash.

"Every possibility will be examined and checked out to find the real reason that led to this accident and brought about this disaster to Israeli and a larger number of Dutch," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told an impromptu news conference.

However, the chances of sabotage to an El Al plane in Amsterdam were small, Israeli Ambassador to the Netherlands Michael Bavi told army radio.

The Netherlands has been a strong supporter of Israel and El Al routinely receives high security treatment at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

As a precaution against Arab terrorist attacks, El Al freight jets carry no name or insignia.

Transport Minister Yusef Kessur, noting El Al is considered one of the safest airlines in security and maintenance, said the nature of the accident was exceptional.

"It doesn't happen that both engines stop at once," he said on army radio.

Sunday's crash was the worst air disaster in Netherlands history and the first crash in El Al's 44-year history, an airline spokesman said.

The plane's three crew members and a woman passenger were killed. Twelve bodies were reported found in the wreckage of the apartments, but it was not clear if the fatalities were included in that number.

The two Israeli teams, one from El Al and one military, would work with an inquiry commission set up by the Dutch government and officials from Boeing. Rabin told reporters in Jerusalem.

Heading the El Al inquiry is airline executive vice president Amos Anis and leading the government-appointed team is reserve Maj. Gen. Amos Lapidot, El Al spokesman Nachman Klerman said.

Oddly, Amos Anis, an El Al pilot and veteran investigator of air crashes, told Israeli radio that once the plane's flight data recorder is found, details of the plane's operations before the crash should be known. — Agencies

A nightmare happens

AMSTERDAM — One of the aviation industry's worst nightmares came true on Sunday when an El Al cargo plane plunged into a crowded Amsterdam suburb.

Ever since the giant Boeing 747 aircraft took to the skies in 1970, the fear that a huge airliner might crash into a packed residential area has haunted authorities around the world.

This has always been the nightmare scenario. The only variation from the full nightmare is that this was a cargo plane and not a passenger plane," said Alan Winn, editor of the authoritative *Flight International* journal in London.

Dutch officials fear around 200 people were killed when the Israeli plane smashed into two nine-storey buildings in the suburb of Bijlmermeer, southeast of Amsterdam.

Depending on the final death toll, Sunday's crash might go down in history as the worst ever aviation disaster raising casualties on the ground. The worst accident to date involved a Boeing 707 cargo plane which lost an engine after takeoff from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and

ploughed into the city's main street in October 1976. The three crew were killed along with over 100 in the ground. In December 1988, a Pan Am Boeing 747 was blown up near Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 250 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground.

There was instant outrage in the Netherlands that the crippled El Al plane was allowed to fly back towards Amsterdam's Schiphol airport over one of the country's most densely populated suburbs.

"Who sent El Al Flight 1862 over the densely-populated Bijlmermeer?" the mass circulation *De Telegraaf* newspaper demanded yesterday.

"Next to investigating the cause of the disaster, this is the burning question that must be answered by the government aviation service," it said.

Winn told Reuters: "There will, of course, be an instant gut reaction that we must stop flying airlines over populated areas. But you can only do that by stopping aeroplanes flying." — Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwaiti men turned out in large numbers at well-guarded polling stations yesterday to vote for their first fully-elected parliament in six years.

— Reuters wirephoto

Pilot wrestled with the 'unthinkable'

LONDON — The pilot of the El Al plane that crashed in Amsterdam, an editor of *Flight International*, was asked



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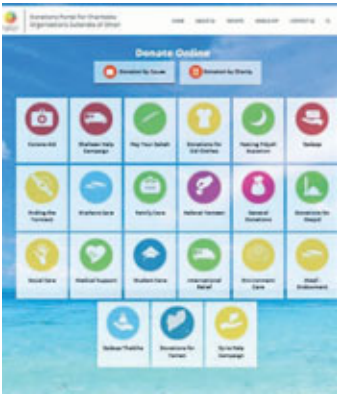
Donations for reconstruction top OMR200,000

Donations have been pouring to finance the post-Shaheen reconstruction

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than OMR200,000 has been donated as part of efforts to help people who have been impacted by cyclone Shaheen. The donate.om portal, which is the website for the Oman Charitable Organisation, reported collections of OMR161,006 on Monday, 4 October, and, at the time of writing, OMR126,303 on Tuesday, 5 October.

The donation portal was opened on Monday, enabling



The donate.om portal, which is the website for the Oman Charitable Organisation, reported collections of OMR161,006 on Monday, 4 October, and, at the time of writing, OMR126,303 on Tuesday, 5 October.

people to contribute towards relief and reconstruction efforts. Various other teams have also announced that they are running voluntary groups to help with

damages and cleanup of the aftermath of cyclone Shaheen. In addition, a number of companies have announced donation sums for the benefit of those affected. Bank Sohar announced the allocation of OMR5 million in interest-free loans to the affected people. "OMR5 million is allocated to support our customers and build back our communities in severely affected areas by cyclone Shaheen through interest-free financing," said Sohar International in a statement. This offer is valid until 31 December, 2021. This is "in addition to three month deferments on personal and housing loans to reduce financial burden on impacted customers in severely affected areas, reflecting our ongoing support to the people we serve," added the company. A number of electrical and home maintenance shops announced that they would provide their services for free.

CYCLONE AFTERMATH

Royal flights, RGO support Shaheen relief missions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Helicopters of the Royal Flights (at the Royal Court Affairs) coordinated with the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) in operating flights to areas affected by the tropical cyclone Shaheen.

Logistic support
The aim is to lend support to relief missions addressing the needs of citizens there. Rescue and relief teams, oper-



ating under the supervision of the National Civil Defence Committee, provided logistic support in the wilayats of A'Suwaig, Al Khaborah and Saham.

Meanwhile, a number of technicians kept working to repair a breakdown in telecommunication stations in the Governorate of North Al Batinah.

TAKAFUL OMAN TAKES PROACTIVE STEPS TO SERVICE SHAHEEN CLAIMS

Takaful Oman wants to inform its policy holders to report the losses under their policy by calling us on our dedicated claims toll-free hotline no **800 78264** for Shaheen Claims. Our customers can also email us on shaheenclaims@takafuloman.om or visit our branches to lodge their claims. The company has taken all necessary steps to strengthen its claims teams and have proactively assigned surveyors to locations reported to be worst affected. 'While we do not know the extent of the damage to property and vehicles, we have a reasonable idea from the news reports on the worst affected areas. We have provided insurance for loans against property with our banking partners and want to ensure that reporting and loss estimation are smooth so the customers can quickly rebuild' said the company in a statement. The company had been proactively issuing updates and advisory to its customers through its Social media feed. The Company has also issued the following advisory to its policy holders.

Dear Takaful Oman Customers,
If you are faced with a scenario wherein your parked vehicle is submerged in water (above the mid-level of tyres), please ensure the following:

- 1) Do not attempt to start the engine! Starting the engine could cause damage beyond repairs due to water ingress.
- 2) Click a few clear pictures with date and time, if possible, in submerged condition to share with the insurance company. This would help determine how deep the vehicle was in the water.
- 3) Ensure the vehicle is towed to the insurance company's nearest suggested garage once the water recedes.

Dear Takaful Oman Customers, given the cyclone warning, please ensure the following to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- 1) At all times, act per the ROP directives and stay tuned for fresh updates from the concerned authorities.
- 2) Seek higher ground and relocate all moveable items like vehicles and other important property to higher ground, if possible.
- 3) Keep yourself away from flowing wadis, and do not attempt to cross flowing wadis with or without your vehicles.

For any assistance, please reach out to us on our toll-free number **80078264** or **22303000** or intimate your claim via email on shaheenclaims@takafuloman.om



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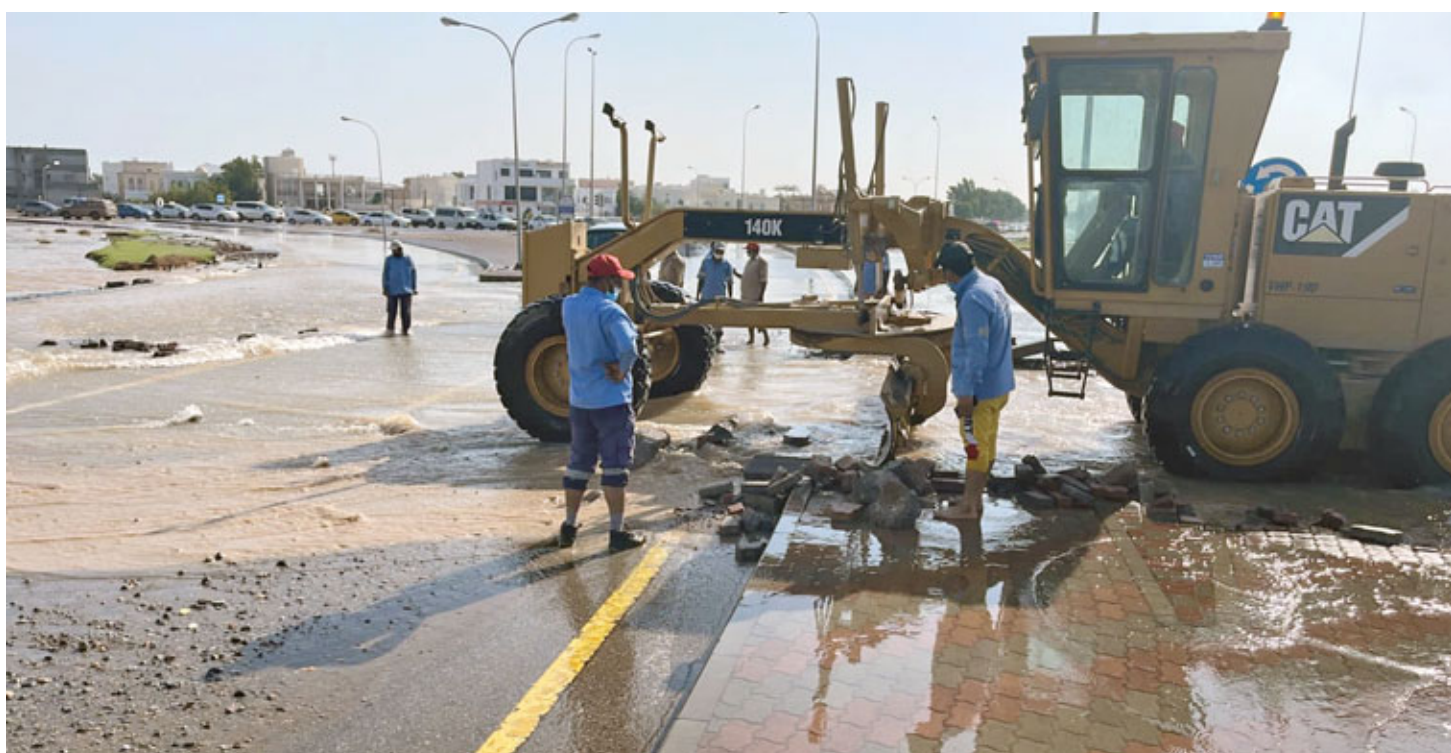
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Tender Title	: IT & OT Network Segregation
Scope	: Contractor to provide complete solution to segregate IT and OT network domain infrastructure as per scope of work.
Tender No.	: 2021-ENG-SOW-0033
Tender Title	: Main Warehouse Roof Enclosure
Scope	: Contractor to conduct site survey, design, fabricate, supply and install materials to seal ventilation openings of warehouse.
Tender No.	: 2021-ENG-SOW-0043
Tender Title	: IT Infrastructure Monitoring Solution
Scope	: Contractor to implement and maintain a centralised monitoring system that monitors all the SA servers, network devices, and other critical IT services.

Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com
For list of active tenders visit: <https://www.sohar-aluminium.com/en/content/tender-listing>



CLEANUP OPERATIONS IN MUSCAT CONTINUE

Efforts to make roads motorable by cleaning up debris from areas around Muscat are continuing, in the aftermath of Cyclone Shaheen. Many areas, including Bausher, Qurum, Seeb and Al Khoud were blocked with falling debris. **Images: Muscat Municipality**



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CYCLONE SHAHEEN

< FROM A1 Search operation underway for nine missing persons

He announced that since the news of the cyclone was announced, the organisation had developed an action plan by forming a team of workers from all of its four branches, namely distribution, equipping warehouses with relief materials, loading them onto trucks, and dispatching convoys of aid where needed. These activities are carried out with the National Committee for Emergency Management.

During the past three days, cyclone Shaheen caused the death of 11 people. Searches are still underway for nine missing persons, and until noon on Tuesday, October 5, search and rescue teams have responded to 231 reports, during which they managed to save 654 people in different locations, of whom 57 were trapped in wadis, 66 were stuck inside their vehicles, and 91 more were unable to leave their homes, because of the weather conditions.



As part of the ongoing efforts, the Police Aviation yesterday conducted 138 operations of rescue, evacuation and airlifting, in addition to aerial surveillance of the affected areas. The Royal Oman Police (ROP) operations centre received more than 36,000 reports and opened new emergency lines to accommodate the rising number of reports.

The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), the ROP, the Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority and civil sectors join hands in a collective search and mission.

Some roads are opened and citizens and residents are cautioned against approaching hazardous areas.

— With inputs from ONA







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NORTH AND SOUTH AL BATINAH



SAF Chief of Staff, RAO Commander visit military units

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdulah Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and Maj.Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) went on tour to military units deployed in the Governorates of North and South Al Batinah.

Those units are deployed as part of the responsibilities of the military subcommittees in the two governorates.

The two military officials met with the heads of the two subcommittees originating from the Main Military Committee for Emergency Management and in coordination with the National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM).

SAF Chief of Staff commended the efforts exerted in lending all means of support in rescue operations, providing water and vari-

ous other food supplies, as well as contributing in reopening and rehabilitating damaged roads.

He urged everyone to harness all efforts and capabilities, in coordination and cooperation with other government units, to restore normalcy. During the field visit, the two military officials met with Maj.Gen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations and Deputy Chairman of the NCEM. Al Harthy gave a briefing on assessing the current situation, the steps previously taken, as well as requirements of the current phase to get things back to normalcy.

The military subcommittees continue activating operation plans as per instructions of the Main Military Committee for Emergency Management and the NCEM. — ONA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

< FROM A1 Committee formed

In implementation of the Royal directives to form a committee to assess the impacts of the climatic conditions, the Council of Ministers listened to a preliminary assessment report about the case and the steps that the committee intends to undertake as instructed.

The Council of Ministers prays to the Almighty Allah to protect citizens and residents against all harm. The cabinet urges all parties to cooperate to bring back life to normal as soon as possible in the cyclone stricken areas.

May the Almighty Allah protect Oman and its people.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COVID-19 update

MUSCAT: As many as 97 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in Oman during the past 5 days, in addition to 4 new COVID-19-related deaths.

Positive cases

This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 303,866 in the Sultanate. The total number of COVID-19-related deaths reached 4,100, the Ministry of Health said. — ONA

TROPICAL CYCLONE

HM the Sultan receives phone calls from Arab leaders

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received phone calls on Tuesday evening from King Abdullah II of Jordan, Gen. Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, Chairman of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in the United Arab Emirates, to reassure themselves about condi-

tions in Oman after the tropical cyclone Shaheen that hit the Sultanate.

During the calls, they stressed their countries' solidarity with the Sultanate while it tackles impacts of the tropical cyclone. They also expressed their heartfelt condolences and sympathies to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people on victims of the cyclone, praying to the Almighty Allah to

rest their souls in peace in paradise and grant their families fortitude to bear the loss, and protect the Sultanate against all harms.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for their kind gesture and sincere sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to protect them and people of their countries against all harms.

-ONA



LINDAU
NOBEL LAUREATE
MEETINGS



Ministry of Higher Education,
Research & Innovation

71st Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting; dedicated to Chemistry
Announcement

In order to strengthen research capacity in Oman and exchange knowledge; and as an academic partner of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation is pleased to invite you to participate in the '71st Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting; dedicated to Chemistry', from 26th June to 1st July, 2022 in Lindau, Germany. By attending various lectures and actively participating in small-size discussion sessions, this meeting is a marvelous opportunity for three young scientists from Oman to interact with about 40 Nobel Laureates. In addition, the event will attract about 600 young scientists from over 80 countries. This unique annual gathering is exclusive for outstanding undergraduate, master and PhD students, as well as post-doc researchers in the field chemistry or strongly related disciplines.

Evaluation criteria include the following:

1. Genuine interest and engagement in science and research
2. Excellence in the principal field of studies i.e. in the chemical sciences and/ or related disciplines (being among the top 5 percent of their class)
3. A letter of recommendation from an academic advisor and/ or an internationally renowned scientist, who knows the applicant very well
4. A comprehensive CV together with their application
5. Fluency in English and willingness to actively participate in discussions with Laureates and young scientists
6. Not being older than 35 years at the time of the meeting; with exceptions for special cases (e.g. maternity leave)
7. No history of participation in a Lindau Meeting in the past
8. Submission of a fully completed application (incomplete applications will not be considered)
9. Commitment to participate in the full duration of the meeting

To participate, please submit your application at:
<https://www.trc.gov.om/trcweb/topics/research/programs/6696>
No later than 2:00 p.m. on 17 October 2021

Please note that late or incomplete applications will not be considered and nomination does not necessarily lead to an invitation to participate in the meeting.

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NOBEL PRIZE

Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, Giorgio Parisi awarded 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics

STOCKHOLM: Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann and Giorgio Parisi won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics, “for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems,” announced the award-giving organisation on Tuesday.

Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann won it “for the



physical modelling of Earth’s climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming”.

Giorgio Parisi was awarded Nobel “for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales,” said The Nobel Prize release.

Earlier, in 2020, Roger Penrose won the Nobel for Physics, “for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity”.

While Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez won it “for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy”. **ANI**

Study to focus on raising Sultanate’s competitiveness

The OCCI study will focus on the ease of doing business and attracting investment, besides explaining the challenges facing entrepreneurship and devising solutions



Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. — Times file picture

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) has floated a specialised economic study aimed to promote the Sultanate’s competitiveness status, regionally and international.

The study will focus on the ease of doing business and attracting investment, besides explaining the challenges facing entrepreneurship and devising scholarly solutions for the same.

The study fits with the govern-

ment’s plans to activate the business sector and speed up economic diversification at a time the Sultanate is embarked on developing procedures to meet the expectations of business persons and investors.

The overall aim is to keep pace with the rapidly changing national

and international economic scenario, besides adding flexibility in doing business.

To this effect, Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of the OCCI, said that the study will cover the laws, legislations and procedures in the Sultanate.

It will highlight the competitive-

ness, ease and clarity of the statutes from a regional and international point of view, he said, adding that the study will explain the incentives linked to investment across different economic sectors, as well as the Sultanate’s infrastructure (airports, sea-ports, etc) readied to offer services to the private sector.

Eng. Ridha explained that the study will discuss the fees, taxes vis-à-vis market volume and economic activity—all with a view to formulating the most ideal template and ways to promote the Sultanate’s international “To Do Business” ratings.

Eng. Ridha affirmed that the study will provide a clear understanding about the role of government and private parties in developing and improving the investment and ease of doing business climate.

It will take into account all competitiveness enabling factors that might improve investment attraction and raise the Sultanate’s status in international ratings, he added.

Eng. Ridha called upon companies to come forward, conduct the study and submit it to the OCCI in accordance with the requirements stated in the announcement, bearing in mind the need to provide durable solutions that could sustain the business environment and attract investments for a long time. — ONA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OCCI attends major meeting in Berlin

BERLIN: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) took part in the consultative meeting between Arab countries and Arab Ambassadors and meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab-German Chamber’s General Assembly.

The meeting of the General Assembly discussed a number of topics related to the work of the chamber. It also approved the report of the Chairman of the Arab-German Chamber, the report of the Secretary General and the final ac-

count for 2020. It also endorsed the chamber’s budget for 2022.

During the meeting, members of the Board of Directors for the next 3 years were elected as the Sultanate retained its chair in the board.

The OCCI delegation in the meetings, held in the German capital Berlin, was headed by Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, OCCI Chairman.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the OCCI also participated in the opening of the Arab-German economic forum.

— ONA



FORUM: The meeting of the General Assembly discussed a number of topics related to the work of the chamber. — ONA

RACISM

Tesla ordered to pay over \$130 million in racism case



NEW YORK: A US District Court in northern California ordered Tesla Inc to pay over \$130 million (£112 million) in damages to a Black former employee on Monday, according to reports from the *Wall Street Journal*.

Owen Diaz had sued the vehicle manufacturer over the racial abuse he allegedly endured while employed as an elevator operator at the Tesla plant in Fremont, near San Francisco.

Diaz had worked at the factory during 2015 and 2016 and said he had been subject to racist slurs and offensive graffiti during that time.

A federal jury decided that the employee had been subject to a racially hostile work environment and that Tesla had failed to take adequate measures to prevent Diaz from being racially abused, according to the report.

The jury awarded Diaz \$6.9 in damages for emotional distress and \$130 million in punitive damages, his attorney, Lawrence A. Organ, told the Washington Post.

A federal jury decided that the employee had been subject to a racially hostile work environment and that Tesla had failed to take adequate measures to prevent Diaz from being racially abused

Other complaints of racism at Tesla factory

The ruling comes as Tesla faces other racial discrimination complaints. Tesla has previously denied any knowledge of the alleged racist conduct at the plant, which has about 10,000 workers.

Earlier this year, the company

had to pay \$1 million to a Black former employee who had faced similar issues involving racism.

That case was settled by arbitration, per company policy on resolving most employee disputes. However, Tesla rarely loses arbitration cases. Most complaints are settled behind closed doors, or abandoned altogether, Bloomberg reported.

Diaz’s case was not subject to arbitration, and could take his case to federal court because he was employed as a contractor through a staffing agency.

It’s not yet clear whether Tesla will appeal the court’s decision. The settlement would be one of the largest ever paid out in a case involving racial discrimination at the workplace.

According to the company’s diversity, equity and inclusion impact report from 2020, Black people made up 10 percent of the total workforce, while only 4 percent could be found in leadership positions at American operations. **DW**

GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change killed world’s 14% coral reefs in 10 years: Study

SYDNEY: Global warming has killed 14 percent of the world’s coral reefs in a decade and more will be wiped out if oceans keep rising in temperature, a study released on Tuesday has revealed.

According to a report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), coral reefs equaling about 11,700 square kilometers — which is 2.5 times the size of Grand Canyon National Park — were lost between 2009 and 2018.

“Climate change is the biggest threat to the world’s reefs,” co-author Paul Hardisty, CEO of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, said in a statement shared by the UN.

“There are clearly unsettling trends toward coral loss, and we can expect these to continue as warming persists,” he added.

The report by the United Nations-supported global data network is the largest ever survey of coral health and covers data for

40 years, among 73 countries and 12,000 locations.

The study also identifies dynamite fishing and pollution, but it is global warming that is seen as the primary reason behind the loss of coral reefs, which has left swathes of bleached skeletons in place of vibrant ecosystems.

Coral bleaching accounts for much of the loss

Coral reefs in South Asia, Australia, the Pacific, East Asia, the Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, were among the hardest hit.

Much of the loss was attributed to coral bleaching, as per the report.

Coral bleaching is a phenomenon that takes place when corals — under stress from warmer water — expel the colorful algae that live inside their tissues, turning them white.

Data in the study showed that such a bleaching event in 1998

alone was responsible for the loss of 8 percent of the world’s corals.

“Since 2009 we have lost more coral worldwide than all the living coral in Australia,” UNEP executive director Inger Anderson said.

“We can reverse the losses, but we have to act now.”

Some reefs ‘bounce back’

During the study, scientists also found that there was about a 2 percent regain among coral reefs in 2019, indicating they can be resilient when given respite from the factors working against them.

“Some reefs have shown a remarkable ability to bounce back, which offers some hope for the future recovery of degraded reefs,” Hardisty said. Coral reefs cover just under 1 percent of the ocean floor but support more than 25 percent of marine life.

The reefs are responsible for approximately \$2.7 trillion (€2.3 trillion) annually, in goods and services, including tourism, according to the report. **DW**



Sorry for disruption, says Zuckerberg as FB, WhatsApp services return online

Site that monitors reports of outages across the internet, Downtdetector, said the Facebook service outage is the largest it has ever seen

WASHINGTON: Apologising for the disruption in the services of Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, tech giant's CEO Mark Zuckerberg has stated that services are returning online on Tuesday.

"Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger are coming back on-



OUTAGE: The US-led the world in the number of reports for disrupted service of more than 1.7 million, followed by Germany at 1.3 million reports and the Netherlands at 915,000.

line now," Zuckerberg said in a Facebook post.

"Sorry for the disruption today -- I know how much you rely on our services to stay connected with the people you care about," he said.

Taking to Twitter early on Tuesday, WhatsApp said: "Apologies to everyone who hasn't been able to use WhatsApp today. We're starting to slowly and carefully get WhatsApp working again. Thank you so much for your patience. We will continue to keep you updated when we have more information to share."

Users started reporting that Instagram, WhatsApp and other services under the Facebook corporate umbrella are now accessible as normal for the first time since about 11:30 EST on Monday when reports of the outage and disrupted services began pouring in, according to Sputnik.

Earlier, a site that monitors re-

ports of outages across the internet, Downtdetector, said the Facebook service outage is the largest it has ever seen.

The company said in a post on Monday, "The largest outage we've ever seen on Downtdetector with over 10.6 million problem reports from all over the globe."

The US-led the world in the number of reports for disrupted service of more than 1.7 million, followed by Germany at 1.3 million reports and the Netherlands at 915,000 reports.

Monday's outage had left several services under the Facebook corporate umbrella, including Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger, inaccessible.

Meanwhile, Telegram said on Twitter that users of its messenger in some regions, amid large-scale outages on Facebook, may experience problems loading chats and receiving notifications.

It said the company apologises for the inconvenience. **ANI**

OVER A PHONE CALL

Japan's new PM, Biden agree to cooperate on free, open Indo-Pacific region



TOKYO: Japan's new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and US President Joe Biden held their first telephonic call since the former took office, during which they agreed to cooperate to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Following the phone call, Kishida told reporters that Biden reaffirmed the Senkakus, a group of uninhabited islets in the East China Sea, fall under the Japan-US security treaty, Kyodo News reported. Kishida took office as Japan's prime minister on Monday. It was his first phone talks with a foreign leader since taking office.

Japan controls the Senkaku Islands, however, China and Tai-

wan continue to claim them. Tokyo maintains the islands are an inherent part of its territory as per history and international law.

Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. security treaty states Washington will defend territories under Tokyo's administration from armed attack.

"(Biden) gave me strong words of commitment to the defense of Japan," Kishida said.

Meanwhile, a White House readout said that Biden noted that looks forward to strengthening the relationship in the years ahead.

The White House said Biden "noted that he looks forward to strengthening the relationship in the years ahead given the critical

role our countries play in advancing our common vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, including through the Quad."

The Indo-Pacific region is largely viewed as an area comprising the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including the South China Sea.

While Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea and has overlapping territorial claims with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan. China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and its efforts to advance into the Indian Ocean are seen to have challenged the established rules-based system. **ANI**

MEETING



France's Macron meets with US top diplomat in first talks since submarine spat

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Paris on Tuesday, as the US seeks to repair diplomatic damage over a sunken submarine deal.

Ties between the long-time allies have been strained in recent weeks following the announcement of a new defence agreement between Australia, the UK and the US — which led to the cancellation of a deal for Australia to buy French submarines.

What did the two discuss?

The one-on-one meeting came as a surprise, as Blinken and Macron were not scheduled to meet during the US top diplomat's two-day visit to Paris.

During the 40-minute meeting, the two came to a "common agreement that we have an opportunity now to deepen and strengthen the coordination," a State Department official told reporters.

Blinken told Macron that the US was "certainly supportive of European defence and security initiatives" that boost defence but do not undermine NATO.

The official, however, noted that "a lot of hard work remains to be done." Macron's office also confirmed the meeting took place, saying that Blinken's visit to France would help "contribute to restoring confidence."

They also discussed setting up a meeting later this month between Macron and US President Joe Biden to discuss rebuilding trust.

Earlier, Blinken also met with his French counterpart, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Why are relations strained?

The French government said it had been "stabbed in the back"

over the new defence alliance, dubbed AUKUS.

The announcement on September 15 also meant an end to a multibillion-dollar submarine contract between France and Australia — with Canberra instead opting to purchase nuclear-powered US submarines instead.

In an unprecedented move, Macron briefly recalled France's ambassadors to the US and Australia.

The Biden administration has since said that the announcement of the new defense alliance could have been handled differently and "would have benefited from better and more open consultation among allies." Tensions appeared to relax slightly following a call between Biden and Macron. But the French leader has warned that the episode shows that Europe will need to develop its own security strategy. **DW**

LANDMARK TRIAL

Bacteria capable of wiping out disease-carrying mosquitoes: Study

CANBERRA: A landmark Australian trial has found that a bacteria can be used to wipe out mosquitoes carrying dengue.

In a study published on Tuesday, a team including researchers from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) found that bacteria can successfully sterilize the disease-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Over the course of 20 weeks in 2018, researchers released 3 million male mosquitoes that had been sterilized with the Wolbachia bacteria into three Queensland trial sites.

Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that mate with sterilized males lay eggs that fail to hatch.

Within 12 months the CSIRO found that mosquito populations in the trial sites dropped by be-



tween 80 and 97 percent.

The *Aedes aegypti* is responsible for the spread of dengue fever, yellow fever, Zika and other viruses. It is found in the tropical areas of more than 120 countries and infects millions of people with viruses every year.

Researchers said suppressing its numbers was unlikely to have any major negative ecological ef-

fects. "Over 40 percent of humans suffer from mosquito-spread diseases, so it's an opportunity for Australia to develop environmentally-friendly mosquito control tools to tackle current and future mosquito incursions," Larry Marshall, chief executive of the CSIRO, said in a media release.

The trial was an international collaboration between the CSIRO, the University of Queensland, Verily Life Sciences, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and James Cook University.

The technique can also be used to remove the virus-transmitting Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, that has now been established at Australia's doorstep in the Torres Strait Islands, according to the CSIRO. **ANI**

Job Opening

A leading company in Oman is Looking for qualified professionals for the below positions

1. Commercial Promotor (Male) – Omani National, 5 Years experiences, MBA/ Equivalent. Fluent in English with computer proficiency.	6. Sales Officer – Fire Door & Flow Control (Male/ Female) - Experience on Fire doors/hardware/-flow control . Bachelor's/ Engineering Degree with 5 years experience
2. Store Keeper (Male): Omani with 5 years of experience, Degree/ Diploma. Fluent English with computer proficiency.	7. Technical ELV Engineer (Male) 1 No: Min 5 years hands on experience. Electrical/ Electronic Engineering Degree with NOC is preferred.
3. Technical Sales/ Marketing officer – Fire Alarm Systems (Male/ Female), Electrical Engineer, 5Years experience	8. Supervisor/ Foreman (Male): Bachelor's Degree/ diploma with 5 years GCC experience with driving license.
4. Project Engineer (Male) Mechanical engineer, 5 years experience. Currently residing in Oman with NOC.	9. Technical Sales Support (Male/ Female): Master/ Degree, Minimum 5 years experience. Currently residing in Oman with NOC preferred.
5. Maintenance Sales Engineer (Male) – 1 Nos: Engineering Graduate, 5 years experience. Currently working/ residing in Oman with NOC is preferred	10. Technician – Mechanical (Male) - 3 Nos: 5 years Experience in mechanical assembly. Bachelor/ Diploma/ ITI.
	11. Technician – Electrical (Male) - 5 years Experience in assembly in electrical system. bachelor/Diploma/ ITI

shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further round of interviews. Kindly send your CVs with education and work experience certificates along with recent photograph on or before 30th Sep, 2021 to

Hr.oman@outlook.com

SPORTS



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England cricket team in Oman for training camp ahead of T20 World Cup

All necessary arrangements for the training and bio-bubble for the England team have been finalised



17 and November 14, 2021.

All necessary arrangements for the training and bio-bubble for the England team have been finalised.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a move that will provide a major fillip to Oman's capabilities in the world of Cricket, Oman Cricket (OC) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have confirmed that the ICC T20 World Cup-bound England Cricket team is holding a preparatory camp in the Sultanate from October 5 to 15, 2021.

The ICC T20 World Cup will be played in Oman and the United Arab Emirates between October

Experience Oman's culture
Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of Oman Cricket, said, "We are looking forward to welcoming the English Cricket team and their families!! I do hope they will get a chance to experience Oman's culture and hospitality. It's indeed a pleasure to host them!"

Chris Silverwood, Head Coach of ECB, said: "ECB confirms the 10-day preparatory camp in

Oman prior to the start of the Group 1 matches. This is part of our endeavour to acclimatise the team with the conditions. We are thankful to Oman Cricket for the support."

England is placed with Australia, defending champions West Indies, and South Africa in Group 1.

The Group will also have two teams joining from the qualifying round prior to the start of the main round of World Cup.

Meanwhile, all UAE venues will be operating at approximately 70 per cent of maximum seated capacity in the upcoming men's T20 World Cup, said the International

Cricket Council (ICC).

Tickets are available for fans to watch the top 16 T20 teams in the world vying for the ultimate prize in the shortest format which gets underway in Muscat on October 17 and is set to conclude in the UAE on November 14.

Socially distanced 'pods'

Moreover, Abu Dhabi has also introduced new socially distanced 'pods' of a maximum of 4 spectators on their east and west grass grounds.

The Oman Cricket Academy has had a temporary infrastructure built to welcome 3,000 fans.

The schedule offers a host of key rivalry fixtures and mouth-watering matchups.

The tournament kicks off with the Round 1 match between Oman and Papua New Guinea in Muscat. While, Australia and South Africa play the first match of Super 12s on October 23 in Abu Dhabi followed by the replay of the 2016 final between England and West Indies also on October 23 in Dubai.

India will play against Pakistan, on October 24 in Dubai.

European football powerhouses suffer worrying defeats

MADRID: Real Madrid and Barcelona are not the only elite teams that have been struggling to rediscover their form so far this season, with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), Bayern Munich and Manchester United being just some of the European football powerhouses who have suffered some worrying defeats as of late.

Carlo Ancelotti's side currently top the Spanish LaLiga Santander table along with Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad, but in the last week they drew 0-0 on home soil with Villarreal, lost 2-1 to Sheriff Tiraspol at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu and were defeated 2-1 away at Espanyol.

The Blaugrana are going through a tough moment as Ronald Koeman has been in danger since last summer and the team are failing to deliver on the pitch.

Barcelona have lost both their last two games without scoring a single goal in their defeats 3-0 away at Benfica and 2-0 at Atletico Madrid. They currently sit ninth in the Spanish LaLiga Santander table with one game in hand and bottom of the UEFA Champions League Group E without a single point.

As for the English Premier League (EPL), Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival at Manchester United may have raised the expectations bar at the Old Trafford, but team and coach have been at the receiving end of criticism following their 1-1 draw with Everton and their 1-0 defeat to Aston Villa on home soil.

Solid start

Despite their solid start to the season, Manchester United have been eliminated from the Carabao Cup and have failed to win in their last two EPL fixtures.

More ephemeral are the issues at Bayern Munich and PSG although the first defeat of the season always causes pain and some doubt.

The French side lost 2-0 to Stade Rennais with the attacking trident of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe failing to produce a single shot on target.

Something similar happened last weekend in Germany, were reigning Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich lost 2-1 at home to Eintracht Frankfurt despite taking the lead through Leon Goretzka.— **ONA**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Jotun launch Senior Division campaign on a winning note

MUSCAT: Rahul Sasidharan-packer's game-turning spell of 3 for 27 fetched Jotun an exciting 21-run win over Pispot in a Senior Division T20 League match at Muscat Municipality Ground 3 in Al Amerat on Friday.

Jotun posted 176 for 8 on the board, thanks to vital knocks from Prasad Nagesh (44) and Prajeesh (30). Monty Navani's 4 for 36 was the principal reason Jotun could not compile a bigger total.

Pitspot got off to a flyer, openers Wajid Ali (27) and Fahad Hamza (28) putting on 55 in only 4.3 overs before Rahul trapped the latter in front. Wickets continued to fall at regular interval and Pit-spot had to be content with 155 for 8 in 20 overs.

Ideal Tech beat Safara

In another D Division match at the same venue, Ideal Technology defeated Safara International by 33 runs. Ideal scored 165 for 8, Sooraj Raj and Arun Kumar being the notable scorers with 27 and 25 respectively. Syed Uzair was the pick of Safara bowlers, taking 3 for 31 whereas Sandesh Pusalkar bagged 2 for 26. Safara could not offer much competition getting restricted to 132 for 7 despite

Pusalkar's unbeaten 63. Arun Kumar bowled exceptionally well, taking 3 for 13.

Junaid stars in Aflag victory

Junaid Iqbal's superb 61 off 36 steered Aflag Group to a thrilling

5-wicket victory against Capital Star in an E Division match at Muscat Municipality Ground 4.

Maheswaran Annadurai's brilliant 89 off 61 was the highlight of Capital Star's 152 for 4. Awais Mohammad claimed 2 for 17.

Aflag fought hard to snatch victory in the 20th over, thanks to brilliant batting by Junaid and fellow opener Syed Osama Afaq (40) who put on 83 for the opening wicket in less than 9 overs. Aflag sealed the win with 3 balls left, scoring 155 for 5. Tejesh Shetty bagged two wickets.

Ajeesh shines in Al Muthla win

There is no bigger weapon in cricket than a red hot cherry in

capable hands and Ajeesh Puyuveetil proved this with his opening spell that took the life out of Landmark Group's chase, fetching Al Muthla Golden a well-deserved 40-run win in another E Division match at the same venue.

Chasing 172 to win, Landmark was jolted by Ajeesh's twin blows as he removed the openers without letting them open their account in his first two overs. The pressure became unbearable as it lost a few more wickets to reach 47 for 6 by the 9th over, limping to 131 for 7 in 20 overs. Asjad Mohammed was the highest scorer with 51.

Earlier, finding solace in building partnerships, Al Muthla scored a respectable 171 without a big individual score, Viswanath Sree

(34) and Jeason Jacob (29) being the main scorers. Kugan Kuganeswaran was the pick of Landmark bowlers, taking 4 for 28.

Poonacha powers TCM to victory

Poonacha Pattada's brilliant all-round performance lifted Team Coorg Muscat (TCM) to a 4-wicket win over KCA Deutag in an F Division game at OAC 3 ground in Seeb.

Poonacha first picked up 2 for 16 in KCA's 171 for 7 in 20 overs that saw a brilliant 58 from opener Mujtaba Ahmed, and that led the chase with a topscore of 44 off 35. TCM surpassed the total in the 18th over, scoring 174 for 6 including 33 off from opener Bronal Barboj.

Irtaza Ahmed claimed 3 for 26.

OCT Al Hail B beat OCT Al Nahdha

In another F Division match at OAC 3, Khalid Rahim's 3 for 21 was the highlight of OCT Al Hail B's nail-biting 2-wicket victory against OCT Al Nahdha.

Aiman Khalid (54) and Nadil Al Balushi (30) were the main contributors to OCT Al Nahdha's 153 for 5 that was kept in check by Khalid Rahim's brilliant bowling. OCT Al Hail B built up its chase brick by brick, reaching the target in the final over as it scored 157 for 8 thanks to Adil Ishaq's topscore of 38 and Hassan Mohammed's 28. Nathar Pashambeh picked up 3 for 23.

T20 WORLD CUP

All-rounder Sam Curran ruled out with back injury

LONDON: England all-rounder Sam Curran has been ruled out of the ICC men's T20 World Cup with a lower back injury ahead of the showpiece event.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said Curran complained of back pain after Chennai Super Kings' Indian Premier League fixture on Saturday against Rajasthan Royals.

"Results of the scan revealed the injury. He will fly back to the UK in the next couple of days and will have further scans and a full review later this week from the ECB's medical team," ECB said in a statement.

Curran's brother, Tom, has been drafted into England's squad for the T20 World Cup. In addition, Surrey's Reece Topley has been added as a travelling reserve. Topley will join the England party in due course.

Meanwhile, the England players and management not at the IPL arrived at their Muscat base on Tuesday and will remain in Oman until October 16 before moving to Dubai for the start of the tournament.

England will open their campaign in the 2021 edition of the tournament against the defending champions West Indies at the Abu Dhabi Stadium on October 23. England will play arch rivals Australia on October 30 in Dubai International Stadium and will face South Africa in Sharjah on November 6. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by December 2021 reaching \$79.48, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.35 from the price of Monday, which was at \$77.13. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,947.56 points, up 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.2613 per cent at 578.24 points. Bank Muscat was the top gainer, up by 3.1413 per cent. While Dhofar International Development, down 7.5613 per cent, was the top loser.

Khazaen signs major investment pacts with two leading companies

The signing of the agreements reflects the continuous successes achieved by Khazaen Economic City in attracting Omani and foreign investors, especially after the completion of the first phase of the infrastructure works

MUSCAT: Khazaen Economic City has announced the signing of new investment agreements with two of Oman's leading companies.

Under the first agreement, Salalah Mills Company will lease 20,000 m² of industrial land to set up an integrated food production



COLLABORATION: The agreements were signed by Eng. Salim Suleiman Al Thuhli, CEO, Khazaen and CEOs of Salalah Mills Company and Al Hilal Industrial Group. - **ONA**

facility. The second agreement with Al Hilal Industrial Group will see the company establish an industrial project to manufacture plastic and fibreglass materials, apart from a logistical project to set up the group's warehouses on a total area of 30,000m².

The agreements were signed by Eng. Salim Suleiman Al Thuhli, CEO, Khazaen and CEOs of both companies.

Commenting on the signings,

Eng. Thuhli said, "We are pleased to welcome both Salalah Mills Company and Al Hilal Industrial Group to Khazaen Economic City, which is witnessing rapid growth and seeing increasing demand among various companies and investors. These projects are of great importance to the local market and Khazaen. We are delighted with our success in attracting such projects. This reflects the investors' confidence in Khazaen and the

services it provides. Khazaen will continue its efforts to attract more investors and quality projects."

Ahmed Alawi Al Dhahab, CEO of Salalah Mills Company, expressed his happiness on signing the agreement for setting up the food processing unit which is estimated to cost about OMR12 million.

He said that the first phase of the project will include an industrial laboratory and production lines for frozen and semi-cooked

pastries. In the second phase, new production lines for frozen cakes, snacks, noodles and biscuits will be added. Production at the facility is expected to start by mid-2023.

He added, "Khazaen Economic City high-quality infrastructure, the attractive incentives and facilities it provides along with its strategic location were taken into consideration at the time of selecting it as the ideal location for our projects."

Sheikh Khalil Ibrahim Al Hinai, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Al Hilal Industrial Group, said "We are pleased to sign this agreement, through which we aim to establish an industrial project specialising in the production of plastic and fibreglass materials, in addition to another logistical project to set up warehouses for the Group on a total area of 30,000m². These projects are part of the group's local expansion plans."

Among the numerous advantages Khazaen Economic City offers is its world-class infrastructure, ease of procedures, incentives and facilities that are attracting investors. The city is also known for its strategic location, which ensures easy connectivity and quick access to Oman's various land, sea and airports.

The signing of these agreements reflects the continuous successes

achieved by Khazaen Economic City in attracting Omani and foreign investors, especially after the completion of the first phase of the infrastructure works. Many have moved in since the inauguration of the capital city of Muscat, is only 30 minutes from Muscat International Airport and around two hours from Sohar Port.

Khazaen is Oman's most recent integrated economic city being developed in the Wilayat of Barka, South Al Batinah Governorate. The city, strategically located near the capital city of Muscat, is only 30 minutes from Muscat International Airport and around two hours from Sohar Port.

Khazaen will be linked through the proposed railway project in the future, making it an ideal location with multimodal transport options. Khazaen is the ideal logistics, warehousing, light industrial and commercial hub linking the main modes of transportation in and out of Oman.

The new integrated economic city is the home of Oman's first dry port which has been recently inaugurated, besides multi-mix residential units, entertainment facilities, retail outlets, international schools and modern healthcare centres which will offer all residents a community where they can efficiently conduct business, work, life and play.

- **ONA**

CYCLONE SHAHEEN

Bank Muscat announces OMR1mn donation

MUSCAT: In solidarity with national relief efforts, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced the contribution of OMR1 million to relief efforts being undertaken to bring urgent assistance and support to people affected by the devastation brought about by the recent tropical storm Shaheen. The bank's contribution will be channelised through the Oman Charitable Organisation.

In addition, the bank will also provide an OMR20 million portfolio as 'interest/profit-free' Shaheen loans to those who were directly impacted by the cyclone. The loans will be for 1 year and can be availed within the next three months. Omani customers whose properties in the North and South Batinah region have been damaged are eligible to apply for these interest/profit free loans ranging from OMR500 up to OMR4,000. The bank will accept loan applications till December 31, while loan repayments are scheduled to commence from January 2022.

Cyclone-impacted customers in North and South Batinah, who are not beneficiaries of the current COVID-19 deferment



Sheikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani

scheme, have also been given an option to request a three-month deferment in repayments. Deferments for existing loans/financing will be accepted until October 30. Those who wish to defer their existing loan/financing payments or apply for the special Shaheen loan may do so at branches from October 10 onwards.

On this occasion, Sheikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani, Chair-

The bank will also provide an OMR20 million portfolio as 'interest/profit-free' Shaheen loans to those who were directly impacted by the cyclone

man of the bank's Board of Directors, said, "The past few days have seen many challenges because of exceptionally adverse weather conditions. We take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate the extensive and valiant efforts made by government institutions and individuals in our society to support those affected during this difficult period. Extending our utmost support at this time is a national duty and social respon-

sibility, and Bank Muscat will always participate in efforts that serve and support our beloved nation. We would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of those affected by this storm and pray that the Almighty bless them with peace and strength to overcome their losses. We pray that the Almighty Allah helps us overcome these circumstances and protects our beloved nation and its people from all harm."

In line with its leading role in corporate social responsibility and keenness to foster a spirit of cooperation, partnership and brotherhood in society, Bank Muscat has been regularly participating in many national and community-oriented initiatives. Previously, the bank donated OMR2 million towards combating the impact of COVID-19. Recently, Bank Muscat also strengthened its partnership with several NGOs to support social welfare families. The bank continues to launch new programmes and initiatives in partnership with governmental institutions and civil society organisations to help achieve national development goals as part of its long-term strategy.

AUGUST END

Active mobile broadband subscriptions rise by 7.5%

MUSCAT: The total fixed internet subscriptions in the Sultanate reached 510,151 by the end of August 2021 while the number of fixed internet subscriptions via internet protocol increased by 4.7 per cent, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Of this, total fixed telephone line subscriptions reached 577,450 by the end of August 2021, comprising a decline of 0.4 per cent compared to the same period of 2020. Further, prepaid and postpaid analogue fixed telephone lines fell by 4.9 per cent to 284,927 subscribers compared to the same period of 2020. The number of fixed internet subscriptions via internet protocol stood at 235,494.

The number of active broadband subscribers stood at 5,038,540 by the end of August 2021 comprising a rise by 7.5 per cent compared to August 2020, NCSI data shows.

ISDN channel subscriptions rose by 3.9 per cent to 48,987. Fixed wireless subscriptions reached 1,241 by the end of August 2021, comprising a drop of 15.5 per cent. Public payphones stood at 6,801 by



the end of August 2021.

The total number of mobile phone subscriptions decreased by 3.4 per cent by the end of August 2021 reaching 5,867,729. Of those, prepaid mobile phone subscriptions came first with 4,667,979 comprising a decrease of 10.4 per cent compared to the end of August 2020. The number of subscribers through service providers reached 3,679,924 while the subscriptions through resellers stood at 988,055. - **ONA**

SHARE MARKET

Asian stocks fall to near 1-year low

SINGAPORE: Asian shares suffered heavy losses early on Tuesday following a broad sell-off on Wall Street, as markets fretted about the impact of multi-year high oil prices at a time when supply chain disruptions are already putting pressure on economic activity.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dropped as much as 1.3 per cent, falling for a third consecutive session. Japan stocks were down 2.8 per cent, South Korea gave up 2.5 per cent and Australia shed 1 per cent.

"Investors are clearly worried about inflation due to supply chain disruptions and the rally in energy prices," said Vasu Menon, executive director of investment strategy at OCBC Bank, according to a media report.

The drop in markets took MSCI's main benchmark to 619.87, the lowest since November 2020. It has shed more than 5 per cent this year, with Hong Kong and Japanese markets among the big losers. - **BNA**



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MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Bank Muscat was the top gainer, up by 3.1413 per cent. Dhofar International Development, down 7.5613 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,947.56 points, up 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.2613 per cent at 578.24 points. Bank Muscat was the top gainer, up by 3.1413 per cent, while Dhofar International Development, down 7.5613 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 315 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.8 million, with more than 9.6 million shares changing hands. Out of 31 traded securities, 5 advanced, 11 declined and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, local investors were net buyers for OMR423,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR254,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR169,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,247 points, up 0.1913 per cent. Prices of Bank Muscat and National Bank Oman were up 3.1413 per cent and 1.0813 per cent respectively. Sohar International was the only loser by 1.1113 per cent. Industrial Index closed at 6,251.66 points, up 0.0213 per cent. Price of Al Maha Ceramics and Al Anwar Ceramics were up 2.2613 per cent and 1.2413 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.2713 per cent before closing at 1,692.69 points. Ooredoo and Al Suwadi Power were down 2.0513 per cent and 1.9613 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	3,952.49	3,939.93	3,947.56	3,942.50	5.06	0.13
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,247.75	6,232.12	6,247.75	6,235.67	12.08	0.19
Industry Index	6,266.21	6,251.67	6,251.67	6,250.56	1.11	0.02
Services Index	1,699.84	1,692.69	1,692.69	1,697.29	-4.59	-0.27
MSX Shariah Index	579.74	576.83	578.25	579.74	-1.49	-0.26
MSX TR INDEX	4,750.49	4,735.39	4,744.57	4,738.48	6.08	0.13

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,615,619	2,808,617	315	22,037,482,011	5	11	15	31

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	3,211,799	1,474,288	47	0.478	0.478	0.450	0.460	0.446	0.014	3.139	0.458	0.458	0.460	0.1001	644,258,404
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	188,100	101,766	17	0.540	0.544	0.540	0.542	0.530	0.012	2.264	0.544	0.538	0.544	0.100	29,810,000
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	57,143	27,886	2	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.482	0.006	1.245	0.488	0.470	0.488	0.100	107,360,000
OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	20,593	15,648	7	0.760	0.760	0.756	0.760	0.760	0.000	0.000	0.756	0.760	0.756	0.100	119,700,000
OM0000001525 OMAN INVEST. FIN.	274,547	38,437	9	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.150	0.100	33,180,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	19,000	4,306	4	0.226	0.227	0.226	0.227	0.227	0.000	0.000	0.227	0.220	0.227	0.100	75,108,100
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	166,000	18,647	8	0.112	0.113	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	22,400,000
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	80	9	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.107	0.114	0.100	220,311,294
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	3,087	1,173	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.386	0.386	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.390	0.100	23,624,849
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	73,351	53,997	7	0.740	0.740	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.000	0.000	0.736	0.728	0.736	0.100	552,000,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER	825,000	387,750	2	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.000	0.000	0.470	0.458	0.470	0.100	111,112,700
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	42,330	13,198	10	0.318	0.318	0.308	0.312	0.314	-0.002	-0.637	0.308	0.308	0.318	0.100	252,024,967
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	59,000	21,122	4	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.362	-0.004	-1.105	0.358	0.352	0.360	0.100	44,713,470
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT. BANK	198,397	14,813	6	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.090	0.088	0.091	0.100	298,115,544
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	358,206	21,159	15	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	18,121,633
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	247,019	94,120	10	0.390	0.390	0.380	0.382	0.390	-0.008	-2.051	0.380	0.380	0.400	0.100	248,660,696
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	65,238	16,322	5	0.256	0.256	0.250	0.250	0.256	-0.006	-2.344	0.250	0.250	0.260	0.100	50,000,000
Total	17	5,774,830	2,304,638	155											

Parallel Market

OM0000006979 OMAN QATAR INSUR.	735,300	123,214	31	0.168	0.168	0.167	0.168	0.166	0.002	1.205	0.168	0.168	0.175	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	802,500	150,068	16	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.185	0.002	1.081	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.100	304,051,969
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	37,725	3,393	2	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	180,028,151
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	420,000	49,140	3	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.120	0.100	350,573,118
OM0000002572 OMAN OIL MARKETING	100	101	1	1.010	1.010	1.010	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	1.010	0.900	1.000	0.100	56,373,000
OM0000002580 OMAN EDU TRAINING	3,000	780	1	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.251	0.251	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.235	0.200	0.100	17,570,000
OM0000003521 GULFAR ENGINEER	511	39	1	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.069	0.083	0.100	15,426,970
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	2,110	196	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	44,000	2,034	3	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	67,279,667
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	170,000	9,690	8	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.100	19,901,231
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	30,000	1,500	2	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.051	-0.001	-1.961	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	35,720,317
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	44,102	6,294	6	0.144	0.144	0.142	0.143	0.147	-0.004	-2.721	0.142	0.141	0.142	0.100	4,800,717
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	1,544,402	155,983	84	0.104	0.104	0.100	0.101	0.104	-0.003	-2.885	0.100	0.101	0.101	0.100	17,675,000
OM0000001509 DHOFAR INT	7,039	1,549	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.238	-0.018	-7.563	0.220	0.000	0.240	0.100	90,034,190
Total	14	3,840,789	503,979	160											

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Australia's trade surplus surprises with record high on commodity demand

SYDNEY: Australia's trade surplus unexpectedly grew to a record in August as strength in liquefied natural gas and coal exports more than offset a pullback in iron ore prices, a windfall to mining profits and tax receipts. Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics out on Tuesday showed the surplus on inter-

national trade jumped to A\$15.1 billion (\$11.0 billion) in August, from A\$12.7 billion the month before. That was the highest on record and confounded analysts' forecasts of a drop to A\$10.3 billion, a media reported. Exports climbed 4.1 per cent in the month to A\$48.5 billion led by LNG, hard coking coal and thermal

coal, courtesy of strong energy demand in Asia. Both prices and volumes were higher, eclipsing a sharp fall in prices for iron ore, Australia's number one export earner. Demand for energy in Asia has only got hotter as shortages of electricity in China led to blackouts and countries compete for LNG and coal shipments ahead of winter. —BNA

REPORT

China's banking sector expected to see 10% profit growth

BEIJING: Chinese commercial banks are likely to see their net profits grow by around 10 per cent in the third and fourth quarters of 2021, boosted by the stability brought about by economic recovery, forecast the Bank of China Research Institute in a recent report. Since the third quarter of the year, commercial banks continued to improve their balance sheets and focused on the transition from expanding scale to enhancing quality, with operating performance steadily improving, the report noted. For the fourth quarter, the banking sector is likely to see its business scale maintain fast growth, said the report. Meanwhile, financial resources will flow into more key areas and weak links, supporting small and micro enterprises, rural vitalisation, manufacturing, technological innovation and green development. In terms of asset quality, the report predicted that the bad loan ratio of commercial banks will fall yearly, while outstanding bad loans will slightly increase. Striking a cautious note, the report pointed out that clients from the real estate, low-end manufacturing as well as wholesale and retail sectors are likely to put pressure on the asset quality of the banks. —Xinhua

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JOB VACANCIES

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Responsibilities:

- To manage operations and production of the restaurant.
- To liaise with the respective Government/ Statutory Authorities to procure the necessary licenses and documentations.
- To lead the operations and production team to deliver within specific standards and schedules required.
- To manage overall costs including material, equipment, manpower, etc.
- To manage production planning, forecasting, purchasing and stock control.
- To maintain and improve the overall performance of the restaurant on a regular basis including cost analysis and monitoring of processes.
- Provide on-job coaching and guidance to team members, managing their performance to ensure a smooth operation.
- To work along with the Marketing team to develop Marketing Strategies and Promotion plans to successfully market the restaurant in the relevant media platform.
- Manage and supervise the food & beverage staff to ensure maximum utilization of the manpower allocated.
- Ensure strict compliance with all relevant Hygiene and Safety legislation and requirements.
- To maintain close, professional and effective links with all external contractors/suppliers to ensure that they deliver to mutually accepted agreements and highest quality levels.
- To handle responsibilities for the special orders made at the restaurant. It involves all planning associated with each event, right through to delivery.

Educational Qualifications & Experience:

- Post Graduate/Graduate or equivalent qualification.
- Minimum 05 years of experience in a supervisory level at F&B, Catering, Hotels and Hospitality establishments.
- Knowledge of food hygiene and Health and Safety requirements.
- A good understanding of quality assurance, procedures and protocols.
- Excellent communication skills both verbally and written English/ Arabic.

Key Skills Required:

- Excellent co-ordination skills
- Strong presentation and communication skills, verbal and written.
- Effective planning, management and organizing skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with internal teams and external suppliers and customers.
- Must possess neat and pleasant grooming habits.
- Proactive approach to problem solving.
- Change orientated to make business improvements.

If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at oman2020marketing@gmail.com

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SPACE MARKETING
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- Explain pricing costs to potential clients and negotiate a fee, if necessary.
- Account manage an existing client

to ensure their needs are satisfied and they are happy with the service.

- Work with production teams to ensure that agreed advertisements are carried in the right place and at the right time.
- Track purchases and keep record of sales, contacts and deals.
- Work to maximize sales and meet targets.
- Deliver sales reports to management.

Key Skills: Excellent telephone manner, ability to persuade clients, outgoing, and sociable

Education: Any degree, candidates with marketing background will be preferred.

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for a reputed organization

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2	Plant & Equipment Incharge	8 yrs	Handling of heavy equipment
3	Site Engineer (Mechanical / Civil Engr)	7-8 yrs	Relevant exp in Water PipeLine (DI, HDPE, GRE, GRP & MS)
4	Foreman	8 yrs	Civil/Mech exp

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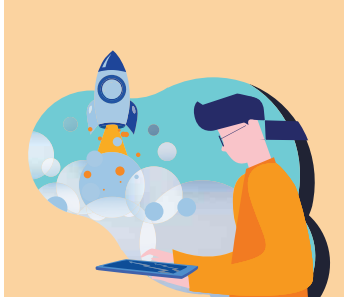
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Email: sherin.am01@gmail.com

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Email: nisarg_shah35@yahoo.com

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abdulrasheedlulu@gmail.com

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with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement

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Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

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GSM: 92334161

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Female with 13yrs of experience in HR/Admin or Similar field is looking for job opportunities. Available to start immediately.
CONTACT 79285929

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Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Also having Experience in Education Industry (India) in a senior Management Position. Presently in Muscat (family visa).
Contact 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

MEP Supervisor

Indian male, 36years old, diploma graduate having 15+years of Oman experience in MEP supervisor role in an excellent grade construction and trading company with good practical knowledge, have MEDC, CEP, MEDC Electrician license. NOC available, is looking for suitable opening. Oman D/L.
Contact +968 96135973
Email kddhaya2@gmail.com

HSE OFFICER

Indian HSE Officer, diploma in Mechanical Engineering & Diploma in fire and safety engineering. NEBOSH, OSHA AND QA/QC Holder. 5 years Experience in HSE seeks suitable placement.
Contact 7974 3601

ADMIN / FINANCE

Indian male, MBA (Finance), having D/L, 22 years exp in finalization in Accounts, Internal auditing, MIS and Admin in various sectors. 15 years exp in Gulf & 13 Years in Oman looking for a suitable SR position.
GSM: 96974637
Email: goutam14b@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male 39 years, B.com, having 14 years Gulf experience as Accountant. Looking for suitable placement. Having Oman driving license and NOC available.
Contact: 97998397
Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

Chemical Engineering

Knowledge of quality control, process control, simulation, refinery operations with GCC resident visa and a valid GCC D/L. Currently doing Nebosh IGC course seeks suitable placement.
Contact: 72201210/93379169
Email: waasifkaruthedath@gmail.com

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Email: mollythomas53@rediffmail.com

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Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

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Pakistani young man having 07 yrs Oman exp. in purchase/procurement as senior level with master degree, looking for suitable placement. NOC & VDL is available. Contact 92587919, jahanzeb_athar@yahoo.com

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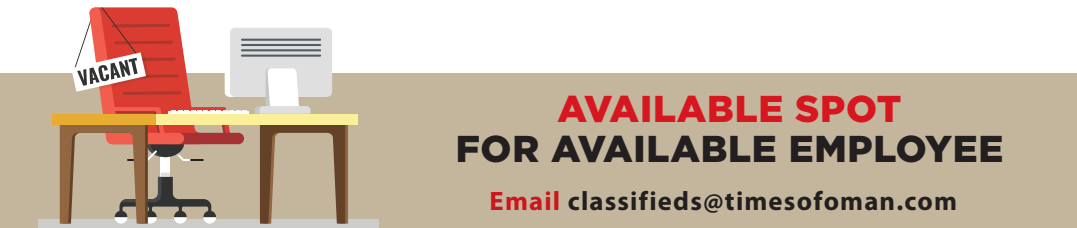
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EASY WAYS TO SNEAK HEALTHY FATS INTO YOUR NUTRITIONAL DRINKS

Smoothies are ideal as an on-the-go breakfast or snack. And many people agree that there's no better way to wake yourself up without the caffeine crash than a bulletproof coffee. But for the ultimate health boost, it's important to make sure that your nutritional drinks contain healthy fats.

Healthy monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats are good for your cholesterol levels, your heart, and your general health. They can help cut the risk of heart disease, stroke, atherosclerosis, and inflammation. What's more, adding healthy fats to smoothie bowls and blended drinks keeps you feeling satisfied and energised for longer.

But you can hardly add some salmon or mackerel to your morning smoothie. So, how can you sneak in healthy fats to ensure your smoothie is as delicious as it is nutritious?

Avocado
You might be more accustomed to putting avocado on your toast for a savoury snack or quick breakfast. But avocados work well in sweet smoothie recipes too.

And, unlike other fruits, which are almost all carbs, avocados are full of fat.

Many people steer clear of avocados because of their high calorie count, but around 77 per cent of these calories come from healthy fats. The main fatty acid found in

avocados is a monounsaturated fat called oleic acid. As well as a host of other health benefits, oleic acid promotes cognitive function and fights infection.

These benefits make it a great way to support your brain and your immune system for a physical and mental health boost.

Add around a quarter of an avocado per smoothie serving for a delicious and creamy treat that's packed full of healthy fats.

Nut Butter
Many nuts, including cashews, peanuts, almonds, and hazelnuts, are great sources of monounsaturated fat, while walnuts are high in polyunsaturated fat. This high healthy fat content makes a sprinkling of nuts a great addition to stir-fries, rice dishes, and salads. But, most people find that nut butters are easier to blend into a smoothie for a quick hit of healthy fats and protein.

For a great-tasting classic smoothie, combine frozen banana, cashew butter, and a splash of plant milk. Or, if you're looking for a delicious high protein, post-workout snack, combine chocolate-flavoured protein powder, nut butter, and kefir to crush your hunger and keep you feeling energised for longer.

For those of you who are keen to try bulletproof coffee but don't eat butter, blend a tablespoon of nut butter with your coffee instead. This way, you can reap the benefits of mental clarity, long-lasting

energy, and appetite suppression while also getting a boost of healthy fats.

Seeds
Small but mighty, seeds pack in protein, vitamins, minerals, and a good dose of healthy fats. And, whether you blend them in with the other ingredients or sprinkle them on top, it couldn't be easier to add seeds to your nutritional drinks and smoothie bowls.

Some of the best seeds for smoothies include chia seeds, hemp seeds, flax seeds, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seeds. Chia seeds work especially well as they're smaller than most seeds. Plus, chia seeds are around 80 per cent fat, packing in plenty of alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), as well as lots of fibre and a range of minerals.

Add hemp seeds instead and you'll reap the benefits of the anti-inflammatory fatty acid, gamma-linolenic acid (GLA). Or, try flax seeds in your smoothie for a boost of fibre, omega-3 fats, and the antioxidant, lignan.

Plant Milks
Cow's milk might be the milk with the most complete and balanced source of protein, fat, and calories. But, if you prefer a splash of plant milk in your smoothies, you'll be pleased to hear that certain plant milks are great options for adding some healthy fats into the mix.

Soy milk packs in a lot more protein than nuts milks, plus it

contains heart-healthy polyunsaturated fat. In contrast, cashew milk and almond milk contain monounsaturated fats and tend to be lower in calories. Hemp milk is another dairy alternative that's worth considering. Unlike other plant milks, hemp milk contains complete proteins with the full range of amino acids, as well as polyunsaturated fat and some monounsaturated fat too.

That said, whatever plant milk you prefer in your smoothies, make sure to choose an unsweetened version to reap the most health benefits.

Oil
Adding oil to a smoothie might sound scary, not to mention a little gross.

But, adding a spoonful of certain oils to your blended drinks can actually enhance the taste and improve the texture.

Extra virgin olive oil (EVOO), for example, won't make your berry blast smoothie taste like oil. Instead, EVOO brings out the flavour of the ingredients you've used. It also makes your smoothie taste, well, smoother.

What's more, you reap more of olive oil's many benefits when you use it in low or no-heat recipes like smoothies rather than in cooking.

Other oils with a good dose of healthy fats include avocado oil, pumpkin seed oil, and hemp oil. But, the delicate flavour of flaxseed oil makes it one of the best oils for smoothies. —ARTICLECITY



FEATURE



ACADEMY MUSEUM OPENS IN HOLLYWOOD

A new home for E.T. and countless other cinema-related iconic items: Los Angeles has finally fulfilled its dream of establishing an industry museum.



Film buffs will now have a new pilgrimage site to visit in Los Angeles besides Hollywood’s legendary Walk of Fame.

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures finally opened its doors on September 30, after many delays.

It was founded by the US film organisation of the same name that hosts the renowned Academy Awards. The annual awards ceremony is one of the world’s most spectacular media events, with the Oscar — a gold-plated statuette — considered the industry’s most prestigious award.

The US film industry had already begun pushing for its own museum as far back as 1929, two years after the Academy was founded. But those plans soon fizzled out, with a later attempt in the 1960s falling through too. Cinema was probably not ready then for its own museum.

The 2008 financial crisis saw the venture faltering again, but a few years later, plans for a Hollywood museum finally gained

momentum. The prestige project took almost 10 years, and the inauguration of the museum was postponed several times, most recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now it has finally come to fruition. “Our inaugural exhibitions and programs tell the celebratory and diverse stories of filmmaking — the technology, artists, history and social impact on our past and present — while not shying away from critical perspectives that can only enrich our future,” said Bill Kramer, director and president of the museum, in a press statement.

Prestige project

The Academy has spared no expense and effort and built itself an impressive institution, which actually consists of two buildings. The fully renovated historic May Company building — now renamed the Saban Building — dates back to 1939. It is connected via three largely transparent bridges to a dome made of glass, steel and concrete called the Sphere. and perfect acoustics.

It is the brainchild of Pritzker Prize-winning star architect

Renzo Piano, who became famous for buildings such as the Centre Pompidou in Paris and London’s triangular skyscraper, The Shard.

If Piano hadn’t become an architect, he said in a press statement, he could have become a filmmaker. Thus, his work on the Academy Museum gave him the opportunity to combine both passions.

The Academy also paid tribute to the Tongva, the indigenous people who lived in this area long before it became a glitzy film center. “We honor and respect the Tongva ancestors and the Tongva community who have nurtured this land and water through traditional practices, commitment, art and education, and have worked to protect cultural resources,” the Academy said in a letter.

Objects of film history

“My personal highlight in the museum is the Aries 1B from Stanley Kubrick’s 2001: A Space Odyssey,” Jessica Niebel, former curator of the German Film Museum and now curator at the new Academy Museum in Los Angeles, told DW.

Single favourite exhibit

But picking a single favourite exhibit in the museum is definitely a challenge. By its own account, the Academy owns the largest collection of film-related items in the world, including more than 13 million photographs, 250,000 film and video recordings, 71,000 scripts, 67,000 posters and 137,000 works of art, remnants of film sets, storyboards, newspaper clippings, personal correspondence and bequests from Hollywood icons such as Alfred Hitchcock and Katharine Hepburn.

Some of these are now on display in the new museum, such as the head of the creature from Alien (1979), animation masks from Tim Burton’s film The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993), the typewriter on which Joseph Stefano wrote the screenplay for Psycho (1960), and Judy Garland’s shoes, which she wore as Dorothy Gale in The Wizard of Oz.

Some printed and research materials from the Margaret Herrick Library will also be on temporary display, such as a page of the screenplay adaptation of To Kill

a Mockingbird (1962), on which lead actor Gregory Peck had jotted down all sorts of notes.

But the museum also highlights not-so-glorious moments. There’s the 1940 Academy Awards, for example, when Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American to win an Oscar for her supporting role in the Southern epic Gone with the Wind. At the awards, however, she was not allowed to sit at the same table as the team because of her skin color; she was actually relegated to the back of the room.

Costumes and makeup

Another example of racism is also addressed. In the area exhibiting costumes and makeup, there is an installation with the makeup that white actors used to paint their faces dark for the screen. Labels on make-up cans bear designations such as “Chinese” and “Black (Minstrel).” Minstrel shows were American theatrical performances developed in the 19th century where white entertainers caricatured African-Americans.

Not wanting to focus only on

the US film industry, the Academy Museum has dedicated its first temporary retrospective to Hayao Miyazaki, the Japanese director and grand master of animated film, or anime. He is credited with bringing animated films to the fore at the major film festivals in Cannes, Venice, and Berlin.

A co-founder of the legendary Studio Ghibli, Miyazaki created films such as My Neighbor Totoro, Kiki’s Little Delivery Service and Ponyo. Miyazaki’s world of animation, which is alternately touching, imaginative, childlike, and educational, can now be viewed at the museum.

“He is one of the most important and influential filmmakers of our time, still active even though he is over 80,” says Jessica Niebel, who adds that there aren’t any other Hayao Miyazaki exhibitions in the world, making theirs exclusive.

The show also allows the new institution “to emphasize that we are a film museum dedicated to international filmmakers, not just US films, and certainly not just Hollywood.” —DW

ROUND-UP

Renault Dokker combines best features of comfort and dynamic performance

Practical and spacious, functional utility vehicle

Renault Dokker has found many takers in Oman

MUSCAT: Designed to be extremely functional Renault Dokker is a harmonious and dynamic utility vehicle with great design. Offering easy loading, quick access to objects, side door, on-board multimedia system, and more Renault Dokker combines the best features of space, comfort, and dynamic performance.

Practical and spacious, functional utility vehicle Renault Dokker has found many takers in Oman.

Saeed Al Hinai says that Renault Dokker Van competently rises to the challenge of meeting his day-to-day needs. "Its 750 kg payload is



invaluable for a businessman like me," he says.

Saeed Al Hinai is impressed with its easy loading feature. "The Dokker Van comes with one or two sliding side doors and the loading width stands at 703 mm! The asymmetrical rear doors, meanwhile, open to a width of 1.08 m which is especially useful. Its lashing rings on the floor hold fragile items perfectly in place," he says.

Sulieman Al Jabri from Ibra welcomed the robust performance

of the vehicle's engine.

"The 1.6L 85hp Euro 4 engine that powers Dokker shows consumption levels among the lowest in its class, without having to resort to expensive and complex technologies or sacrificing performance," he says.

He further added, The Dokker Van will exceed your expectations. Its loading area is equipped with 8 lashing rings on the floor, ensuring that your most fragile items are firmly held in place. For

added security, you can choose between 3 types of partition: tubular, full glazed or pivoting wire-mesh (associated with Easy Seat). The side and rear doors can be either panelled or glazed. And for even greater efficacy, the Dokker Van is available with side panels and a robust, stylish boot carpet.

Zaid Al Balushi from Muscat appreciates that Renault Dokker is sturdy and reliable. "The best part of Renault Dokker is that it acclimates to all circumstances. Its

features including ABS & BA, ESP, TPMS, dual airbags make it a top-range car," he says.

A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, "Renault Dokker Van has everything to make its owner's work easier. To enhance efficiency, it provides owners with audio streaming and Bluetooth hands-free calling. Renault Dokker is a very efficient and dynamic vehicle. That is why it has found so many fans. Its 1.6 MPI 85 hp engine is efficient both in consumption and cost of usage. The engine allows for a very dynamic driving at a cost that is amongst the most frugal."

Driving comfort

Renault offers you a vehicle up to 3.9 m3, equipped as a saloon car, as robust as a utility vehicle and as practical as a Dokker van. Accessibility, loading volume and driving comfort - the Renault Dokker Van is packed with benefits and nice surprises.

Practical storage

Renault Dokker Van has everything to make the owner's work easier: 4 x 20 W radio, audio streaming and Bluetooth hands-free calling.

Practicality and versatility

Available, open and spacious, the Renault Dokker aims to please, with an innate sense of practicality and versatility.

It can take all kinds of loads, assisted by XL sliding side doors (more than 70 cm wide) and two asymmetrical rear doors.

Meeting the challenges of transport and delivery with ingenuity and panache, the Renault Dokker Van moves with the times: its economical engine, low CO2 emissions and respect for both the environment and budget make it a truly model employee.

Lashing rings

Exceed expectations, Dokker's loading area is equipped with eight lashing rings on the floor, ensuring that your most fragile items are firmly held in place.

For added security, owners can choose between three types of partition: tubular, full glazed or pivoting wire-mesh (associated with Easy Seat). The side and rear doors can be either panelled or glazed. And for even greater efficiency, the Dokker Van is available with side panels and a robust, stylish boot carpet.

PROMOTION

Pioneering Lexus RX available with exclusive benefits



MUSCAT: Customers looking forward to owning an RX can make the most of the best time now and benefit with free service 4 years / 40,000km and free registration (Conditions apply. Please visit your nearest Lexus showroom for details). The offer ends on October 21.

The Lexus RX is powered by a choice of two powertrains. The RX 350 model is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 petrol engine, which produces 296 HP and 37.7 Kg.M

of torque and is paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission. Meanwhile, the RX 450h hybrid variant is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 petrol engine and two electric motors and produces a combined system output of 308 hp. The RX Hybrid is available with a hybrid battery warranty of 8 years or 1,60,000 km, whichever is earlier.

The Lexus RX 450h can be driven in EV drive mode to reduce noise while driving in residential areas

and to reduce exhaust gas in indoor parking lots and garages or through a combination of its petrol engine and two electric motors, depending on the vehicle's speed and customer's driving behaviour. The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. A host of advanced technologies ensure the RX 450h drives like any other

conventional vehicle, while not requiring special fuel.

The Lexus RX is available in 5 & 7-seater configurations. The Lexus RX embraces Lexus' reputation for engaging performance.

The engineering team has scrutinised every part of the vehicle and has made significant enhancements to the rigidity of the body and suspension system, as well as the shock absorber and brake-control system.



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ROUND-UP

Customers captivated by Nissan Sentra’s efficiency, performance

It offers drivers the spaciousness and comfort of cars usually found in the larger segment, as well as technology usually associated with much more expensive cars

MUSCAT: Nissan Sentra with its upscale look, layers of refinement and great fuel economy is highly appreciated by loyal customers. Its attractive look, luxurious interiors and Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies further add to its attractiveness. Nissan Sentra is available with 1.8L engine generating maximum power of 130 HP. It also offers best in class fuel efficient 16.3 km/l.

It offers drivers the spaciousness and comfort of cars usually found in the larger segment, as well as technology usually associated with much more expensive cars. Its features stand out attributes such as Xtronic CVT transmission, 16-inch alloy wheel, rear spoiler, power-adjustable outside rear mirror, rear LED combination lamps, anti-lock braking system, power window, cruise control, rear parking sensor, eco indicator and class-leading roominess.



Stressing that Nissan Sentra is a best-in-class family sedan Taamir Al Wahaibi says, “It is a rear car since it offers best-in-class fuel economy which is what everyone looks when buying a car. It has great visual appeal and fantastic interiors which delivers a luxurious and urbane appearance. I truly enjoy driving this car which offers

so many additional features.”

Sentra’s 4-cylinder engine offers advanced valve timing to its next-generation Xtronic CVT® transmission. Sentra is a technical tour de force aimed at providing the best of both worlds – efficiency and performance. The result is that it offers the best-in-class fuel economy that sets the standard.

Othman Al Haddabi said, “The Nissan Sentra’s design has been perfected to create a shape that is as fuel-efficient as it is refined.”

Mazoun Al-Kamal says Nissan Sentra completely redefines what an affordable car can be. “I also appreciate Sentra’s exterior which combines a sense of classiness with its refined style and proportions.”

Shaima Al Zedjali likes Nissan Sentra due to its class-leading looks, safety and spaciousness on the inside.

An official from Nissan Oman said, “Customers are captivated by Nissan Sentra’s new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology making it one of the brand’s top sellers and most

recognised nameplates.”

Nissan Sentra

Nissan’s next-generation Xtronic CVT® transmission guarantees Sentra is always running in the right gear. That means better fuel efficiency, smooth acceleration, and seamless shifting. Proudly wearing the Nissan Pure Drive badge, Sentra is living proof of Nissan’s commitment to providing more environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient cars.

The Sentra 1.8L engine is designed to excel. With its longer stroke and Twin CVTC (Continuously Variable Valve Timing Control) System on intake and exhaust valves, it offers greater combustion efficiency and maximum fuel economy. Sentra’s engine is very durable but lightweight, giving great performance and power without being a burden to the car.

Interior luxury

It’s important to be surrounded by things you love. Soft-touch materials throughout the cabin, along with unexpected available luxuries like wood-tone trim and perforated leather-appointed seats, come together to create a very personal space.

Book a home test drive

Nissan Oman is extending a ‘book a home test drive’ service for its prospective customers. The service enables potential customers to schedule their test drives online at their convenience. A home test drive can be booked simply by logging on to the official SBA Nissan Oman website or through customer service toll-free number 80050011.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Bank Nizwa provides OMR250,000 relief for families affected by Cyclone Shaheen

MUSCAT: In alignment with His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik’s directive, in response to the national call and keeping with its commitment to social responsibility, the Board of Directors at Bank Nizwa, Oman’s leading and most trusted Islamic bank, have pledged to donate OMR250,000 to support families affected by Cyclone Shaheen in the various states and governorates of the Sultanate.

This support is accompanied by the participation of the Bank Nizwa volunteer team “Masoliyati” in distributing food supplies and aid to the affected families in the North Al Batinah Governorate.

Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalili, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Nizwa, said, “Social responsibility is an integral part of our integrated operations in the Bank, as we recognize it as an important means of giving back to the community we operate in, which is in line with the government direction of involving the private sector in the economic and social development of the country.

“As a part of the society, the Board of Directors’ decision came to contribute and help the communities affected by Cyclone Shaheen, and we stand with the people in these challenging times. This is an embodiment of the principles of our religion, which affirms that the society, with its individuals and institutions, is like one body.”

Shaheen was classified as a Category 1 cyclone that caused widespread flooding, amid strong winds and heavy rain, leaving behind several deaths and extensive damage to buildings and streets.

Sheikh Al-Khalili added, “On



behalf of the Bank we express our condolences and sympathy to the families who lost their loved ones due to the natural calamity and we ask Almighty Allah to grant them patience and solace.”

This initiative comes as part of a series of charitable initiatives launched by the bank to serve the community, effectively contributing to alleviate the damage caused by the climatic conditions in the Wilayat of Saham and Al Khaboura. Bank Nizwa was a forerunner in contributing to helping families affected by the weather. The Bank also works continuously to contribute to the development and

service of the community through its strategic programs that take into account the welfare and growth of the community.

Bank Nizwa was recently honoured at the International Islamic Finance Awards with the ‘Local Community Investor’ award as a testament to its efforts and strategic endeavours in the development of society, and realizing the importance of giving back to the community, guided by the principles of Islamic banking that it adopts in all its operations.

Bank Nizwa undertakes the volunteer programme ‘Masoliyati’ which aims to contribute to cre-

ating a better future for individuals and developing communities across the Sultanate.

The bank has always been at the forefront in supporting a range of initiatives and projects that have a positive impact on society which includes educational initiatives, charities registered with the Ministry of Social Development, such as the Omani Association for the Disabled, the Omani Association for the Hearing Impaired, and many others. Additionally, the bank recently collaborated with the Ministry of Education to organise Quran recitation competitions.

ENTREPRENEUR ADEEB AHAMED

Indian-origin businessman appointed to World Tourism Forum’s Advisory Board

MUSCAT: The World Tourism Forum Lucerne has appointed Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi based Twenty14 Holdings, to its Global Advisory Board.

For over 10 years, World Tourism Forum Lucerne (WTFL) has been bringing together industry experts, CEOs, investors and start-ups, establishing itself as a prestigious global platform for exchange. By fostering cross-generational collaboration, new ideas and solutions emerge to benefit tourism today and in the future.



Ahamed, who owns a slew of iconic properties across the world including the Great Scotland Yard in London, Waldorf Astoria- the Caledonian in Edinburgh, Pullman Downtown Dubai and Port Muziris in Kochi among others, joins a select group of the industry’s top stakeholders and decision-makers who will collaborate on solving for future challenges in the travel and tourism industry.

The Advisory Board is an international body of renowned experts responsible for assuring the quality of the World Tourism Forum Lucerne.

It determines the themes for the Forums and decides on the general content by including current global topics and addressing cultural differences.

Some of its prominent members include Franziska Bitzi Staub, Head of Department of Finance, City of Lucerne, Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director & CEO, The Indian Hotels Company Limited, Geoffrey Lipman, Presi-

dent, ICTP (International Council of Tourism Partners), Co-Founder, SUN and Isabel Hill, Director National Travel and Tourism Office, US Department of Commerce Office, among others.

On November 15 and 16, WTFL is hosting an “Innovation Festival” in Andermatt in which Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi based Twenty14 Holdings will also take the stage at the event.

At the hybrid conference, well-known personalities, such as Klaus Schwab (founder of the World Economic Forum), Laura Meyer (CEO Hotelplan), Peter Fankhauser (CEO PETRAF Ltd and former CEO Thomas Cook Group), Shannon Ghuihan (Chief Sustainability Officer at TTC), Niall Ferguson (Historian and Author) and Alex Lampert (CEO GuestReady) will discuss the tourism industry’s current challenges and demonstrate how these can be tackled with forward-thinking solutions.

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