

HM THE SULTAN SENDS WRITTEN MESSAGE TO KING OF KSA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik sent a written message to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).
Full story on A5



HM GREETES PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of the Portuguese Republic on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President de Sousa. His Majesty also wished the friendly Portuguese people further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**

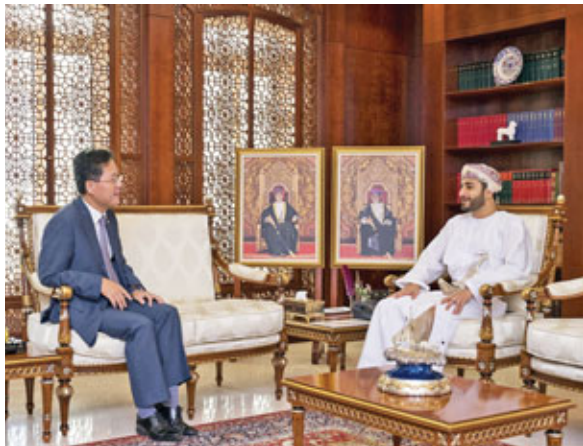


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ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

On HM Orders, Council of Ministers issues decisions on Musandam development



HH SAYYID THEYAZIN RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF KOREA

HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al-Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth received in his office on Wednesday KIM Chang Kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate. The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. It also exchanged views on aspects of the existing cooperation in the cultural, sports and youth fields, as well as means of enhancing cooperation to serve the interests of the two countries. **-ONA**

MUSCAT: Within the context of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik's attention and keenness to achieve comprehensive, sustainable development in the Governorate of Musandam and to bring about economic diversification based on the competitive potential of the Governorate and, to make it more attractive to investment, the Council of Ministers has issued the following decisions:

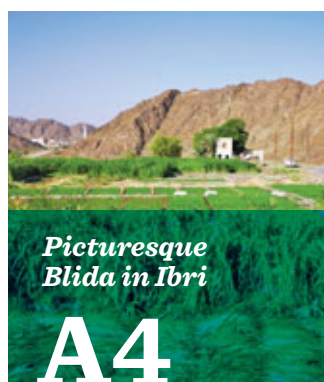
1. To set up a branch for the University of Technology and Applied Sciences that provides a number of specializations.
2. To establish an integrated system of strategic reservoir to achieve security in foods and medicinal drug stocks.
3. To convert the Port of Khasab into a logistics hub in a bid to provide services and facilities that stimulate imports, exports and open direct export routes.



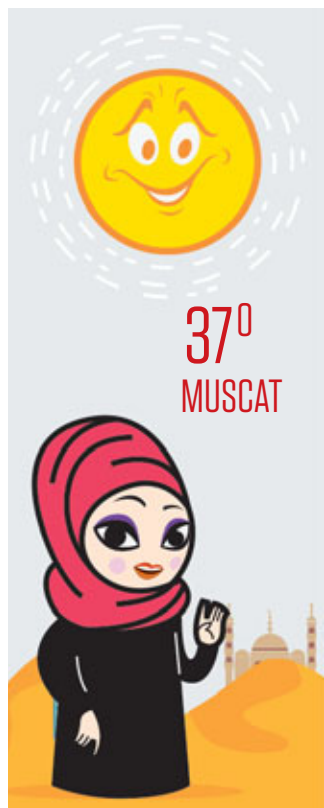
4. To set up specialised economic and tourism zones that act as a propeller of tourism investment and related logistics activity.

Also, to declare the area of Mahas as an economic zone with the purpose of establishing and regulating light and medium industries, along with storage facilities to bolster Khasab Port activity.

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to speed up the implementation of decisions of the Council of Ministers. His Majesty also gave directives to develop a system of management and operation for those economic zones, set frameworks for incentives, enhance competitiveness and propose proper mechanisms to float them for investment. May the Almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan and guard him as a source of inspiration for this country's progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



A4



THREE-FOLD RISE IN COVID CASES WITHIN A MONTH

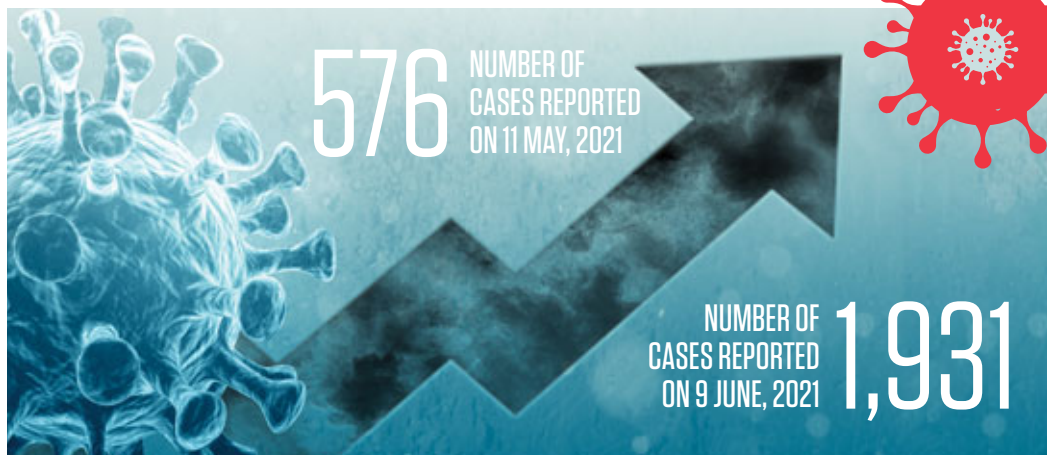
The number of patients in hospital has also risen from 729 on May 11, to 1,021 on June 9

Times News Service

MUSCAT: COVID-19 infection rates have more than tripled over the last 30 days, according to statistics published by the Ministry of Health.

There were 1,931 new cases of COVID-19 reported on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, which is 3.35 times higher than the 576 cases reported on May 11.

During this time frame, the number of new hospital admissions has also increased. On May 11, 83 new patients were admitted to hospitals. This steadily increased to 128



admissions on June 9.

Dr Faryal Al Lawati, a Senior Consultant in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Hospital, said she had witnessed an unprecedented increase in infection numbers during the current wave, when compared to previous ones.

"The indicators of this wave are very worrisome, and this recent spike in numbers is because of gatherings that took place during Eid," she said, speaking to Shabiba FM, the radio station of Al

Shabiba, the Arabic publication of the Times of Oman. "Patients admitted to ICUs might have other contributing factors, but during this wave, the number of infections have increased because the virus has become more resilient."

"The recent lifting of economic restrictions might increase case numbers further," added Al Lawati, who is also the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at Royal Hospital. "There is also a section of society who are not

compliant with wearing masks, because they believe taking the vaccine will keep them safe. After being vaccinated, however, you require at least three months for it to take effect."

"Unfortunately, the number of people coming forward to be vaccinated in some governorates is low," she said.

"The public should get themselves vaccinated as soon as possible, if they are among the target groups." **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Drive through vaccination centre

1 Preparations are underway to complete the technical formalities related to the immunisation service against the COVID-19 inside vehicles at Oman Automobile Association. **>A3**

WORLD

EU approves digital COVID certificate

2 The European Parliament announced its authorisation of the use of digital COVID certificates within the European Union on Wednesday. **>A6**

MARKET

Oman oil price rally continues, tops \$71

3 Oman oil price rally continued on the DME on Wednesday reaching \$71.38 per barrel. This comprises an increase by \$1.78 a barrel from the price of Tuesday, which was at \$69.60. **>B1**

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Real estate deals up 24.8% in April

The collected real estate transaction fees were OMR28.6 million, comprising a rise by 47.4 per cent



INCREASE: The number of plots issued at the end of April 2021 was 92,779, which is an increase of 75 percent compared to the end of April 2020, when 53,031 plots were issued.

MUSCAT: The total value of property transactions in the Sultanate at the end of April 2021 increased by 24.8 percent to reach OMR991 million.

The collected real estate transaction fees were OMR28.6 million, comprising a rise by 47.4 percent.

The traded value of sales contracts by the end of April 2021 went up by 81.1 percent to reach OMR424.5 million, and the number of executed sales contracts saw a rise by 123.9 per cent to reach 31,175 compared to 13,923 contracts in April 2020.

The traded value of mortgage contracts went up 1.3 percent to reach OMR558.5 million compared to OMR551.2 million in the

same period of 2020.

The number of mortgage contracts reached 6,427 comprising a surge by 79.8 percent compared to 3,575 in April 2020.

Traded value of exchange

The traded value of exchange (barter) contracts dropped by 6.8 percent to reach OMR7.9 million compared to OMR8.4 million in the

same period of 2020.

The number of plots issued at the end of April 2021 was 92,779, which is an increase of 75 per cent compared to the end of April 2020, when 53,031 plots were issued.

The number of plots allocated to GCC citizens went up by 63.6 percent to reach 270 plots compared to 165 plots during the same period of 2020, the data showed.

Vaccination efforts continue

It is worth noting that between the fourth and ninth of June of this year, more than 100 patients have been admitted to hospitals daily with issues concerning COVID-19. The highest single-day admission number during the above time frame was on 5 June, when 140 patients were taken to hospital.

Over the last 30 days, there has also been an increase in the number of patients admitted to intensive care units. There were 255 people in intensive care units on May 11, compared to 329 on June 9. The number of patients in ICUs crossed the 300-mark on June 8, when 303 patients were registered as being in intensive care.

The total number of people in hospital have also risen significantly, from 729 people on May 11, to 1,021 on June 9.

The recovery rate during this time frame has also dipped slightly: as of 9 June, 206,844 COVID patients out of a total of 228,579 have recovered from the disease, reflecting a recovery rate of 90.4 percent.

This is a bit lower than the rate of 91.4 per cent seen on May 11, when the total number of recovered patients stood at 186,391, out of a total of 202,713 reported cases of the disease in the country.

COVID-19 vaccines continued to be issued to people across the country. Government officials in Wilayat Izki were given their first shots on the ninth, said the Directorate General of Health Services for that governorate.

"Also, for the fourth day in a row, the immunisation centre in Wilayat Nizwa continues to witness a turnout from employees in government institutions," added the health body.

Efforts to get more people vaccinated are taking place across the country: in South Sharqiyah, for example, a mobile vaccination team is going to government offices to vaccinate workers and help bring down case numbers.

In the southern Dhofar region, hospitals continue to "provide vaccinations against the corona-

COVID infection rates since 11 May, 2021

Date	New cases	New Hospital admissions	Total Hospital admissions	Total ICU admissions
9 June	1,931	128	1,021	329
8 June	1,553	129	983	303
7 June	1,216	114	966	297
6 June	3,177*	114	937	290
5 June	1,173	140	871	264
4 June	1,258	124	824	265
3 June	1,047	97	802	257
31 May	1,041	104	808	247
30 May	2,399*	100	809	242
27 May	880	86	746	239
26 May	866	91	731	248
25 May	817	109	709	243
24 May	857	86	685	236
23 May	1,757*	77	673	238
20 May	802	67	664	251
19 May	696	73	681	252
18 May	812	76	693	244
17 May	796	87	709	238
16 May	2,788**	63	722	255
11 May	576	83	729	255

*Over a three-day period. **From 11 May to 15 May
Source: Oman News Agency/Ministry of Health



COVID-19 in the country.

These include avoiding group activities and gatherings, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, regularly and thoroughly washing hands with soap and sanitisers, avoid touching one's face, mouth, nose, and eyes, following healthy habits while sneezing or coughing, and committing to isolation if you have symptoms of COVID-19, or have come into contact with those who have the disease.

"With our commitment to wearing a mask and maintaining social and physical distancing, we will prevent ourselves, our families, and our community from the spread of the coronavirus," said the ministry in its advisory.

virus to people eligible for the second dose," said the DG of Health Services.

The Ministry of Health continues to remind people to adopt the precautionary measures to stop the spread of

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The Maghrib Minute newswrap in Hindi had 8,600 views and reached 27,300 people on Facebook.

COVID-19

Drive through vaccination centre announced in Muscat



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Preparations are underway to complete the technical formalities related to the immunisation service against the COVID-19 inside vehicles at Oman Automobile Association,

said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in Muscat Governorate. The starting date of this drive-through service and the target group will be announced upon completion of the regulatory procedures, added the DGHS.

VIRTUAL MEETING

RAFO officer takes part in meeting



MUSCAT: Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) took part yesterday in the 25th meeting of the GCC Air Force Commanders. The virtual meeting discussed several topics that aim to enhance the joint military cooperation between the member countries. -ONA

MUSANDAM GOVERNORATE

One person injured as two boats collide

MUSCAT: The collision of two boats has resulted in a man getting injured in Oman. "The ambulance teams of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Department (CDAA) in Musandam Governorate reported that one person was injured in a collision between two boats in Khasab. He was given emergency medical treatment and taken to the hospital in a critical condition," the CDAA said.

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 Dhofar Chicken 10x900 gm R.O. 7.800	 Al Madinah Basmati Rice 20 kg R.O. 9.900	 Noor Sunflower Oil 2x1.5 ltr R.O. 2.450	 Lipton Yellow Label Tea 700 gm R.O. 1.650	 Close Up Menthol 4x120 ml R.O. 1.800	 Bahar Premium Antiseptic 2x750 ml R.O. 2.550
 Omo Active Auto 1500 gm R.O. 0.950	 Bahar Detergent 4.05 kg R.O. 1.990	 Kleenex Aroma Facial Tissue Roses 6pcs R.O. 1.000	 Fine Jumbo Roll 325mtr R.O. 2.250	 Blackstone Cookware Ceramic 11pcs Set R.O. 9.900	 Impex Juicer Blender Mincer Mill 4 In 1 R.O. 13.500

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MASK UP, CONSUME WITH CARE

WHAT IS THE immediate reaction when you see a face mask recklessly thrown by someone, lying in the middle of the road as you walk back home, or the one that got blown away by the wind to sit nicely in the corner of your apartment building, fluttering occasionally, softly requesting you to pick it up and dispose it off properly? As a responsible citizen, you would do what is the best-pick it up and put it in the bin. Isn't it? But no, in this case, you won't. Because of the fear that is may still be harbouring someone's virus-loaded breath and that the virus may reach your house, infecting your loved ones. So, you choose not to. But why throw it like this in the first place?

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that 'masks should be used as part of a comprehensive 'Do it all!' approach that includes physical distancing, avoiding crowded, closed and close-contact settings, maintaining good ventilation, frequent washing of hands, covering sneezes and coughs, and more'. As the world celebrated World Environment Day 2021 with the theme 'Ecosystem Restoration', another crucial dimension has been added to the battle against the pandemic-the pollution caused by the face masks. The countries world over are gradually reopening their operations to sustain their economies, and more people are coming out for work and various economic activities, the projected requirement of face masks is going up every day, further adding to the already growing concern. In addition to the already enormous quantities of biomedical waste that is getting generated from the hospitals in treating the sick, not to forget the chemical pollution caused by having to disinfect constantly, the concern over disposal and handling of the face masks, has invited attention from all over.

Some facts: According to a recent study, the world uses 130 billion masks per month, 3 million a minute, or 50,000 every second (approximations used). A surgical mask mainly consists of three layers-outer (translucent) hydrophobic non-woven layer, middle (white) melt-blown layer, and an inner soft absorbent non-woven layer (green, blue, or white). However, the major material used in these masks as well as N95 masks is-polypropylene, also known as 'plastic' in common parlance. The small, yet often missed component like the ear loops also are made up of similar indecomposable material.

Common disposal: The most common ways of mask disposal are disposing into the household trash bin, disposing into hazardous waste bin; throwing away recklessly on the streets. Due to the indecomposable nature of masks, this poses further threat to the environment. Burning away the masks may result in future global warming issue and has a potential to contaminate air by releasing adverse compounds into the atmosphere. Some people are also flushing the masks in the toilets, and needless to say, it has its own complications of choking the drains and subsequent hygiene issues.

What happens then: This indecomposable micro-plastic enters the food chains via ingestions by animals which eventually enters the major food web of human existence. It also results in bioaccumulation of toxins in the open environment. Improperly disposed facemasks reach the water bodies, affects the microbial habitat and the environmental processes of the aquatic ecosystems. Researchers have further suggested that this acts as a medium for further outbreaking of COVID-19 since the particles tends to proliferate microbes and disseminate in the food chain. Industrial production of masks also adds to the global warming scenario and resultant climate change.

So, what can be done: The recent reports say that the large corporations in many countries are carrying out extensive R&D to find out better ways of handling the mask issue, like adoption of a sustainable approach of using natural plant fiber for mask production. Upcycling the mask waste to produce construction materials, selling the shredded & sorted microplastic to local plastic manufacturing firms that can produce products such as engine oil, textile, footwears, concrete additives, outdoor furniture, storage containers etc., are also being considered. Few international universities are working on producing masks from biomass material and agricultural waste.

We, as responsible inhabitants of the beautiful mother earth can contribute our bit in making the planet a better place to live. Here's a list of small things we all can do:



*Dr. Priti Swarup
(International HR Expert, Columnist, Trainer, pursuing PhD in Organisation Change Management; drpritiswarup@gmail.com)*



1. Choosing sensibly: Choosing to buy masks made from organic, biodegradable materials; using reusable face masks without disposable filters.

2. Washing: Washing fabric masks in soap or detergent and preferably hot water (at least 60 degrees Centigrade/140 degrees Fahrenheit) at least once a day or washing it in soap/detergent at room temperature water, followed by boiling the mask for 1 minute.

3. Preparing for contingency: Carrying an extra one (packed properly to avoid contamination), so that if something goes wrong with the one in use, like breaking of loop or accidental falling on the ground, you will not need to buy the disposable one at that moment.

4. Disposal: If at all a single-use disposable mask is used, taking it home and putting it into a bin with a lid. If this isn't possible, place it

in a proper public bin.

5. No flushing: Not flushing disposable masks, or for that matter, any mask down the toilet.

6. Supervising: Guiding and supervising our children, especially near the beaches and water bodies so that they do not throw away the masks in the water for fun activities. Education begins at home.

7. Making our own mask: If one has extra scrapes lying around, have time and want to save money as well as environment, it is relatively simple to make your own mask at home. As per WHO recommendations, fabric masks should be made of three layers of fabric. More details on how to check for filtration, breathability and fit when choosing a fabric mask, are available at the WHO website (www.who.int).

8. Gifting & presenting: One can always sew a face mask matching with the outfit, making a fashion statement. Making masks out of bright and attractive material and presenting to friends this Environment Day, may turn out to be a wonderful idea!

9. Be the change: Lastly, let's not wait for someone else to take the action, we should act now and contribute our bit, before it gets too late.

Researchers have posed a question-Starting the date of declaration of pandemic in March 2020 till today, the world has used approx. 2.32 trillion masks, and with our current directives in place, only 1-2 % has been recycled, where did the rest go? Sadly, the figures stand underestimated. None of us could have imagined that in addition to the grievous concerns like loss of lives and health issues, the pandemic shall bring with it the many by-products which shall leave us fighting the mountain of PPEs even after the coronavirus leaves us. Time for some collective action and action as responsible citizens.

(All the figures and facts mentioned above have been referred from internationally published research on the subject)

WE LOVE OMAN



The wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate is a treasure trove of natural beauty. Blida, which is located 65 kilometres away from the centre of Ibri is one such attraction. Blida is known for its palm trees, lush shade trees, and the flowing water. Blida lies among the high mountains, where the picturesque nature and beautiful scenery tells of a deep-rooted heritage. The inherent Omani



customs and traditions are still followed by the people living here. The town brings together houses that tell of art, Omani architecture, and modernity in architecture. It has a developed network of roads and services, electricity and telephone, thus attracting tourists throughout the year. The people living here practice the inherited crafts which they pass on to their next generations.



BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM the Sultan sends written message to King of KSA



RIYADH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik sent a written message to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The message deals with the strong fraternal relations binding the two countries and their brotherly people. It also deals with means of promoting the joint cooperation. The message was handed over by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister during his meeting here today with Prince Faisal

Farhan Al Saud, KSA Foreign Minister. **Best wishes** Sayyid Badr conveyed greetings of His Majesty the Sultan to King Salman along with His Majesty's best wishes of permanent health and happiness to the Saudi Monarch, and the brotherly Saudi people further progress and prosperity. On his turn, Prince Faisal asked Sayyid Badr to convey greetings and best wishes of King Salman to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people further

growth and prosperity. **Bilateral relations** The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and means of promoting them in various spheres. It also touched on the recent developments at the regional and international arenas. The meeting was attended by His Highness Sayyid Faisal Turki Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate to the KSA and the delegation accompanying Sayyid Badr. — ONA

TENDERS LAUNCHED

Transport ministry to go ahead with development plans at Khasab port

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has said that it is pressing ahead with plans set for the development of the Port of Khasab. The plans build on tenders launched earlier to manage, operate and develop Khasab Port, including aspects related to supplying vessels with fuel, operating piers, connecting the port with global terminals and granting lands for investment in the logistics and light industries' fields, according to a statement issued by the Ministry on Wednesday. The statement indicated that, with a view to linking the Wilayat of Khasab with the Wilayat of Daba and, to facilitate the movement of citizens and resi-



dentals within the Governorate of Musandam, the Ministry announced a consultative tender to select a route for the Daba-Lima-Khasab carriageway and to prepare tender documents for project implementation. In a bid to enhance the system of transport in the Governorate of Musandam and, to facilitate the movement of members of the public, the Ministry will allow

individuals to operate their vehicles in private transport services through the use of smart apps. In the field of air transport, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will coordinate with the departments concerned to utilise Khasab Airport for civil-cum-military services after the completion of a study to develop the airport and enrich tourism and economic activities in the Governorate. The CAA has endorsed regulatory terms and conditions for water aerodromes, inviting bids by interested investors to establish an amphibious aircraft company to operate in different sites in the Sultanate, among them Khasab and Daba in Musandam Governorate. — ONA

MEETING



Oman, Iran review bilateral relations

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohamed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Wednesday Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate. During the meeting, Al

Nu'amani welcomed the ambassador, who thanked the Sultanate for its efforts in the region. The meeting touched on several topics of joint interest and reviewed march of the relations binding the Sultanate and Iran. — ONA

POLYGLOT GROUP

22 students complete English teachers training programme



MUSCAT: Polyglot Group celebrated the graduation of 22 students from the first batch of Cambridge Programme to rehabilitate English teachers on Wednesday. The programme targeted English Language degree holders from higher education institutes. The programme was conducted in Polyglot Institute in three phases based on the candidates' English skill levels (English Teaching, English literature, and Linguistics), after which they received the (CELTA) degree for teaching English language. The graduation ceremony was held on Wednesday under the patronage of Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. — ONA

NATIONAL RECORDS AND ARCHIVES AUTHORITY

NRAA's releases Part 3 of Omani-British Relations book

MUSCAT: The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) has released the 3rd part of the book 'Omani-British Relations during the 17th to 19th century', within the 23rd volume of the 'Studies Series on National and International Documents.' The book consists of 523 pages, including 17 research papers in Arabic and English for researchers and scholars with different views. The book offers a balanced presentation for researchers and those interested in Omani history and Omani-Britain relations from the political, economic and military aspects of the 17th to the

end of 19th century. Dr Hamad Mohammed Al Dhawiani, NRAA Chairman explained that the 23rd part of the book discusses aspects of the Omani-British relations from several sides, in addition to the visits and tours made by travellers to Oman and their descriptions of the geographic, political, economic and social life in Oman. He said, "The relations in this part from the perspective of historians and travelers will enable the researchers to investigate the events that the region witnessed in the context of these relations during successive periods." — ONA



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NOTICE FOR ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of GULF STONE (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the General Meeting, which will be held at 03:00 PM on 21/06/2021, via the electronic platform to hold the general meetings which can be assessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting shall be held at 03:00 PM on 27/06/2021, to discuss the following agenda:

Ordinary Agendas:

- To elect one board member to fill the vacant seat in the board of directors from amongst Shareholders or non-shareholders. Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director's Nomination Form. Such a form can be obtained from the Company. The completed form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Ordinary General Meeting of the Company (no later than the end of the business hours on Monday, 14/06/2021). The candidate must satisfy the company's board membership requirements.

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

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

For further information, please contact on telephone no 99231951 or email: bs@gulfstone-oman.com

Chairman	Legal Advisor Rajab Alkathiri & Associates	External Auditor BOD
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EU Parliament approves digital COVID certificate

The parliament voted on Tuesday evening, passing the proposal with 553 votes for and 91 against, with 46 abstentions

LONDON: The European Parliament announced its authorization of the use of digital COVID certificates within the European Union on Wednesday, saying that it is now up to member states to apply the rules.

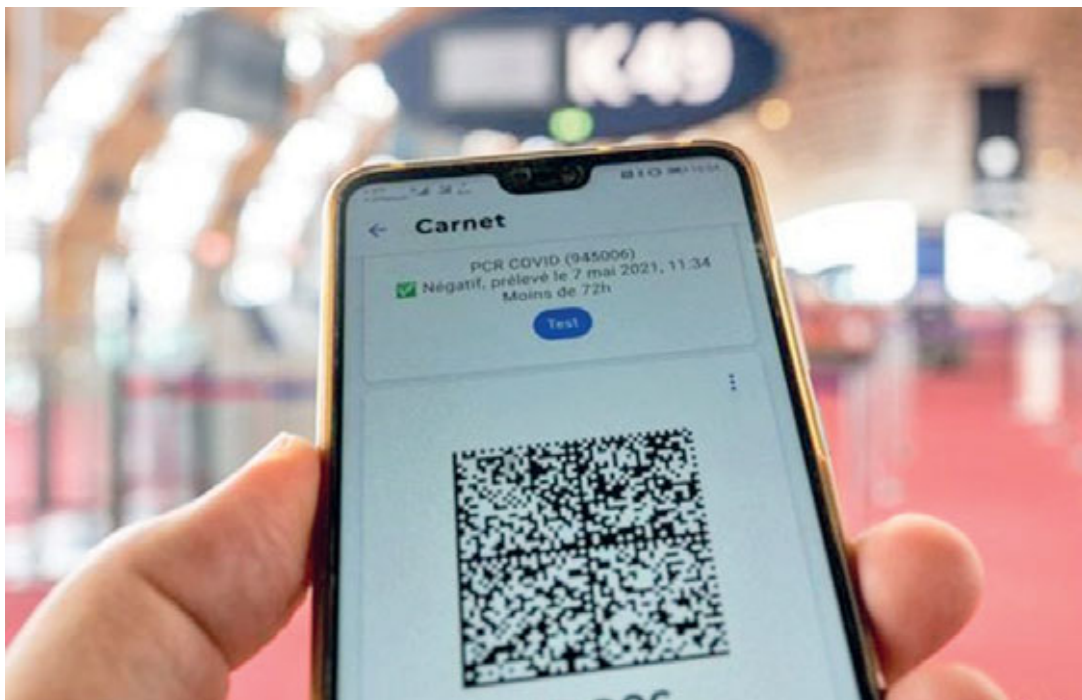
The parliament voted on Tuesday evening, passing the proposal with 553 votes for and 91 against, with 46 abstentions.

The measures will come into effect from July 1 and will last for 12 months.

The proposed certificates would enable more secure travel between EU countries by validating whether someone has been fully vaccinated, has recently tested negative for the virus, or has recovered from the disease.

The EU will also provide €100 million (\$121.9 million) for the purchase of COVID-19 tests.

The EU parliament website said that 23 countries were “technically ready,” and that nine of those were already employing some form of validation certificate.



SECURE TRAVEL: The proposed certificates would enable more secure travel between EU countries by validating whether someone has been fully vaccinated.

EU seeks to restore freedom of movement

Spanish member of the European Parliament Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, who chairs the committee on civil liberties, emphasized the value of free movement for EU citizens during a plenary session on Tuesday.

“We want to send out the message to European citizens that we are doing everything we can to restore freedom of movement,” he said.

Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders explained that any such certificate “will be free of charge, will be issued by all member states and will have to be accepted across Europe. It will contribute to a

gradual lifting of restrictions.”

The certificates will be available either in paper or digital format, and contain a QR code that authorities can scan to access information.

German member of the European Parliament Birgit Sippel added that it is up to EU countries to harmonize travel rules across the block while also welcoming the certificates as a benefit for “people who travel for work, families that live in border areas, and for tourism.”

Concerns over discrimination

The proposed certificates have raised concerns about uniform free-

doms for EU citizens, as well as issues around data privacy.

European Parliament members highlighted the importance of nondiscrimination, saying that the certificates should facilitate travel — but not end up as a backdoor to requiring vaccination.

The certificates would allow for people who have not yet been fully vaccinated to continue to travel, with application of testing and quarantine.

Cornelia Ernst, a member of European Parliament from Germany’s Left Party, said during the plenary session: “We need to defend everyone’s freedoms — not just holidaymakers.” **AW**



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COVID-19 CASES

India reports 92,596 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours



NEW DELHI: With 92,596 new COVID-19 cases registered in the last 24 hours, India reported less than 100,000 COVID-19 cases for the second consecutive day, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Wednesday.

India on Tuesday reported 86,498 new COVID-19 cases. On Monday, the country had reported 100,636 new COVID-19 cases. The COVID case tally in India has now reached 29,089,069 with 1231,415 active cases after 57 days.

According to Union Health Ministry, the weekly positivity rate currently stands at 5.66 per cent, the daily positivity rate has dropped to 4.66 per cent, less

than 10 per cent for 16th consecutive days.

Notably, the recoveries have continued to outnumber the daily COVID cases. As many as 162,664 patients recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours. The total number of recoveries had reached 27,504,126 in the country taking the recovery rate at 94.55 per cent.

With 2219 new fatalities in the last 24 hours, the COVID death toll in the country mounted to 353,528. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 370,193,563 samples tested were for COVID-19 up to June 8 out of which 1,985,967 samples were tested yesterday. **ANI**

FRANCE

Two arrested after French President Emmanuel Macron slapped during tour



ARRESTED: The prosecutor's office of the city of Valence said two men, both 28 years old, were arrested in the incident.

PARIS : Two men have been arrested in the incident where French President Emmanuel Macron was slapped in the face while he was visiting the country's south-east as party of his nation-wide tour.

The prosecutor's office of the city of Valence said two men both 28 years old were arrested in the incident, pictures and video of which soon surfaced on social media and also broadcast on the local BFM news channel. The arrested duo have been placed in police custody for violence against a person holding public authority, the Valence prosecutor's office said.

Footage shared by CNN-affiliate BFM showed Macron walking up to a metal fence and clasp the arm of a man in the crowd as he began to greet onlookers in the Drome region of France. The man grabbed on to the offered

arm before slapping the French President across his left cheek while yelling for the end of ‘Macronie’ - a contemptuous word used for Macron's presidency.

Macron's security detail quickly intervened, tackling the man while pulling the president away from the metal barrier.

Moments before slapping Macron, the perpetrator is also heard shouted: “Montjoie! Saint-Denis!” - which was used as a medieval battle cry used by the Capetian royal dynasty, which ruled France from the 10th to the 18th century.

In a statement, the Elysee said: “A man indeed tried to hit the President of the Republic. We have no further comments at this point. Exchanges with the crowd and handshakes resumed. The trip continues.”

During a press conference, far-right leader Marine Le Pen, Ma-

cron's biggest political opponent, said physically attacking the President was “unacceptable”.

“We can attack him politically but any violence against him should be condemned in a democracy,” she said.

This comes as France's presidential elections are less than a year away and the country just weeks from regional elections on June 20 and June 27.

Meanwhile, Macron is not the first French politician to be attacked in public, reported CNN.

In January 2017, former Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who was at the time the left-wing candidate in the presidential primary, was visiting Lamballe in Brittany when a young man struck him before being overpowered by the security services. Valls was Prime Minister between 2014 and 2016 under President Francois Hollande. **ANI**

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US VP Kamala Harris declares Mexico, Guatemala trip ‘a success’

Kamala Harris visited Guatemala this week on her first trip abroad since taking office

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday defended not visiting the US-Mexico border during her trip to the Central American country following criticism for not prioritizing the shared frontier. In an effort to stem the flow of migration from Central America to the US, Harris also visited Guatemala this week on her first trip abroad since taking office.

Some Republican lawmakers called on Harris to first look at the border, where migration has reached its highest levels in 20 years. “You can’t say you care about the border without caring about the root causes,” Harris said. The situation at the US south-



FOREIGN TRIP: Some Republican lawmakers called on Harris to first look at the border, where migration has reached its highest levels in 20 years.

ern border is a “legitimate, correct” concern, Harris said, but added that Washington needed to look into the core of the issue. “We cannot have that question, and that conversation, without

also giving equal weight and attention to what is causing that to occur,” she said. Harris has not made a trip to the border since becoming vice president.

Harris slammed over ‘do not come’ remarks While Republicans argued she had neglected the border, some Democrats criticized Harris’ message to those migrants con-

sidering the often dangerous trek to the US border. “Do not come,” Harris said on Monday in Guatemala. Democratic Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called her comments “disappointing,” noting that seeking asylum is legal in the US. Harris declined to comment directly on the criticism when reporters asked, saying only: “I’m really clear: we have to deal with the root causes and that is my hope. Period.”

A ‘successful’ trip Without being asked to judge the result, Harris told a press conference: “Do I declare this trip a success? Yes I do. It is a success in terms of the pathway that is about progress. We have been successful in making progress.” Following Harris’ meeting with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the US announced a range of deals brokered between the two governments. Washington pledged a \$130 million (€107 million) commitment over the next three years from the US to support labor reforms in Mexico and loans to support southern Mexico’s economy.

Harris also engaged in discussions with female entrepreneurs and labor leaders in Mexico. Before heading to Mexico, Harris met with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei, unveiling new US commitments to combat trafficking, smuggling, and corruption.

Record levels of border crossing Since April 2020, after former US President Donald Trump introduced pandemic-related powers to deny migrants the opportunity to seek asylum, illegal border crossings have been on the rise. Biden scrapped many of Trump’s headline border policies, including one that made asylum-seekers wait in Mexico, often in dangerous conditions, for court dates in US immigration court. The numbers seeking to cross the US border are approaching the highest level in more than 20 years, with border agencies reporting 170,000 encounters in April. US border authorities are also encountering high levels of unaccompanied children making the crossing — nearly 19,000 crossed in March, the highest number on record.

FALSE TESTIMONY

Former VW boss facing charges in Berlin over false testimony

BERLIN: Berlin states prosecutors brought charges against the former boss of the German automobile giant Volkswagen on Wednesday, alleging that he lied to the German Bundestag, German mass-circulation Bild newspaper reported.

The charges say Martin Winterkorn gave false testimony in January 2017 to a parliamentary committee that was investigating the “dieselgate” scandal, in which VW falsified data regarding emissions of diesel cars.

The prosecutors said that Winterkorn knew about the data manipulation earlier than he admitted to during the inquiry. VW has tried to distance itself from the former boss and the whole scandal, but has continued to face litigation.

“In his testimony, the accused falsely claimed to have been informed of the defeat devices only in September 2015,” Berlin prosecutors said in a statement.

“According to the indictment,



he had since May 2015 been aware that the engine control software of some VW vehicles had been equipped with a function to manipulate the exhaust values in testing,” prosecutors added.

Volkswagen facing separate charges in France In a separate case, Volkswagen said on Wednesday that it was facing fresh charges in France for

cheating emissions testing. Court proceedings began on May 6, with French prosecutors claiming that Volkswagen committed fraud in regards to crucial aspects of a car model the company produced. This led to the endangerment of human and animal health, prosecutors said. The company — no longer under the leadership of Winterkorn — denied causing “harm” to

French consumers. The court ordered VW to post €10 million (\$12.2 million) in bail and put up €60 million as a bank guarantee to ensure possible compensation can be paid. Renault faced the same treatment on Tuesday.

VW and executives settle compensation In yet another announcement on Wednesday, Volkswagen said it had come to an agreement with former executives, including Marting Winterkorn, who led the company in the run-up to the “dieselgate” scandal. The company will be paid a total of €288 million in compensation — including the €11 million in damages that the former CEO recently agreed to pay. Rupert Stadler, who formerly led the VW subsidiary Audi, was also included in the settlement. Some €270 million of the payment comes from directors’ and officers’ liability insurance.

COVID LOCKDOWN

Two-week lockdown of Melbourne ends today

SYDNEY: The two-week lockdown of Melbourne, the second most populous city of Australia, will end on Thursday midnight as the state recorded only one new confirmed case of COVID-19 on Wednesday.

Health authorities have been battling an outbreak of the coronavirus, including the highly infectious Delta strain, since the first new locally acquired case was recorded in late May.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Acting Premier of the Victoria state James Merlino said the state’s capital city would “move to most of the same settings currently in place across regional Victoria, and regional Victoria will move further towards further easing.”

Easing of restrictions The easing of restrictions will mean that from Friday, Melbourne residents will no longer have only five reasons to leave their homes and their travel radius will in-

crease from 10 km to 25 km. “The regional/metro divisions will come down and we’ll be able to travel more freely around the state again,” Merlino said. Masks will no longer be required indoors unless people cannot maintain a 1.5-meter social distance, and restaurants and cafes will reopen for seated service with up to 100 people per venue and a maximum of 50 people inside.

Widespread vaccination across Victoria “Everyone should be absolutely proud of what we have all achieved together, but we know this isn’t over yet, and until we have widespread vaccination across Victoria and across our country, the virus will still be with us,” Merlino said. “We’ll continue to assess the data each day and provide more detail as soon as we can,” he said. Victoria’s COVID-19 statistics for the 24 hours up until Wednesday were 83 active cases, 28,485 tests and 19,533 vaccinations.

TARGETING NAVALNY

Moscow court set to disband pro-Navalny organisations



DISBAND ORGANISATIONS: Moscow’s chief prosecutor accuses Navalny and his allies of attempting to destabilise Russia socially and politically.

MOSCOW: The Moscow City Court on Wednesday was considering a request by prosecutors to disband organizations linked to jailed Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny. Moscow’s chief prosecutor accuses Navalny and his allies of attempting to destabilise Russia socially and politically.

How is the Russian state targeting Navalny’s organisations? By labeling Navalny’s network “extremist,” the Russian state is using a tactic previously used to dismantle certain far-right and Islamist groups within the country as well as the Jehovah’s witnesses.

The move grants the Russian state formal power to jail activists and freeze their bank accounts. The prosecutor’s office in Moscow is specifically targeting Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation which Navalny has used to publish numerous slickly produced video investigations into corruption involving senior officials in the Russian government. Putin signed legislation into law last week on Navalny’s 45th birthday that bars members of “extremist” groups from running for office. Once the “extremist” label is affixed to Navalny’s political organization, his allies would also be barred

from running for office. **How have Navalny’s allies reacted?** While Navalny and his colleagues deny they are revolutionary extremists, they are prepared for the Russian government to label them as such. Several of the local campaign office groups where Navalny’s allies have mobilized to organize protests against Putin’s more than twenty-year rule have disbanded on their own. Navalny attorney Ivan Pavlov said he expects the ruling today. Navalny spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh wrote on Twitter the text of the lawsuit says, “a change of power is extremism. Officially.”





Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz C-Class (205 platform) with 4-cylinder gasoline engine (M274)

Date of Campaign: 10.06.2021

Recall Segment: Software

Recall Type: Safety

Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
65	WDD205*****009273	To	WDD205*****155729	C 200

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain C-Class vehicles (205 platform) with 4-cylinder gasoline engine diodes on the rectifier bridge of the alternator might fail.

Under specific operation and ambient conditions, the maximum operating temperature of certain diodes on the rectifier bridge of the alternator might be exceeded, leading to a failure of these diodes. Should a certain combination of diodes fail with a short circuit, an unintended electrical current might flow from the starter battery through the alternator to the vehicle ground. In this condition, the temperature in the stator coils of the alternator might increase.

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

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 10.06.2021 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:
Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 10.06.2021.

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Bank Muscat announces increase in Green Sports beneficiaries

This year the Bank is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the programme which has supported 143 teams

MUSCAT: As one of the pioneers of CSR and Sustainability initiatives in Oman, Bank Muscat has always been committed to creating a meaningful change in the pursuit of a sustainable future. With the launch of its flagship Green Sports programme in 2012, Bank Muscat successfully created and implemented an annual programme that brings together different generations on one platform towards one common goal, sports. This year the Bank is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the programme which has supported 143 teams across various governorates in the Sultanate. The response to the Green Sports programme has been growing by leaps and bounds annually since its launch, with intense competition amongst the participants to be announced as one of the winning teams every year. So far, as many as 36,900 members from the winning teams have benefited from the programme and more



GREEN SPORTS: The response to the Green Sports programme has been growing by leaps and bounds annually since its launch, with intense competition amongst the participants to be announced as one of the winning teams every year. – File pictures



while artificial turf will be installed on the Wadi Nahez Al Ahli Team & field in Salalah. The Al Majaz Al Sughra Sports Team (Saham) and Al Ittihad Wudam Al Sahel Sports Team (Mussanah) will be provided water-desalination systems to support their sports fields. Bank Muscat has been conducting the registration, evaluation of applications and implementation of the programme in a transparent and impartial manner. Beneficiaries are chosen by the Bank through well-defined registration and application procedures that follow international best practices, and are complemented with field visits. The implementation phase for beneficiaries is marked by close coordination with the teams to ensure that the projects are completed as per schedule and the necessary standards. As a truly unique and one of its kind programme, Green Sports is contributing majorly to developing the sporting skills and talents of Omani youth, especially in football. The bank's efforts complement the government's efforts to develop modern sports in the spirit of the Public-Private Partnership model. Interestingly, Green Sports is contributing to all-round development as the facilities are also used for a number of community programmes and social activities, which lead to stronger community bonding. As a pioneer of sustainability in Oman, Bank Muscat works continuously for the overall progress and development of the country through its various programmes and initiatives.

are expected to be part of it in the future. Bank Muscat has been encouraged by the tremendous success of Green Sports in transforming sports infrastructure across the country. Currently, 95 teams have received support for installation of artificial turf or natural grass on their fields, while 40 teams have received support for floodlighting and 8 teams for water desalination plants. Till date, the bank has handed over 111 Green Sports fields to their respective teams, and more Green Sports fields are at present nearing completion. On this occasion, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, said: "The Green Sports programme is an example of the Bank's commitment to Public- Private partnership and the continuous efforts to build a sustainable sports infrastructure for the benefit of Omani youth and communities across the country. The Bank's landmark Green Sports programme supports the installation of artificial turf or natural grass on sports fields, floodlighting and water-desalination systems by sports teams across the country. The success of Green Sports over the past many years has encouraged the Bank to step up its efforts even more." Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar added: "Given the excellent response over the years and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its launch, the Bank is very pleased to increase the number of beneficiaries to 20 teams from this year onwards, up from 15 per year. By

redoubling its efforts and investments in the programme, the Bank strengthens its commitment to Omani youth. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners, sports teams across the country and the media for all their efforts, which has greatly encouraged the Bank to further expand its role in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility. I would also like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all the winners of 2021 and assure them that the bank will closely work with them in ensuring the successful implementation of Green Sports fields." The 20 beneficiaries this year include: Al Farfarah Sports Team (Bidbid); Al Kifah Sports Team (Suwaiq); Al Kefah Sports Team (Sohar); Al Mahader Sports & Cultural Team (Rustaq); Al Humida Sports & Cultural Team (Izki); Al Hajr Sports & Cultural Team (Quriyat); Al Ettihad Cultural Team (Bidiya); Al Arid Sports & Cultural Team (Ibri); Al Memoura Sports & Cultural Team (Al Kamil wa Al Wafi); Al Samdi Sports Team (Samail); Al Khuwairat Sports & Cultural Team (Khabourah); Al Dhahir Sports Team (Jaalan Bani Bu Ali); Al Ghalila Sports, Cultural and Social Team (Al Suwaiq); and Al Ettifaq Sports and Cultural Team (Liwa). These teams will be provided with floodlighting for their sports fields. The Al Soor Sports Team (Bahla); Al Husn Al Ahli Team (Salalah) and Al Shabab Sports, Cultural and Social Team (Yanqul) will receive support for natural greening of their sports fields

TEST RANKINGS

Kohli, Rohit, Pant hold on to their ICC Test rankings

DUBAI: New Zealand opening batsman Devon Conway on Wednesday entered the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings in the 77th position with a record 447 rating points, the highest for a New Zealand batsman on debut and the third-highest ever on debut. India skipper Virat Kohli, wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, and opener Rohit Sharma have held on to their fifth and sixth position respectively in the batting rankings. Pant and Rohit are the joint-holders of the sixth spot in the batting rankings. The 29-year-old left-hander, who scored 200 and 23 in the drawn first Test against England at Lord's, entered the list at two points less than RE Foster of England and one less than Kyle Mayers of the West Indies. Foster had slammed 287 on debut against Australia in Sydney in 1903 for the record of 449 rating points, while Mayers had scored 40 and 210 not out in the first Test against Bangladesh in Chittagong in February this year to log 448 points. Conway, who is currently ranked fourth in T20Is and 121st in ODIs, bettered the New Zealand mark of 440 rating points on Test debut by Lou Vincent against Australia at Perth in 2001. Fast bowler Tim Southee is another one to make it big in the latest update to the men's weekly rankings, his second six-wicket haul at Lord's pushing him to a career-best third position while achieving the third-best rating points by a New Zealand bowler. He has gone up to 838 points, with only Richard Hadlee (909) and Neil Wagner (859) having achieved higher bowling points. Among the England players, Rory Burns has moved up 21



places to 22nd position after his century in the first innings, while Ollie Pope (up to seven places to 52nd) and Dom Sibley (up 17 places to 55th) have also advanced among batsmen. Mark Wood, who finished with four wickets in the match, has progressed from 48th to 42nd position and captain Joe Root is up to 82nd among bowlers. Debutant Ollie Robinson has entered the batting list in 91st position and the bowling list in 69th place. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

I have won 25 and a half trophies: Mourinho takes a dig at Tottenham

LONDON: Jose Mourinho stated that he has won "25 and a half trophies" in his managerial career. The 'half a trophy' coming from the Tottenham Hotspur F.C. after he was sacked days before their Carabao Cup final. The Portuguese told *The Sun*, "So if you want me to be proactive now you can ask me, 'how many trophies have you won in your career?' I'll tell you 25 and a half. The half is the final that I didn't play with Tottenham." The incoming Roma manager has never lacked trophies in his illustrious career, he has officially won 25 league titles and cups with Porto, Chelsea, Inter, Real Madrid, and Manchester United. The only club that the 58-year-old failed to leave



his impression upon and departed empty-handed was the North London's Spurs. "You ask the guys who played lots of finals and everybody will tell you, 'to play a final is a dream' and it doesn't matter if it is the first final or number 20 or num-

ber 50, a final is always a dream," Mourinho added. "A Wembley final is more than a dream, I played the first on the new Wembley, and every time I go there, it's more than a dream and to have a chance to win a trophy with a club that doesn't have many of course was a double dream. "I am the kind of guy that when I close the door of a club, I move and I just wish good to people, but in a funny way I would say I have 25 and a half titles because it's something that marks my career which is not to play a final that I won the right to go there." Spurs are still working on replacing Mourinho, with chairman Daniel Levy set to work alongside Fabio Paratici to find a new boss. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

One-to-one with Sourav

ANIS SAJAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, DANUBE GROUP

It was a moment for me to savour as I had the privilege to meet Sourav Ganguly at Sajjan house for dinner. I had a plate full of questions and the first question I asked him was that as a player he had many great moments in his career, like the debut Test hundred at Lord's, winning the NatWest Finals, winning a series in Pakistan, he mentioned all were special but to win the test series against Australia coming from behind as a captain is most special to him. He stressed that was an all-conquering team led by Steve Waugh with the likes of Matthew Hayden, Adam Gilchrist, McGrath and his young team could beat them and it was very special to him. The second anecdote was how he backed youngsters like Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan and Mohammed Kaif as well as Virendra Sehwag and MS Dhoni and got the better of every player. He said he gave the players the belief and the backing which gave the players confidence to perform. Also when he asked Sehwag to open, he assured Sehwag that even if you fail as an opener, you will be in my team and rest is history as Sehwag was India's most successful opener. His biggest master stroke was to upgrade Dhoni to number three position from No 7 in only Dhoni's 3rd ODI where Dhoni scored a match winning 149; against Pakistan and never looked back and became an all-time legend. Another interesting anecdote Dada shared was about his historic trip to Pakistan in 2006, where he said he was bowled over by the hospitality of the people of Pakistan and how everyone in Pakistan took such good care of the Indian team. He said he had never seen so much security in his life as he saw in Pakistan in that series. He once sneaked out wearing a cap so nobody couldn't recognise him, of course with the permission of the manager to eat in the famous Lahore Street where incidentally one of the Indian press reporter Rajdeep Sard-



esai spotted him eating and it was out in the media. The then President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf called Sourav Ganguly as he was the captain and told him that the security of the players was his and his country's responsibility and told him to be careful and go out only with full security. I remembered another anecdote he shared, during the tour of Pakistan, when playing an off drive, his bats splice had come out. He did play that innings with the replacement bat but the next day, the owner of Pakistan's biggest bat manufacturer CA sent him two bats as gift for and wrote on it even though you beat our team, we still love you. Also I could not resist asking him about removing his T-Shirt and celebrating at Lord's balcony in the NatWest Finals, he said that he had lost quite a few finals and this win was coming after a long time and moreover Flintoff doing the same thing in Mumbai had inspired him and he removed his T-Shirt in sheer happiness after India's famous win at Lord's. Harbhajan Singh asked him if he too should remove, but the moment he was removing, Laxman pulled Bhaji's t-shirt down. Sourav was graceful enough in admitting when I asked him about the World cup finals loss in 2003 finals in South Africa to Australia by saying that Australian team during that era was the best team and to get past them was not that easy, eventually Australia had won three back to back World Cup titles in 1999, 2003 and 2007. When I asked him was there

any other sport he loved, he replied he played football better than cricket and wanted to continue football but his father convinced him to take cricket as a career as in India cricket had a better following and future. In fact, his father had built for him a turf ground when he was a young child so that Sourav and his brother could practice there. When I asked him whether he was sad that the IPL could not be completed in India, he said he was and wished they had held all the games in Mumbai so that the players could avoid the air travel which he felt was the main cause for the cases to spread and the IPL could have been completed in India itself. He said that when they took the decision to play IPL in India it was January and here were hardly any cases and that's why they took the decision to go ahead. But suddenly things took a turn and there was a huge spike in the number of cases in India. Finally, when I asked him about his health, he said he has been keeping well and taking all the right precautions, going for walks and exercising regularly and making sure he has the right food like salad and fish and avoiding red meat and fried food. I had the honour to present him our signature jacket with Dada written on the back as he is fondly called so not only in Kolkata but all around India as he was one captain who indeed turned around the way India played cricket and backed his players to the core and changed the face of Indian cricket with his aggressive and shrewd captaincy.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2021 reaching \$71.38, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil increased by \$1.78 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$69.60. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,019.83 points, up 0.98 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.09 per cent at 567.95 points. Bank Dhofar, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 3.09 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman crude oil price rally gains steam, vaults past \$71 a barrel



World oil prices also rose with Brent crude up 32 cents at \$72.42 a barrel and the WTI crude higher 18 cents at \$70.23 a barrel in early trading on Wednesday



REBOUND: Oil prices have rebounded to the highest levels in about two years, helped by restraint on supply by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies. - File picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman oil price rally continued on the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME) on Wednesday reaching \$71.38. This comprises an increase of \$1.78 from the price of Tuesday, which was at \$69.60.

"The average price of Oman oil (June Delivery 2021) has stabilised at \$63.10, thus \$1.33 per barrel lower than May Delivery 2021,"

the DME said on Wednesday.

DME is the premier international energy futures and commodities exchange in the Middle East and is the premier energy-focused commodities exchange in the East of Suez and home to the world's third crude benchmark.

DME was launched in June 2007 with the goal of bringing fair and transparent price discovery and efficient risk management to the East of Suez.

The DME lists the Oman Crude Oil Futures Contract (DME Oman) as its flagship contract, providing the most fair and transparent crude oil benchmark for the region. DME Oman is the explicit and sole benchmark for Oman and Dubai crude oil Official Selling Prices (OSPs) - historically established markers for Middle Eastern crude oil exports to Asia.

World oil prices also witnessed an increase in the prices with the

Brent crude futures up by 32 cents at \$72.42 a barrel.

The US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures also rose by 18 cents to trade at \$70.23 a barrel in early trading in Singapore.

On June 8, the US Energy Information Administration forecast fuel consumption growth this year in the United States, the world's biggest oil user, would be 1.49 million barrels per day (bpd), up from a previous forecast of 1.39 million

bpd. Oil prices have rebounded to the highest levels in about two years, helped by restraint on supply by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and allies.

Earlier on Tuesday, at the 17th Opec and non-Opec Ministerial Meeting held in Vienna, Austria the group noted the ongoing strengthening of market fundamentals, with oil demand showing clear signs of improvement with

economic recovery seen in most parts of the world as vaccination programmes accelerated.

The meeting welcomed the positive performance of participating countries in the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC). Overall conformity to the production adjustments was 114 per cent in April (including Mexico), reinforcing the trend of high conformity by participating countries.

In view of current oil market fundamentals and the consensus on its outlook, the meeting reaffirmed the existing commitment of the participating countries in the DoC to a stable market in the mutual interest of producing nations; the efficient, economic and secure supply to consumers; and a fair return on invested capital.

The meeting also reiterated the critical importance of adhering to full conformity, and taking advantage of the extension of the compensation period until the end of September 2021, as requested by some under-performing countries.

Compensation plans should be submitted in accordance with the statement of the 15th Opec and non-Opec Ministerial Meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

Trade opportunities with US Exim Bank discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its mission to foster the development of trade and commercial activity between Oman and the United States, the OABC (US Chamber of Commerce affiliate in Oman), together with the US Embassy in Oman organised a private roundtable discussion on Tuesday, June 8, from 3-4pm, with Rick Angiuoni, Business Development Specialist and Regional Director of Africa at the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), via Zoom.

The roundtable discussion introduced key stakeholders and heads of corporate working in the top banks of Oman to the mission and services of EXIM Bank. Attendees also discussed the status of financing opportunities already provided by EXIM Bank in Oman and discussed new ways to facilitate additional trade and collaboration between EXIM Bank and Omani banks and companies.



Rick Angiuoni

The session featured opening remarks by US Ambassador to Oman Leslie Tsou and a presentation by Rick Angiuoni, Business Development Specialist and Regional Director of Africa, EXIM.

As this was a private roundtable event, only one representative per bank attended the session, to facilitate active discussion.

"This roundtable follows the OABC webinar held in March 2021 and EXIM Bank's \$500 million MOU signed earlier this year between EXIM Bank and the Foreign Ministry of Oman," says Rick Angiuoni, who presented on behalf of EXIM Bank. "After the success of our first event with the OABC, which shared with Omani companies about the benefits and opportunities provided by the US EXIM Bank, we decided the step build on this momentum would be to host a roundtable meeting with Omani finance executives to discuss EXIM Bank as a source of efficient cost of funds in financing US exports for the benefits of Omani importers and to enhance US - Omani trade."

"This session was a very successful one, and we thank our

presenter and partners for an engaging discussion. Sessions like today's roundtable provide more insight into approaches for utilising the US - Oman Free Trade Agreement, and continue to foster investment and trade between Oman and the United States."

"Today's event shows EXIM's ongoing commitment to promoting international commerce by extending loans, commercial loan guarantees, and export credit insurance for the export of US goods and services to Oman and other markets," US Ambassador Tsou stated. "EXIM is, therefore, an important tool to advance our bilateral trade partnership, and we hope the private sector's use of this tool will continue to grow. We believe that having more Omani entities take advantage of EXIM products will advance bilateral commercial opportunities and increase prosperity for Omanis and Americans alike."

CHALLENGER PROGRAMME

BP Oman announces jobs for Omani engineering graduates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: BP has announced jobs for Omani engineering graduates as part of the 2021 intake of its successful 'challenger' programme.

The challenger programme, which has been running since 2010, demonstrates BP's commitment to developing local talent. Attracting the best graduates in Oman the programme supports technical and leadership development across BP, over 80 Omanis have joined the programme since its launch. Last month seven Omanis successfully graduated from the challenger programme in the wells team.

Vice president of wells for BP in Oman, Mohammed Al Najwani, commented, "I am delighted to see young Omanis pursue their ambitions and develop professionally through BP's challenger programme. We are proud to support Omani careers in the energy industry through this programme and look forward to welcoming some new graduates this year."

Positions for the 2021 intake were announced on Petrojobs in the disciplines of instrument and control, electrical and mechanical engineering. The final date to apply is 21 June 2021.

The challenger programme is a two to three-year competency-

Attracting the best graduates in Oman the programme supports technical and leadership development across BP, over 80 Omanis have joined the challenger programme since its launch

based course, designed to prepare graduates for roles across bp's business in various disciplines including environment, engineering, subsurface, people & culture, finance, procurement & supply chain management, and business & administration.

Last month, BP released its first socioeconomic review in Oman which includes examples of how the company has supported local employment and Omanisation.

NINE-YEAR MATURITY PERIOD

Finance Ministry issues international Sharia-compliant Sukuk bonds worth \$1.75 billion

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance has issued international Sharia-compliant Sukuk bonds worth \$1.75 billion for a nine-year maturity period.

Funding operations

The move comes as part of funding operations listed in the government's plan endorsed earlier this year to meet its financial requirements based on fiscal control and management of public debt levels.

According to current indicators, the international Sharia-compliant Sukuk issue saw a

large turnout of international investors and asset management institutions this week, with the bids multiplying more than 6.5 times over the issued Sukuk and drawing more than \$11.5 billion.

Interest rates

Existing data show that the rates of interest from the Sukuk improved and generated 4.875 per cent, less than what the government issued earlier.

The bids diversified in a broad base of geographical markets in the GCC, Asia, Europe and the United States. -OMA

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 MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Bank Dhofar, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer, while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 3.09 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,019.83 points, up 0.98 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.09 per cent at 567.95 points. Bank Dhofar, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 3.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of United Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 959 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR5 million, with more than 28 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded stocks, 23 advanced, 8 declined and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, Domestic investors were net buyers for OMR905,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR820,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR85,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,653.25 points, up 1.27 per cent. Bank Dhofar, Sohar International Bank, Oman & Emirates Holding, National Life Insurance and United Finance were up 4.35 per cent, 4.30 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.00 per cent and 1.92 per cent respectively. Bank Nizwa, Al Sharqia Investment and Al Anwar Investment were down 1.03 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.94 per cent respectively.

Industrial index closed at 5,663.18 points, down 0.02 per cent. Gulf International Chemical, Oman Fisheries, Oman Cement and Al Maha Ceramics were up 3.31 per cent, 2.50 per cent, 0.81 per cent and 0.58 per cent respectively. Dhofar Cattle Feed, Al Anwar Ceramic and National Aluminium Product were down 3.09 per cent, 1.71 per cent and 0.74 per cent respectively.

Services index was up by 0.29 per cent closing at 1,689.22 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

[illegible]

PANDEMIC EFFECT

World Bank forecasts 'uneven' 5.6% global growth this year

WASHINGTON: The global economy should expand by 5.6 percent this year but developing countries will struggle to keep up due to “the pandemic’s lasting effects,” the World Bank said, the Deutsche Presse Agentur reported.

While such growth would be “the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years,” overall global output could remain 2 per cent less than if the pandemic had not happened and the ensuing restrictions on business were not imposed, the bank

estimated. Per capita incomes in many emerging market economies are expected “to remain below pre-pandemic levels,” the bank cautioned which would likely “worsen deprivations associated with health, education and living standards.” -BNA

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC completes interviews to employ 50 job seekers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) has completed personal interviews to employ 50 job seekers, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) and Nama Holding Company, where the Ministry of Labour.

APSR announced earlier about these opportunities through the associated training mechanism employing 800 Omanis in the electricity sector in the Sultanate. OETC conducted personal interviews with about 150 candidates for the available jobs to select 50 job seekers to work in supervisory and technical positions such as assistant engineer, maintenance supervisor, health, safety and environment officer, electrical technician, and line installers. The company has formed



three committees to conduct personal interviews and evaluate the candidates to select those who are qualified to join the contracts of the contracting companies to replace the expatriates.

On the company's efforts to provide job opportunities for national cadres, Mubarak Al-Jahwari, Senior Manager of the Human Resources Department, said, "The company is commit-

ted to achieving a high percentage of Omaniisation for our national cadres, as the company's Omaniisation rate has reached 95 per cent, and we are currently working with our partners "the contracting companies" to replace the expatriates with national cadres, and in the coming days, 50 job seekers will be trained and employed, and we are trying to increase this number successively."

PRICE RISE

Fitch maintains gold price forecast of \$1,780 per ounce in 2021

SINGAPORE: Gold prices have been rising globally since April and Fitch Solutions believes there is further upside in the next few months as inflationary pressures remain elevated and pressure real bond yields.

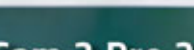
“We expect further gains in the coming months amid rising inflation pressuring US treasury real yields, a weak US dollar and renewed waves of COVID-19 infections gripping countries across the world,” it said.

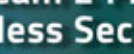
"For now we maintain our 2021 gold price forecast of \$1,780 per ounce (oz) with prices having averaged \$1,804 per oz in the year to date and hovering around \$1,900 per oz."

Fitch said inflation pressures can take longer than previously thought to recede, supporting gold for longer than initially expected.

Gold prices are likely to face significant resistance at the all-time high of \$2,075 per oz. However, there is strong support at the \$1,730 per oz mark. "We believe prices should remain firmly above this level for most of H221."

Fitch said strong base effects and persistent supply constraints are expected to maintain inflation above target across many economies in the next few months. **-ANI**







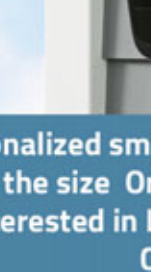
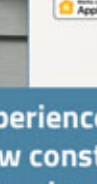
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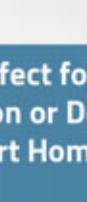
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CONTACT NO: +968 79162641 / email: mctjobs2021@gmail.com

SITUATION VACANT

• **Accounts & Administration** - Looking for a candidate having minimum 5 years of Oman Experience in Accounts & Administration. Knowledge of Oracle/Tally accounting & inventory package is must preferably experienced in Trading of Building Materials, Tools etc.

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Send CV to email: sandeepsomani@hotmail.com

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For further queries please contact, GSM: 97365922
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- Minimum 3 years work experience in same field.
- Fluent in English and Arabic advantage.
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- Must be present in Oman.
- Ready to join immediately.

Job ref no: 2104

Email: jobs@sgoman.net

SITUATION VACANT

A leading FMCG company looking for

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Candidate having 4 -5 years experience in FMCG field can send their CV to:

foods@manappat.com

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ACCOUNTANT

8 to 10yrs Exp in Handling Accounts upto Finalisation Independently. Age below 40yrs. NOC required.

Send your CV to:
accts1021@gmail.com

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Contact 99411067
Email rracbd@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SITUATION VACANT

• **Maintenance Supervisor**
Mechanical Engineer, worked in Manufacturing set up, 5+ years experience.

• **Quality Assurance & Control Engineer**
Worked in manufacturing set up, 6+ years experience.

Send C.V. to:
secretary@nationalmetalcans.com

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Website: www.almalaki.co

Contact: 90608097

Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning - Offices, Villas & Flats. Ocean Centre LLC.
Contact 99329289
Email: sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Contact Mundhir I-Rizaiqi trading. L.L.C # 24810137, 99450130



JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male with more than 20 years of experience in Accounts & Finance in Oman. Looking for a suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 99073833
Email: sindhuanruth@gmail.com

Internal Auditor, 7 years of experience in internal auditing in reputed firm of Oman with driving license looking for an opening: 94767318/
ajeejobs@gmail.com

Indian, MBA Finance with 14 + years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 99510161
Email: vinodpanchaman@gmail.com

Indian Male, BCom, MBA Finance, 46 years with 20+ years experience in Finance Dept, working in Oman for the last 11 years looking for suitable positions. NOC Available. Can Join immediately. Contact 79892262,
Email: radakalyan@gmail.com

Accountant with 3 years Oman experience (6 years total Experience), MBA Finance, well versed in VAT, NOC Available. Contact 978742226

Indian Male, B.Com, MBA, 10yrs exp. in accounts & export coordination with NOC & DL. Mob 98747867

16 Years experienced Sr. Accountant looking for suitable position, last 10 years in Oman. Knowledge of MIS Reporting, finance & accounts up to finalization. Experience in trading, logistics & construction industries. Contact 98042943
Email: cb3415@gmail.com

ENGINEER

B.Tech in Civil Engineering having 25 yrs+ Exp (18 yrs in Oman) Expertise in consultancy for buildings, building construction, project management, infrastructure, oil & gas plant. seeking a suitable placement for Sr. project manager, manager-projects, resident manager for consultancy. Available to join immediately, valid Omani D/L - NOC is available. Contact 92671539
Email: pvmam1_2006@yahoo.com

Oman Nationality 30 year, male 5years experience in Mechanical Engineer with Certificate Courses - (IOSH, HSE, FIRE WARDEN, FIRST AID CPR AED) looking for job in suitable sectors, valid D/L.
Contact 91443339.

B.Sc. Electrical Engineer more than 10 years experience, DCRP Protection level 4. Contact 79494296

HSE adviser iosh certified with 4 years experience.
Contact 94070019. Email: mubashirosmam89@gmail.com

Sr. Quantity surveyor - Civil / Project Engineer with 13 years (Oman-11 years, India-2 years) experience in Building projects, water supply projects , sewerage projects & roads, NOC available. Seeking for suitable positions. Contact 94163357
email: grav1_gct@yahoo.co.in

MS Electrical Engineer, 8yrs of experience as Manager Projects (Sales & Execution) of Lighting, Solar Systems & Electrical ELV in Oman. Contact 91293519, noonee987@gmail.com

MEP Mechanical Engineer with 2 years Experience. Contact 79027224. Email mhmmdsalah6a@hotmail.com

Electrical Projects Engineer, 8 year experience in Oman CEP of (OETC, MAZZON, MAJAN, MEDC and TANWEER). Contact 91261025

DCE 18+years in oman has only experienced in Consultancy done major projects, hospitals, governments projects, Contact 96163786

Indian male, 28yrs, B.Engg Elec & Comm, 3yrs exp in GCC in oil & gas and telecom sector seeking for suitable job. Contact 72636188

Sales Engineer, Sudanese, BSc Mechanical Engineering, 7years Experience in Oman, D/L, NOC. Contact 79027138

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTS

Heavy Equipment Spare Parts Co. hiring - **Accountant** with experience & good skills (Indian & Philipino National only).
Send CV - vacany.aro@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Urgently Required an Inventory controller (Indian male). Minimum 3 years experience is required in retail or wholesale. Contact 79361277
Email hr@kameliashopping.com

Required experienced **Female graduate with commerce background** for private office in Muscat. Interested candidates may forward their cv's to info@alasalaintl.com

A leading company requires **Office Co-ordinator (Female)** with experience in related field. Send the resume at hr.mus18@gmail.com

Looking For Office Staff.
Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

Heavy Equipment Spare Parts Co. hiring **Office Assistant** (Pakistani & Indian National Only).
Send CV - vacany.aro@gmail.com

CATERING

Urgently wanted **Young Experienced Cook**. Fluency in English, Knowledge in Indian & Continental Food is must. Contact 99466062

HOSPITALITY

Urgently wanted - **Experienced Bakery Chef** and **Bakery helper**. Knowledge and Experience in Bakery and Pastry products. Speaks English, Locally required. Contact 99466062

MEDICAL

Urgently required a Male Nurse for an Industrial Clinic with valid MOH license & NOC can contact: 98256531/ 99107632

Urgently required Nurse with MOH license at Al Khabourah. High salary and free accommodation.
Contact 99048170

Urgently required **Arab speaking gynecologist, family physicians, dentists/ lab technicians (general & molecular), nurses, pharmacists and microbiologist (doctor)** with experience in molecular microbiology, candidates with MOH license are preferred.
Email: hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com.
Whatsapp no: +968 95933456

Needed female lab technician for GP clinic in Salalah. # 99082092

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently require a Florist for a flower shop in Barka. # 92061841

Need of Software Developers (Male or Female) in .net, oracle, SQL, PLSQL, sales person (IT Hardware & software) & Accountants with 0-10 Yrs. experience.
Email: it.cv.oman@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Running garage in Ghala need **2 Hydraulic Mechanic, 2 Welder** with Denter and Fabricator, **2 Vehicle painter** (big & small vehicles), **2 Electrician** with AC mechanic.
Contact 99534124, 94683301 (w/up)

Required Lift Technician who can attend breakdown calls.
Contact 24786889

SALES/MARKETING

Sales Executives (2 Nos) required for a Freight Forwarding Company based in Muscat & Sohar with Oman/GCC driving licence and previous experience. Please email CV to: skylog4@gmail.com

Required indoor Sales person (M/F) for sports showroom. Call/ Whatsapp 99321960 (9am-1.00pm & 5pm-7 pm only)

Required Salesman with 3 years experience preferably in furniture, Oman driving license and knowledge of Arabic and English. Kindly send detailed CV to: organization.oman.furniture@gmail.com

Available vacancies for young and energetic Salesman in the field of textile trading for well reputed company to recruit urgently.
Email sendcv.om@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Admin / Hr / - Contact 95425764

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

Indian Male, BBA, With 8 Yrs Experience in Property Maintenance & Management with DL. Contact 95865329

Indian female, 8 years experience coordination, exe secretary, admin asst. Contact 92243552

Omani male 15 yrs experience in the field of Public relation & good communication skill looking for a suitable placement. Contact 97407500.
Email khalidoman017@gmail.com

DRIVER

Bangladeshi looking for driver job, 4 yrs experience. Can speak Arabic & Hindi. Contact 97625632

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Indian Chartered Accountant
Indian Female CA with 8 years' experience in Audit, Accounts, Finance, Investment, Consultancy looking for suitable assignments.
Contact: +968 9914 7922

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

PROJECT ADMIN/CEO OFFICE MNGMT/HR/OPS CORPORATE & MKTG. COMMUNICATIONS/ADMIN
Smart Indian, Masters, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp in Airport Projects, Hospital. Media in Project Coordination, Corporate & Mktg. Communication, CEO & Chairman Office Mngmt, Operations, Marketing, NOC, Immediate.
CONTACT 99283938

Software Engineer
Male, Master's degree, worked as Software Engineer seeking IT job. Visa status - Employment, NOC available.
Contact 79830312

GROUP FINANCE MANAGER
with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement
Contact 93288251
Email: suhasdkini@gmail.com

HSE Manager/Sr. HSE Eng
Having Nebosh Diploma with Diploma in Civil Engineering, 21 years experience in various field, looking for Job. NOC available.
Contact 94549278

Senior BSc Civil Engineer
(Having valid Engineering Visa with Oman D/L with more than 24 years experience including more than 10 years in Oman (Buildings and Roads) worked for the consultants and contractors available with release for immediate recruitment.
Contact: 96753667
Email ID: mohamedishahan@gmail.com

Sr Accountant/Financial Controller
(M.COM) Indian Male 32 Year. 11 Years Exp in Finance/Accounts/ VAT/Budget/ Payroll Software SAP, Excellent in SAP/MS Office/ MIS. Looking suitable placement having Oman driving licence & NOC.
Contact 94684007
Email: vveer555@gmail.com

Finance Manager
BSc, MBA, ACCA, 20 years' experience in Financial Statements, Management Accounts, Risk management, SAP and VAT compliance. NOC available. Can start immediately.
Phone 90213906

Civil Engineer/Facility Manager
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise (7 years in Oman) in Civil Construction operation, Project Management, Facilities Management looking for suitable placement. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303
shiv60769@gmail.com

Diploma Engineer Civil
Experience 10 years Oman, 6 Pakistan. Multi stories Buildings, Ministry of education & Sports. ROP Fahud Road and Building work. TELECOM, ROP Green & roof top sites. PDO applicant licence & driving licence.
Contact 98921022
akhtarmahmood3137@gmail.com

Business Administrator
Having a strong interpersonal, communication skills (verbal, written), can speak both Arabic & English languages, having basic knowledge of Microsoft Office application, ability to work on team, a very fast learner.
Contact 94887879
Email: amani.alhaj94@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)
CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.
GSM: 78259755

Software Professional
Indian female, 27 years, Software professional (MCA), having 4 years experience in MNC seeks a suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit visa.
Contact 78037607

HR & Administration Professional
With Executive Assistant Exposure, Well Experienced With Oman Labour Law, Well Versed In Office Management, New Office Induction & Administration, Indian Male, With Valid Oman Driving License, NOC Available, Seeks Suitable Placements.
GSM: 94 94 86 76

ACCOUNTANT
Indian female having MBA with 15yrs exp as Accountant and Accounts Officer looking for suitable placement. Having Valid Visa, NOC.
Contact: 98783111
Email: anjabinus@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer
Indian B.E., (Mechanical) with 19 years Oman Experience in MEP system Design, Supervision, Execution & Maintenance of Comm./Res. Buildings, hotels, Hospitals, HyperMarkets, PDO & Govt. Palace and RGO is looking for suitable Opening, Valid D/L, NOC available.
Contact: 92672761
email: tnrajan76@gmail.com

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL
INDIAN MALE, M.Com, PGDSCM, WITH +20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN PURCHASE, SALES & DISTRIBUTION, INVENTORY & CREDIT CONTROL SEEKS PLACEMENT.
CONTACT 94619442
vineeth33@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

HOSPITALITY

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

IT

Indian, diploma holder in Computer hardware engineering, MCSE & CCNA also 2 year experience as system admin. Looking for job.
Contact 79500069

LOGISTIC

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272
Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

Logistics Coordinator, Indian Male, Age 27, with 2 and a half years experience in supply chain and knowledge of ERP looking for a suitable placement. Contact 71423342
Email: zakwansheikh@gmail.com

Sr. Accountant (BSc, CA Inter)

Indian (male) with 10 years' experience in Accounting up to finalization. Tally, Focus and excellent in Excel functions. Oman DL.
Contact: 78072563

SR. ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, NOC/Release Available.
Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

Accounts/Finance/Audit Professional

ACCA,CIA, CRMA and Masters Degree with 9 years of diversified experience and valid Oman driving licence; looking for suitable opportunity in Finance/Accounting /Audit.
Contact No: +96891735780
Email: cia.acca1989@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

MANAGER

Finance Manager, Indian: 22Yrs experience (UAE&Oman), looking Job Change. Contact 90473368

HSE Advisor/Manager With 14 yrs exp. 8 years in Oman with D/L. Expertise in Construction & COVID measures in large scale. Currently in Oman in a reputed company. Available in August. Contact 97477573.
Email hse.muscatoman@gmail.com

PURCHASE

Inventory, Purchase & Accounts:
Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B, Operations and various other skills. NOC available. Contact 96219904
Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Indian Male 26yrs, looking job for Traveling Agent in Oman, qualification Plus Two with IATA certificate experience 5year in KSA. Contact 79168215
Email: Muheenpatgar08@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 71790238

Indian with experience in FMCG retail Sales, purchase with D/L & NOC available for immediate joining. Contact 91428535

Indian male kerala 31 with 6 yrs of experience in Oman(FMCG sales and other) Oman D/L looking for any suitable placement [now on visa]. Contact 78104649

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272
Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

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ROUND-UP



NASA ANNOUNCES
PLANS FOR TWO NEW
VENUS MISSIONS

NASA is launching two new missions to Venus at the end of the decade to find out why the planet became “an inferno-like world.”
The missions will take place from 2028 to 2030.

US space agency NASA announced plans for two new missions to Venus, the first in decades to explore Earth’s “hot-house” neighbour.

NASA’s Discovery programme has granted a \$500 million (€410 million) budget for the two missions, which will take place between 2028 and 2030.

The last US-led mission to Venus was carried out in 1978.

The announcement comes after the space agency’s successful mission to Mars which saw NASA land and launch its Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter.

Why does NASA want to go to Venus?

“These two sister missions both aim to understand how Venus became an inferno-like world, capable of melting lead at the surface,” said Bill Nelson, NASA’s new administrator.

“They will offer the entire science community the chance to investigate a planet we haven’t been to in more than 30 years.”

Although the mission is led by NASA, the German Aerospace Center (DLR) will be supplying the infrared mapper.

The Italian Space Agency and

French Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales will provide the radar and other equipment for the mission.

“It is astounding how little we know about Venus, but the combined results of these missions will tell us about the planet from the clouds in its sky through the volcanoes on its surface all the way down to its very core,” said Tom Wagner, NASA’s Discovery Program scientist.

“It will be as if we have rediscovered the planet,” he added.

What are the goals of the two missions?

The DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging) will try to find out the origins of Venus’ carbon dioxide atmosphere.

A probe will plunge into the thick atmosphere full of clouds of sulfuric acid to find out if the planet ever had an ocean.

DAVINCI+ will measure the planet’s elements to try to find out the causes of its intense greenhouse gases.

It will send the first high resolution images of the planet’s “terrerae” land features that could help provide groundbreaking information to scientists of how the planet was formed.

The second mission dubbed VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy) will seek to map the planet’s rocky surface.

In doing so, scientists hope to establish a geologic history of the planet and understand how it developed differently from Earth. By mapping infrared emissions, researchers will be able to establish what type of rock lies beneath the planet’s thick atmosphere.

Venus is often called Earth’s sister-planet – due to its similar size and composition. NASA believes it may have been “the first habitable world in the solar system” at one point – but it’s now the hottest, despite not being the closest to the sun. -bw

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar provides COVID-19 vaccines for its employees

This initiative translates BankDhofar’s endeavour to support the government’s efforts to combat the pandemic

MUSCAT: As part of BankDhofar’s interest to protect the employees and their families from COVID-19, the bank, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has started to provide vaccines for the employees and their spouse.

This initiative translates BankDhofar’s endeavour to support the government’s efforts to combat the pandemic.

Commenting on this initiative, Dr Khalid Salim AlHamadani, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar, said, “Our employees’ wellbeing is our priority at BankDhofar. Thus, we constantly conduct initiatives to promote a healthy lifestyle and wellbeing. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we introduced an internal campaign to raise the awareness about the pandemic and the protective measures to be followed by our employees for their safety and our customers’ safety as well.”

“As part of our social responsibility, and in support of the im-



mense efforts done by the government to combat coronavirus through the health care services and the vaccination campaigns, we have collaborated with the Ministry of Health to provide vaccines to our staff and their spouses.”

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, BankDhofar has applied several preventive measures, for its staff and customers to avoid the widespread of coronavirus. The bank launched external and internal campaigns including: “Your

Health is Our Priority” digital campaign, which was launched to spread awareness among customers and the public.

Within the same campaign, BankDhofar encourages customers to stay safe by conducting their banking transactions 24/7 through mobile banking app, Internet Banking and ATMs & CDMs. The bank offers a wide range of exclusive services which are available only through its award-winning app.



OMANISATION



Majan Electricity interviews 112 Omanis for recruitment at contractor companies

MUSCAT: Majan Electricity (MJEC) – Member of Nama Group in collaboration with Ministry of Labour and Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSP) formed committees to conduct 112 job interviews with Omani job seekers who passed pre-employment tests that took place in ‘Numo’ institution owned by Nama.

This move aimed to achieve Omanisation in 800 technical job vacancies in Majan’s electrical contracting companies. The recruits will be trained on the job for one year to prepare them to do their duties efficiently and to help them adapt to the new work environment.

“The steady efforts by Majan Electricity Company to accelerate the Omanisation of the technical jobs at the long term contracts with our contractors come in response to the Royal Directive of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. These efforts will have a positive effect on achieving Oman Vision 2020 and sustainable development jobs. We are going to appoint, train and rehabilitate 112 Omanis at our company operations in North Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi governorates,” said Eng. Salim bin Masoud Al Kabi, Chief Operating Officer at MJEC.

“Omanis who will be appointed for the technical jobs will receive an intensive training course that includes theoretical, practical and on-the-job training to ensure that they have acquired the required technical skills and

knowledge to carry out their duties efficiently. Moreover, the company will continue to work towards Omanisation of the technical jobs for the long-term contracts throughout the coming year to ensure that Omanis have taken over all the technical jobs,” he added.

The move is expected to raise the Omanisation rate in these companies to 80 per cent by the end of 2021, with plans to increase them further to 90 per cent by the end of 2022.

Similarly, MJEC completed interviews for six Omani engineers during the last week and put in place plans to raise the Omanisation rate within the company to 97 per cent by the end of the year.

It is worth mentioning that MJEC achieved over 96 per cent Omanisation rate in the technical jobs this year, and it seeks to take it further to 100 per cent by the end of 2022.

Eng. Khalifa bin Nasser Al Isamili, Sr. Manager, Support Services said “MEC has achieved 95.7 per cent Omanisation rate as of this year with a solid plan to reach 100 per cent Omanisation by the end of next year, enabling Omanis to take over the different jobs in technical and financial fields at the company. It should be noted that Majan Electricity Company, in coordination with Nama Holding and the Public Services Authority and the Ministry of Labour has approved a plan to replace expatriates with Omanis throughout, in the next two years.”

PROMOTION

INFINITI Oman announces special offer on its versatile SUV range

MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has announced special offers across its SUV range of INFINITI QX50, INFINITI QX60, and INFINITI QX80 as part of its promotion.

Customers who purchase INFINITI QX50, INFINITI QX60, and INFINITI QX80 during the promotion are eligible for assured cash gift, free registration, free window film and ceramic paint protection coat, free periodic vehicle service package and free AAA Assistance Card. The special offer on the QX50, QX60 and QX80 is valid till June 20.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, “INFINITI SUVs - QX50, QX60 and QX80 are fitted with smart technologies that adapt to the needs of customers. These SUVs have multiple advanced features to please even the most demanding of lifestyles, such as a versatile interior with adaptable seating, cargo space, and an individualised entertainment system. This is the ideal time to book one of the versatile INFINITI SUVs. INFINITI SUVs continue to be amongst the best-selling vehicles in Oman for obvious reasons. They are an excellent choice for anyone looking for powerful performance, safe drive, and comfortable interiors.”

Assured cash gift

An assured cash gift of OMR 3000 is being offered on INFINITI QX50. Customers buying INFINITI QX60 will get an assured cash gift of OMR 3000. INFINITI QX80 customers will get an assured cash gift of OMR 4000. The cash gift can be adjusted in the down payment of the car if a customer opts for it.

Free registration

All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX60 and QX80 during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration. Applicable to the extent of private registration only. For commercial registrations, an additional amount including passing needs to be borne by the customer.

All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX60 and QX80 during this scheme will be eligible for free window film (side and rear glass) and ceramic paint protection coat. All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX60 and QX80 during this scheme period will be eligible for a free periodic



maintenance service package for three years/60,000km (whichever is earlier). All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX60 and QX80 during the scheme period will receive a free AAA assistance card for the first year only.

5% VAT on SBA for QX60

The 5 per cent VAT charge applicable at the time of purchase for QX60 will be borne by SBA’s INFINITI Oman.

INFINITI QX50: Convincing performance

INFINITI QX50 provides the highest level of versatility, efficiency, and performance in luxury mid-size crossovers. The VC-Turbo engine delivers the strong and convincing performance of a V6 and the fuel economy of a 4-cylinder engine, which allows users to harness the exhilarating performance of 268 hp and 380 nm at 4,400 rpm of torque. The appearance of the INFINITI QX50 highlights the influence of human artistry in the design process to emphasise the car’s premium quality with intelligent packaging and deep character lines with INFINITI signature design cues.

The VC-Turbo engine is the world’s first production-ready variable compression ratio engine, transforming on demand. A breakthrough in combustion engine design, the 2.0-litre VC-Turbo engine adjusts its compression ratio to optimise power and efficiency.

A multi-link system continuously raises or lowers the pistons’ reach to transform the compression ratio. High compression ratios aid efficiency, while low ratios enable greater power and torque. The VC-Turbo offers any compression ratio between 8:1 (for performance) and 14:1 (for efficiency), maximising driver control.

The engine delivers 268 hp (200 kW) and (380 Nm) and fuel economy of 14.1 km/l combined, front-wheel drive; 13.6 km/l combined, all-wheel drive). Front-wheel-drive models offer a 35 per cent improvement in fuel efficiency over the previous V6 gasoline QX50; all-wheel-drive models offer a 30 per cent improvement. The engine is paired with a continuously variable transmission (CVT), for seamless power delivery. Its infinite number of gears perfectly matches the engine’s ability to transform.

INFINITI QX60: Staying ahead

Featuring superior interior and exterior design with a collection of assistive and in-built technologies, the INFINITI QX60 which is a fantastic three-row luxury SUV stays ahead of the curve by bringing a unique offering to the segment. While it impresses auto enthusiasts with its array of features, INFINITI QX60’s intelligent technology, advanced performance, and leading-edge craftsmanship has brought it new fans too.

INFINITI QX60’s innovative design gives it both luxurious versatility and visual appeal, besides its improved interior design with a suite of assistive and intuitive technologies that provide versatility precisely tailored to the needs of every guest. Furthermore, the state-of-the-art INFINITI QX60 is completely redesigned from the exterior and also boasts a host of new features and technologies that enhance comfort, convenience and safety. Inside INFINITI QX60 rich leather appointments are naturally soft yet durable enough for beach days. A dual-screen rear entertainment system keeps kids happy, while drivers can enjoy music or conversation upfront. When a premium crossover is as practical as it is elegant the owners get the best.

INFINITI QX80 full-size luxury SUV

The 2021 INFINITI QX80 full-size luxury SUV, features added equipment, innovative new technologies and stylish features befitting its luxury status, in addition to a new ‘Black Edition’ grade.

The INFINITI QX80 is a full-size luxury SUV – the flagship of the INFINITI range. It combines bold proportions and a commanding exterior design with a spacious, high-quality cabin with room for seven or eight passengers. Effortless performance, advanced driver-assist technologies and taut yet refined dynamics allow for a relaxing and confidence-inspiring drive.

ROUND-UP

Lincoln pays your VAT: Exclusive benefits now available on Corsair

Expressively designed and effortlessly nimble, the Lincoln Corsair is a spacious two-row SUV that combines refined power and a wealth of purposeful technologies in a sanctuary from the outside world

MUSCAT: Lincoln enthusiasts can now own the stylish, compact and luxurious Lincoln Corsair without additional payment (Since 5 per cent VAT on net selling price will be borne by Lincoln Oman) & cash gift OMR5,500, service 5 years / 100,000 km, and Registration. (Conditions apply. Please visit the Lincoln showroom for details). The campaign ends on June 16.

Expressively designed and effortlessly spacious, the Lincoln Corsair is a nimble two-row SUV that combines refined power and a wealth of purposeful technologies in a sanctuary from the outside world. The Corsair is designed to give luxury customers technology to make their drive effortless, such as a phone as a key, head-up display and standard Lincoln Co-Pilot360 driver-assist features.

The horizontal interior design lends a visual calmness to space, which is crafted with supple, hand-selected materials. Breaking up the elements, particularly the cantilevered console, emphasizes

volume and enhances practicality with additional front-row storage. A specially tuned 14-speaker Revel premium audio system is available for the all-new Corsair. Placement, tuning, calibration and the number of Revel speakers are all unique to each Lincoln vehicle, designed to ensure audio quality and accuracy for each cabin size and acoustics. Available wireless charging for compatible mobile devices is located in the front-row armrest, while a convenient media bin is available for passengers in front as well. Multiple power outlets are located throughout.

Additional technologies are seamlessly integrated through SYNC 3 with AppLink; users simply plug their mobile phone into their SYNC 3-equipped Corsair to access apps directly from an available 8-inch touch screen.

Staying true to its Quiet Flight DNA, Corsair is engineered to deliver the effortless drive experience and sensation of gliding over the road. Turbocharged four-

cylinder engine options are available – a standard 2.0-litre with a targeted 250 horsepower and 275 lb.-ft. of torque. Each is mated to a new 8-speed automatic transmission for agile performance. Cor-

sair delivers a wealth of intuitive, customisable technologies that allow clients to personalise their driving experiences to exactly their liking.

Corsair, like all Lincoln vehi-

cles, comes standard with a suite of driver-assist features known as Lincoln Co-Pilot360. It provides Pre-Collision Assist with automatic emergency braking and Pedestrian Detection, Blind

Spot Information System, a Lane-Keeping System, rear backup camera and auto high-beam lighting.

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



VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

COVID-19 vaccination initiative for OAB staff



MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced a COVID-19 vaccination initiative for its employees and their families including spouses and children over the age of 18 years, in conjunction with the national vaccination campaign supervised by the Ministry of Health.

There are currently 1,400 registrations, with the final number expected to exceed 2,000 people. This step is also in line with the Wiqaya programme, launched by the Human Resources Division since the onset of the pandemic. The initiative will run in coordination with multiple hospitals across the various wilayats, providing ease and accessibility to staff, without the need for them to travel to Muscat.

Highlighting the importance of the initiative, Rashad Al Musafir, CEO of the bank said, "At OAB, we believe in safeguarding the health and well-being of all our employees and their families. Since the

beginning of this pandemic, we have ensured business continuity while maintaining the highest level of precautionary measures within our premises. Based on the directives of the Supreme Committee, we are well prepared to cover the costs of the vaccinations for our employees and their families, to ensure peace of mind within the communities.”

Preventive measures

Preventive measures
The Wiqaya programme included several preventive measures to offset the spread of coronavirus and reduce the risk internally within the bank. The vaccination initiative will begin at the OAB head office and will be rolled out to the 53 bank's branches across the Sultanate in the coming weeks, aimed at a 100 per cent reach. The vaccination costs of the employees and members of their families will be fully covered by the bank.

“With the onset of the COV-

ID-19 crisis, the launch of our Wiqaya programme placed a strong focus on health and hygiene at all our branches. This included the provision of sanitisers, masks and other protective gear to staff, alongside enforcing social distancing wherever possible. Through the current initiative, we can contribute towards the Sultanate's wider effort to vaccinate citizens and residents alike," he added.

As part of the programme, several virtual workshops were conducted by the bank to educate staff. Topics that were touched upon comprised of awareness on the new COVID-19 variants, methods of dealing with subsequent strains and the importance of adhering to preventive measures and reducing the spread and risk of infections.

Oman Arab Bank has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in the Sultanate.

NEW OUTLET



Flora D'lite opens second floral boutique in Links, Muscat Hills

MUSCAT: Flora D'Lite a new name in flowers in Oman has announced the opening of its second exquisite floral boutique at Links, Muscat Hills. The floral retailer is already making a mark since its first outlet opened in Qurum earlier this year. The new strategically planned outlet is set to cater to the community and growing demand in the area.

Flora D'lite will now be more easily available and accessible to their customers with their range of fresh flowers and floral arrangements with an added collection of chocolates, cakes and gifts for births, birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

They also offer a large selection of artificial flowers, indoor plants, forever flowers and vases. Other services provided include floral arrangements for weddings, homes

and larger events and services are available around the country.

Professional, talented and experienced floral artistes are an important part of the company's philosophy and service is always with a smile.

“Our flowers are sourced through the best available resources in the country and we are already building a loyal customer base in Oman. The opening of outlets in key locations like Muscat Hills and Qurum will help us in achieve our goal of being available around the capital area in the first phase of our growth,” said a spokesperson for the company. “When customers walk into our outlets we want them to enjoy the experience that shopping for flowers and the joy of giving them away brings,” he added.

The company's expansion plan

will soon cover key areas in Muscat and following the establishment of the second outlet further openings will be rolled out soon. Future plans to capture the market around the country through retail and deliveries are next on the agenda.

The newly opened outlet is located opposite the Spinney's entrance on the ground floor of the Links Building, Muscat Hills and is open for orders, enquiries, pickups and deliveries.

Flora D'Lite is a floral boutique that opened in early 2021. The brand currently has 2 outlets in Qurum (next to Fun Zone) and Seeb (Links, Muscat Hills) with plans for more openings in the country within the year. The outlets supply fresh and artificial flowers, artificial flowers, indoor plants, forever flowers and vases.



Eid Offer

BUY & WIN³¹⁰ Prizes

Offer valid from 1st May 2021 to 31st July 2021. Total of 3 raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Aziba, Dhuwathi, 1st June 2021, 1st July 2021 and 2nd August 2021. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary.

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