



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Ram Nath Kovind of India in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable to him on the occasion of the Republic Day. In the cable, President Kovind expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's greetings. He affirmed his keenness to strengthen the existing relations between the two countries, wishing His Majesty a good health and happiness. **-ONA**



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COVID-19

Times News Service

"My mother was supposed to visit us next week, but I asked her to postpone her trip because it is far too expensive to travel now," said Santosh Shetty, an Indian expat. "The flight ticket to and from Oman costs about OMR130, and that's affordable, but there are many added expenses we need to take on board due to COVID-19."

>A6



ECONOMY

The NCSI data also show that the FDI in oil and gas extraction activities in Oman acquired OMR9.89 billion, up from OMR9 billion in the same period of 2019 while the FDI in the manufacturing sector at the end of the second quarter of 2020 reached OMR1.55 billion, a fall from OMR1.64 billion in 2019. **UNA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

2 Former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi, credited by some with having saved the euro, was sworn in on Saturday as the new prime minister of Italy. **>A6**

3 The Sultanate has been ranked eighth globally in the area of business fundamentals and third in Gulf Cooperation Council for international logistics. **>B2**

Times News Service

Al Busaidi was speaking during an interview hosted by the

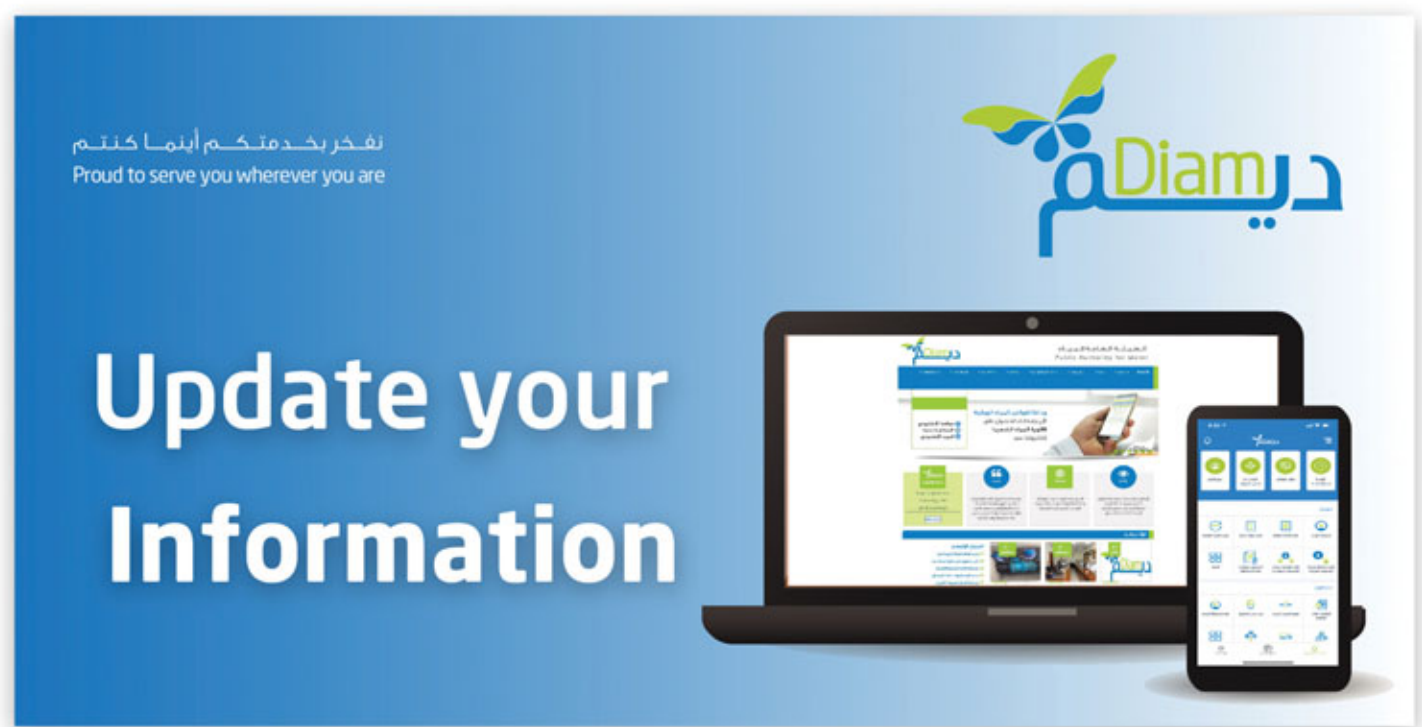


"His Majesty recently issued a revised Basic Law, in which a commitment to economic development, to the provision of social protection for all, to the right to work, and to the sharing of responsibility for national wellbeing are all affirmed and

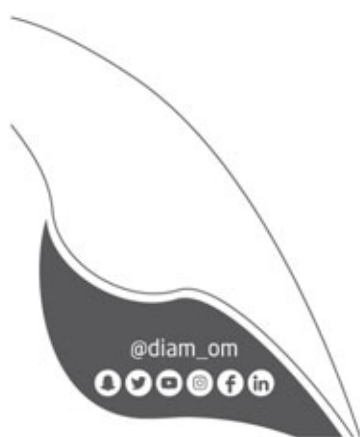
The event was hosted by Marc Sievers, the former US Ambassador to Oman, and a senior mem-

Countries need to cooperate with each other and work in togetherness if the world is to quickly repair the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Al Busaidi stressed, particularly in helping return peoples' lives to normal.

>A6



30 June 2021



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Dhuhr.....	12.26pm
Asr.....	3:41pm
Maghrib.....	6:07pm
Isha.....	7:18pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.24am

Ministry's COVID-19 guidelines for cafes, hotels and restaurants

Only one staff shall be permitted to perform housekeeping for each hotel room and outsourcing services firms must obtain medical certificates proving that they are free of COVID-19



SAFETY MEASURES: The guidelines are aimed at protecting all employees and guests of classified hotel, restaurant, and cafe attendants.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage has issued guidelines on COVID-19 prevention measures for classified hotels, restaurants, cafes, and their employers.

As per the guidelines, only one employee shall be permitted to perform housekeeping for each hotel room and outsourcing services companies must obtain medical certificates proving that they are free of COVID-19.

The Ministry said, "In preparation of the gradual return of the tourism activity upon the gradual receding of the COVID-19, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has issued standard measures that must be followed to limit the wider spread of the disease all over again."

The guidelines are aimed at protecting all employees and guests of classified hotel, restaurant, and cafe attendants and balancing between restarting the normal life and the continuation of the precautionary measures. The relevant guidelines are as follows:

■ Preventive measures in the main entrance of hotels: Limit and control the number of en-

trances; provide signs containing instructions and illustrations on COVID-19 prevention in the hotel; provide facemasks at the main entrance, which are necessary for everyone to wear immediately upon entry to the hotel; and provide hand sanitisers in a visible place near the main entrance; provide a (digital) thermometer; sterilise the baggage of guests when checking in and out of the hotel; sterilise the baggage car before and after use; resume parking service, with the following measures - Employees must wear face masks and gloves, and change it following every single parking, keep the vehicle's air conditioning on while maintaining the doors open for some time to ensure the vehicle is ventilated before handing over to the guest, use single-vehicle seat covers, use disinfectant wipes to clean the steering wheel, transmission, and any surfaces contacted in the vehicle; train employees in the hotel's main entrance area

on COVID-19 prevention measures to maintain the safety of visitors and the hotel entry.

■ Preventive measures in the recipient area: Remove all devices and common items on the reception area as public phones and posters of all kinds, and clean the reception table with sterile materials after completing each guest's procedures; place a glass or plastic screen separating employees from guests at the reception counter (or keep a minimum distance of two metres between the receptionist and the guest); place floor signs around the waiting places of the guests to complete the procedures for receiving and delivering the rooms, provided that they are no less than two metres between each sign, or complete the procedures in the guest's room directly rearrange the reception seats so that no less than two metres is allowed between the seats; reduce the number of allowed guests in the elevator, so that it is limited to

four people for wide elevators in case of being from one family only, and two people for narrow elevators; and cover the buttons with a plastic or insulation material that is constantly replaced; clean the elevator with sterile materials continuously; employees must wear masks or transparent face protective masks throughout the course of work; educate and urge employees on the importance of prompt reporting to the official when any respiratory symptoms or high body temperature appear whether for them or for any of their colleagues, regardless of the severity of the symptoms.

■ Prevention measures in rooms and toilets: Remove all posters and paper marketing materials from rooms; the rooms must be vacant after the departure of the guest for a sufficient period (at least 24 hours) to be treated, sterilised and reviewed by the hotel security and safety officials; reduce room items and package to the most important ones (e.g. pens and remote controls) and renew packaging after each guest, reduce sanitary materials in the toilet according to the number of guests, provided that all materials are destroyed after the departure of each guest.

■ Restaurants and Cafes: Buffets are permitted while adhering to the prevention measures; conduct temperature checks on diners and the hotel should ensure spacing between dining tables and chairs in accordance with the standards issued by the competent authorities; adopt the advice and instructions issued by international companies specialised in sterilisation methods and chemicals necessary to ensure safety in hotel rooms, public spaces and restaurants; restaurant workers' observance of wearing gloves, changing them from time to time and handwashing with soap and water; digital payments at customer's table is preferable to reduce crowding at the cashier; and control the num-

ber of diners by allowing advance reservations to avoid crowds.

■ Housekeeping Services: Inform all companies that provide outsourcing services to the hotel that they must obtain medical certificates proving that they are free of COVID-19, and that these workers should not be replaced or transferred from a hotel to another; only one employee shall be permitted simultaneously to perform housekeeping for each hotel room and guests shall not be permitted in the room during the housekeeping service; antibacterial chemicals should be used to clean room, floor cleaning items (dusters/mop) should be re-sterilised after use in each room; provide disposable laundry bags that can be disposed of; workers must wear single use plastic aprons and waterproof shoes while clean, wear masks and gloves on ongoing basis while continuing to conduct rapid testing of workers; focus on cleaning frequently-used surfaces of all facilities (door handles, etc). Ensure the sustainability of sterilisation of received and delivered goods through the loading and unloading area, with special procedures for receiving external orders (such as food or packages), and it is preferable for the delivery person not to access the rooms; consider the possibility of providing housing in the hotel or belonging to the same for the employees of the outsource services companies to ensure that it does not intermix with other people in their current housing.

■ Meeting event rooms: Party and conference rooms must operate at 50 percent capacity while adhering to the prevention measures, meeting rooms are permitted to be used while adhering to physical distancing and provide hand sanitisers at meeting tables; ventilate meeting rooms constantly, avoid providing pens and paper items during meetings except upon request from guests, to

be used only once and discarded after use and create a record of attendance details and their contact numbers for easy screening.

■ Recreational facilities and gym: Ensure that workers and visitors are symptom-free, and check their body temperature before entering these facilities, all types of sports and recreational facilities are permitted to be used by guests and visitors of the facility; control the number of pool users to avoid crowding, clean and sterilise lounge chairs surrounding the pool area and locker room cabinets after each use, and rearrange the seats so that a minimum distance of two metres is kept between each seat; juice and water are only allowed to be served in single-use bottles or cups at the beverage service area by the pools, health club facilities such as massage rooms, steam baths, saunas, hot tubs and spas are permitted in accordance with the standards issued by the competent authorities; rearrange exercise machines so that a minimum distance of two metres is kept between each machine, and reduce the number of gym members, provide hand sanitisers; avoid group workouts to reduce mixing, and personal Items such as towels and water bottles are not allowed towel cabinets shall be sterilised; towels must be kept in closed cabinets and provided to guests upon request, and are not be shared with others; sanitize gym equipment after each use.

The Ministry will monitor the ongoing compliance of these establishments in coordination with the competent authorities, such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Manpower, competent Municipalities, Royal Oman Police, Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance. These guidelines will be continuously updated in accordance with the requirements for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Shop is NOW OPEN!



Clarks

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Recently, Clarks open its new shop located at Al Hail South, featuring a variety of Shoes for men and women which combines comfort and style. Come and visit our New Shop Now! and don't miss out our **"SALE"** up to 70% OFF from 26th January to 3rd of March 2021. Shop hours for the newly open shop is from 10:00 AM to 10:00PM all days. WhatsApp No. 93894474.



alkhamisshoes

You may also visiting Clarks store at Al Khamis Plaza, Qurum Commercial Area - Tel. No. 24565259 and at Muscat Grand Mall - Tel. No. 24399930.



SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT

PSM students excel in academics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pakistan School Muscat (PSM) is offering both Federal Board and A' Level and O' Level studies.

It is remarkable that the students are making their mark in both streams by performing marvellously in the examinations as well as by getting their splendid academic achievements ahead.

Hallmarks

This is one of the hallmarks that the following students of Pakistan School Muscat have secured their positions among the top 100 students in the merit list to get



admission to Medical and Dental Colleges of Punjab, Pakistan and one student named Muhammad Ahmad Khan is also in the waiting list: Laiba Ali, Muhammad Taaib

Imran, Ayesha Khadim Hussain, Xeneb Sulemani. It is also notable that one of the students named Aaala Ali has also got admission to the National University for Science and Technology College of Medicine and Health Sciences Oman which is indeed a matter of pride for the students, faculty, parents, community and Pakistan School System.

A collaborative association

It is obviously the result of the hard work of students, untiring efforts of the faculty and a collaborative association of parents and the institution that has made it all possible.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MOST READ ON FACEBOOK



HM sends cable of condolences to Indian President

A story on His Majesty sending cable of condolence to the President of India reached 47,319 people and had 12,523 engagements on Facebook.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK



The Midday Update episode

The Midday Update episode got 7,900 views and reached 34,400 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

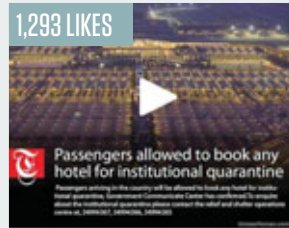


Photo story on passengers booking hotels

A photo story on passengers booking hotels for quarantine had 1,293 likes on Instagram



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RESEARCH

SQU team builds drone to detect COVID-19 cases

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A fully functional prototype which can detect COVID-19 symptoms from a distance of 10 to 15 metres has been built by researchers in Oman.

The research team was led by Dr. Ahmed Al Maashri from Sultan Qaboos University and has been funded by the COVID-19 Research Programme offered by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI).

The prototype uses thermography to accurately calculate the skin temperature of targets using thermal cameras. In addition, machine vision algorithms are used to perform tasks, such as action recognition to detect other symptoms, such as coughing and sneezing.

Machine vision algorithms will also help in detecting the faces of suspected cases. This project aims to develop a drone-based system that can detect suspected cases of COVID-19 infections from a distance, using drones and the artificial intelligence (AI) technology. The system was tested in outdoor environments



at various altitudes, multiple angles of incidence, different times of the day, and several locations.

The ability to detect suspected cases of infection from a distance has several advantages. First of all, this approach is safer since suspected areas can be scanned without the need to send health care providers to the location to take measurements. Secondly, it is much faster to scan areas using a drone instead of making door-to-door visits to these locations.

Thirdly, the proposed system is much more cost-effective, especially when compared with dispatching skilled cadre who could have otherwise been utilised to provide health care to those in need. The system provides accurate skin temperatures of multiple individuals simultaneously.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



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Spinneys opens new store in Souq Al Madina, Muscat

سبينس تفتتح متجراً جديداً في سوق المدينة بمسقط

Expanding the fresher experience in Oman with a wide variety of responsibly sourced products

Spinneys has opened its fourth store in Muscat's Souq Al Madina, spread across 1,099 sq ft. The new store will stock a variety of products from the UK, USA, Australia, South Africa and The Netherlands. It will also carry Spinneys private label and Waitrose brands.

At Spinneys, offering the fresher experience has always been at the forefront of all it does. Customers are invited to explore a range of fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables from local and international growers. The premium-quality meat in store includes the range of SpinneysFOOD Angus Beef sourced from Stanbroke, a trusted family run cattle farm in Australia. The beef has consistently high marbling and outstanding natural flavour. An excellent selection of cheeses including Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) varieties such as Camembert and Brie from France are available at the deli counter.

"We're excited about this store opening and are looking forward to giving customers a new experience with a superior product range," says Sunil Kumar, CEO, Spinneys Dubai LLC.

Spinneys has always been firmly committed to the highest standards of customer service. The friendly and knowledgeable staff will be on hand to provide expert advice and support for anything from selecting prime cuts for a barbecue to presenting an attractive cheeseboard. The store will also have a dine-in area where customers can enjoy a freshly baked treat from the bakery counter, or a healthy lunch from the deli.

The store has been fitted with state-of-the-art equipment as well as self-service checkout machines.

SPINNEYS SOUQ AL MADINA WILL BE OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM 07.00AM-11.00PM.

سبينس توسّع عملياتها لتوفير التجربة الأكثر نضارة في عُمان مع تشكيلة واسعة من المنتجات التي تستوفى معايير المسؤولية السليمة في توريدها

افتتحت سبينس متجرها الرابع في مسقط، بسوق المدينة، بمساحة تبلغ 1,099 قدماً مربعاً. وسيقدم المتجر الجديد تشكيلة متنوعة من المنتجات من المملكة المتحدة، والولايات المتحدة، وأستراليا، وجنوب أفريقيا، وهولندا كما سيوفر منتجات تحمل علامة سبينس الخاصة بالإضافة إلى منتجات من علامة ووترس.

لطالما عملت سبينس تحت شعار التجربة الأكثر نضارة، وتتطلع الشركة للترحيب بالعملاء في متجرها الجديد للاطلاع على تشكيلتها من الفاكهة والخضار الموسمية الطازجة من مزارع محلية وعالمية. كما يوفر المتجر منتجات لحوم ممتازة، من ضمنها تشكيلة سبينس فود من أصناف اللحم البقري أنغوس من مزرعة ستانبروك الموثوقة التي تديرها عائلة متخصصة في أستراليا. وتتميز هذه الأصناف من اللحم البقري بجودتها الثابتة مع مستوى تعريق بالدهن مرتفع ونكهة غنية طبيعياً. كما يزر قسم المأكولات الجاهزة بتشكيلة ممتازة من الأجبان الحائزة على تسمية المنشأ المحمية، من بينها صنفا الجبنة الفرنسية "كامبير" و"بري".

ويعتق السيد سونيل كومار، الرئيس التنفيذي لدى سبينس دبي ذ.م.م، بقوله: "إننا متحمسون لافتتاحنا هذا المتجر الجديد وننتطلع لتوفير تجربة جديدة وتشكيلة متفوّقة من المنتجات لعملائنا."

لطالما التزمت سبينس بتقديم أرقى مستوى من الخدمات لعملائها، وسيضم المتجر طاقماً من الموظفين الودودين الذين يمتلكون معرفة واسعة بالمنتجات حيث سيقدمون نصائح للعملاء حول كل ما يحتاجونه، سواء في اختيار قطع اللحم الممتازة للشواء، أو في انتقاء أصناف الجبنة لتشكيل طبق أجبان جذاب. وبالإضافة إلى ذلك، سيقدم المتجر ركناً لتناول الطعام يتيح للعملاء الاستمتاع بمنتجات المتجر، من المخبوزات الطازجة إلى أطباق الغداء الصحية من قسم المأكولات الجاهزة.

لقد تم تجهيز المتجر الجديد بأحدث الأجهزة والمعدات بالإضافة إلى أجهزة المحاسبة الذاتية.

سيستقبل متجر سبينس سوق المدينة عملاءه الكرام طيلة أيام الأسبوع من الساعة 7:00 صباحاً وحتى الساعة 11:00 مساءً.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Cupid is said to be the symbol of valentines. Cupid is the son of Venus. Venus is the Roman icon of love and beauty.

The heart is associated with Valentine's Day as it is considered the source of all human emotions.

Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards. Christmas is the first most popular.

Red rose is a favourite flower of Venus. For this reason red rose is also the symbol of Valentine's Day. All over the world, over 50 million roses are given on Valentine's Day each year.

The symbol of the ribbon, which often adorns modern-day Valentines, is rooted in the Middle Ages. When knights competed in tournaments, their sweethearts often gave them ribbons for good luck.

The oldest known Valentine's Day card is on display at the British Museum in London. It dates back to the 1400's.

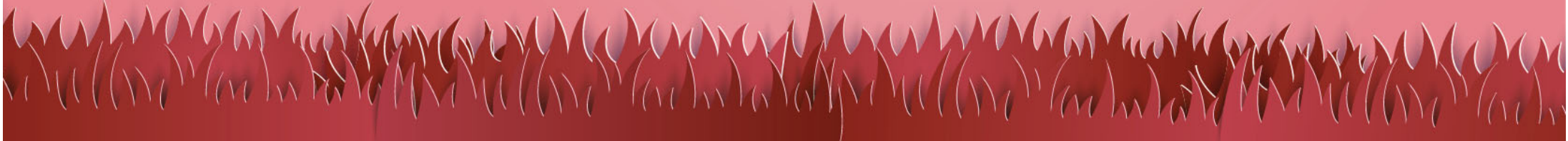
In Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet it is said that they lived in Verona Italy. Every year thousands of Valentine's Day cards are sent to Verona addressed to Juliet.

The iconic chalky heart-shaped candies that have been passed out lovingly every Valentine's Day started out as lozenges.

The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was introduced in 1861. It was created by Richard Cadbury, son of Cadbury founder John Cadbury.

The phrase to wear your heart on your sleeve has a historical meaning. In the middle ages young people would draw the name of their valentine from a bowl. They had to wear the name on their sleeve for one week.

Teachers generally receive the largest number of Valentine's Day cards followed with children, mothers, wives, and pets.





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THE WAVE-MUSCAT

Sayyid Theyazin visits headquarters of Oman Sail, meets sailors, officials

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, visited the headquarters of Oman Sail at The Wave-Muscat, where he got information about the nature of work of the organisation and its contributions at the national level in various spheres.

During the visit, a video was screened, which shed light on the mission of Oman Sail and the role it plays in revitalising the glory of Oman's navy and the role it plays in the international arena.

The video presentation also shed light on the efforts of Oman Sail in providing youth with the opportunities for discharging their national duty in various spheres.

The presentation also showed that the work and priorities of Oman Sail are in tandem with the Oman Vision 2040 and its strategic objectives.

During the visit, Sayyid Theyazin met with the Olympic team which is extending its efforts to qualify for the 2021 Olympic Games, scheduled in Tokyo. He valued the efforts extended for the preparation of the team for the 2021 Olympic Games.

His Highness also met with the junior sailors who excelled at the GCC and Asian level and persons with disability who are currently undergoing training under the "Sail Free" programme with the aim to form a team to represent Oman in the international arena.

Dr. Khamis bin Salim Al Jabri, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Sail, expressed his delight over



the visit of Sayyid Theyazin to Oman Sail Headquarters, pointing to the visit that would play a vital role in motivating all employees of Oman Sail for achieving its mission and for contribution to the national growth.

On arrival at the headquarters, Sayyid Theyazin was received by Mohammed bin Salim Al Busaidi, Chairman of the Board of Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN), Dr. Khamis bin Salim Al Jabri, Chief Executive Officer

of Oman Sail, Rashad bin Ahmed Al Hinai, Undersecretary for Sports and Youth at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrooqi, CEO of Oman Tourism Development Company. — **DNA**

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

IMF praises policies implemented by Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The government measures and policies of the Sultanate to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the impact of low oil prices has been commended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The International Monetary Fund has praised the governmental measures and policies of the Sultanate in its final statement issued after the preparatory meetings that took place last January on Article IV consultations with the

Sultanate for this year," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement issued online..

Swift efforts and disciplined financial measures were taken by the Sultanate in 2020 to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mitigate the effects of low oil prices.

The success of the fiscal balance plan will contribute to achieving financial sustainability, alleviate financing needs and enhance public financial resources.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS & VEHICLES

The U.S. Embassy Muscat is auctioning used household and office furnishings, appliances, computers, IT equipment, and vehicles by online auction.

Interested bidders may view the auction items online starting on February 1, 2021 by going to <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>. Bidding will open February 15 at 10:00. Bidders must first register on the site before placing a bid.

All items offered for sale will be sold as is, where-is. "As is, where is" means that there is no warranty, either expressed or implied. Bidding closes on March 3 at 15:00.

Successful bidders will be notified during the week of March 7 to 10. At that point, they must make full payment of all lots won. Payment instructions are listed in the "How to pay for your items" section in the "How it works" link on the auction page. Full and complete payments must be received in the U.S. Embassy bank account no later than March 17.

Successful bidders with fully paid lots may collect their goods on March 20 at the Ghala warehouse.



الشرقية لتحلية المياه
Sharqiyah Desalination

P.O. Box: 685, Jibroo - 114, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel.: +968 24693890, Fax: +968 24693845
<http://sharqiyahdesalination.com>

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Sharqiyah Desalination Company SAOG (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") is pleased to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company, to be held at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, 2nd March 2021, through the electronic platform for convening General Meetings which is accessible through Muscat Clearing and Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om), and in the event the legal quorum is not met in the AGM, a second AGM will be held at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, 9th March 2021 through the same electronic platform above, to discuss the following agenda:

AGM agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.
- To consider the Auditors' Report and approve the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.
- To consider and approve the proposal to distribute a cash dividend at the value of [13.77] baiza per share for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 to the shareholders.
- To consider and ratify the Board and Committees' sitting fees paid during the preceding year and specify the Board and Committees sitting fees for the coming year (as in Annexure 1).
- To consider and note the transactions carried out by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2020 (as in Annexure 2).
- To elect a Board member to fill the vacancy.

Anyone who wishes to nominate himself/herself for the position must complete the prepared election form and submit it to the Company at least 5 days prior to the AGM date and before the end of the business day 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 24 February 2021. The candidate should observe the conditions required for the membership of the Bank's Board of Directors.

- To appoint the statutory auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2021 and approve their remuneration.

As per the Company's Articles of Association and the regulations for convening general meetings through modern electronic platforms issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to attract your kind attention to the following:

- only juristic persons may authorise a natural person to attend the AGM and vote on their behalf through the electronic systems, provided that the authorised natural person has an investor number at Muscat Clearing and Depository Company.
- voting on any items listed in the agenda shall begin 3 days prior to the date of the AGM and ends on the date of the meeting. If the shareholder's balance of shares increases or decreases, his/her voting will be cancelled and they should vote again on the date of the AGM.

For more information, please contact Mr Nasser Saud Al Habsi on telephone number +968 2495 0701 or Mr Aiman Hassan Al Zadjali on telephone number +968 2469 3890 for any further information.

Chairman

Auditor

Legal Advisor

TO BE USED ONLY BY THE CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

The invitation shall be adopted in accordance with the Company's will without the Capital Market Authority bearing any responsibility



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MUSCAT THREAD MILLS SAOG

The preferred source

P.O. Box 122, P.C. 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman, Ph. No. 24446806, Fax: 24446807



ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The Board of Directors of Muscat Thread Mills SAOG is pleased to invite the Company's shareholders to attend the company's ordinary Annual General Meetings, to be held at 3:00 pm on Monday, 01/03/2021, via the electronic platform to hold general meetings which can be accessed through the website of the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) If the quorum of the meeting is not completed, a second annual ordinary general meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday 07/03/2021 to discuss the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Report of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended on 31/12/2020.
- To consider and approve the board of directors on the company's Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended on 31/12/2020.
- To consider the auditor's report and approve the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the financial year ended on 31/12/2020.
- To approve sitting fees to the board of directors' meetings and its sub-committees for the financial year ended on 31/12/2020 and to determine the fees for the forthcoming financial year ending on 31/12/2021 (as per the Annexure).
- To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the company's social responsibilities for the year ended on 31/12/2020 (as per the Annexure).
- To consider and approve the allocation of an amount of RO 500 for corporate social responsibility programs, for the year ending on 31/12/ 2021 (as per the Annexure).
- The appointment of the Auditors for the Company for the financial year ending 31/12/ 2021 and approve their fees.

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

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

For further information please contact Mr. Muhammad Adnan Saleem, contact phone number 2444 6806.

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Former EU bank chief Draghi sworn in as Italy's Prime Minister

The 73-year-old economist, credited by some with having saved the euro, will now be tasked with political reforms

ROME: Former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi was sworn in on Saturday as Italy's new prime minister.

The 73-year-old economist, credited by some with having saved the euro, will now be charged with political reform and leading Italy out of devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

"I swear to be loyal to the Repub-



lic," Draghi declared before Italian President Sergio Mattarella during the inauguration ceremony broadcast live on television from the presidential palace in Rome.

Draghi is expected to oversee spending of more than €200 billion (\$242 billion) in European Union recovery funds aimed at re-launching the country's economy.

The government must be approved by votes of confidence in

both houses of Parliament early next week.

Draghi draws support across political spectrum

After more than four weeks of political crisis, Draghi on Friday agreed to serve as the head of a new national unity government in a meeting with Mattarella.

Draghi then assembled a government involving almost all of

Italy's political parties. His Cabinet is a mix of technocrats, veteran politicians and existing ministers.

Only the ultra-right Fratelli d'Italia had announced from the beginning that its members would vote against his candidature.

Leader of the 5-Star Movement Luigi Di Maio will remain foreign minister. Giancarlo Giorgetti, a senior figure in the League party, will be industry minister and Andrea Orlando from the center-left Democratic Party will be labor minister.

Marta Cartabia, who was president of the Constitutional Court until September 2020, will fill the post of justice minister.

Only eight women were named in the 23-strong Cabinet.

Strong support

In an Ipsos poll published by the Corriere della Sera daily newspaper on Saturday, 62% of Italians surveyed said they supported Draghi. **ow**



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COVID-19

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine's second batch arrives



MUSCAT: The second batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine against the coronavirus arrived in the Sultanate on Saturday evening at the Muscat International Airport.

With the arrival of 17,550 doses,

the Ministry of Health will begin vaccinating people from Sunday who had received the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines in the first phase of the national campaign for immunisation against COVID-19. **-ONA**

OMAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

‘Every challenge is a new opportunity’

"We are all in this together, globally," he explained. "I personally believe that with every challenge, there will always be new opportunities, new areas, to cultivate. We are facing a disruptive virus, but at the same time, there will probably be an emergence of new trends, new global demands to explore opportunities."

"Here, I think international collaboration is key and crucial to joining hands and exploring these opportunities," he revealed. "The challenge really is how we convert these opportunities into new types of jobs, new types of industries, dealing with the new normal of

our lives, and how we can get back to our lives in this new normal. It is a matter of time before the whole world economy turns that corner and develops the new economy of the future."

The Foreign Minister said he was looking forward to an upcoming meeting of the foreign minister of the GCC to discuss new ideas for cooperation. "I am optimistic that this will be a new period of the working relationship of the GCC," Al Busaidi said. "I look forward to the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC, which will hopefully take place in March, and take that work forward."

ASYAD GROUP

Ports witness robust growth

MUSCAT: Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the global trade and economy, Oman's strategically located and well-equipped ports, offering end-to-end comprehensive logistics solutions, have witnessed a surge in their operational and commercial business.

Working in close co-operation with government agencies, ASYAD Group endeavoured to facilitate cross-regional trade and secure local market requirements for commodities and goods from their country of origin, through linking Omani ports with 86 regional and global counterparts. **-ONA**

NEW MEASURES

Institutional quarantine increases travel cost

"She needed to take at least two PCR tests - one before flying to Oman and another after arrival, before this rule was brought in, but now she needs to take an additional third one, plus one more when she returns to India in a month's time, so we're looking at a cost of OMR100 for just PCR tests," he said.

"Add to that the cost of this institutional quarantine, which will set her back at least about OMR125 to OMR150, so she needs to pay about OMR400 in total," Shetty said. "We will wait for a while for some of these curbs to be lifted, as it is not worth spending thrice the cost of the flight ticket for her to come here."

Shortly after the decision of mandatory institutional quarantine was made, travel agents in the country rolled out packages of different prices, depending on passengers' spending limits. These include a week-long stay in a hotel, transfers from the airport to the quarantine facility, meals, travel insurance, and PCR testing and the removal of the tracking band all arrivals are required

to wear, on the eighth day of their stay in Oman.

Majan Travel and Tours have packages that begin at OMR22 a day for a three-star hotel, OMR26 for a four-star hotel, and OMR43 for a five-star stay. Travel Point, a tourist agency in the country, has rolled out a package that allows passengers to spend their quarantine in a three-star hotel with prices that begin at OMR99. More expensive offers are available for those looking to check in to four and five-star hotels, said Faiyaz Khan, the company's general manager.

"Our three-star package was sold out just two days after we brought it out, and we were working late on Thursday and through the weekend to make sure customers could finalise their bookings," he said. "The Supreme Committee decision came quite suddenly, so a lot of people did have to reschedule their bookings, but there are some who cannot, and will need to enter institutional quarantine."

"We have an agent in Bangladesh who wants us to provide him

100 rooms a day for arrivals into Oman," he added. "Demand for three-star rooms is very high, because even if people need to quarantine institutionally, they are looking for economical options."

"Right now, it is not advisable for passengers to come here, because it will be expensive for them," Khan explained. "We have a number of customers who have asked them to inform us when these rules are removed, so they can make their plans then."

A representative for another travel agent agreed with this view, saying, "companies might also choose to not immediately bring back many of their employees who have been sent on leave, because they will need to bear the costs of quarantining them on return to Oman. It is likely they will not grant leave to their staff until these regulations have been lifted."

"If you have to travel now, do so at your own discretion," she said. "Be prepared to spend on quarantine measures, however, because travel to Oman has now become a lot more expensive."

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CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Spotlight on Republicans as Trump impeachment trial nears end

WASHINGTON: The US Senate was expected to issue a verdict in former President Donald Trump's second impeachment trial over the weekend, after Trump lawyers concluded their arguments.

The Senate was slated to reconvene on Saturday morning. It is set to hold a debate over whether witness testimony should be allowed, followed by closing arguments.

The ball is now in the court of the Republicans as a minimum of 17 GOP senators would have to join all the Democrats to reach the two-thirds majority required to find Trump guilty of "incitement of insurrection."

While the Republican vote seems like an unlikely scenario, Democrats hope they can win over enough Republican senators to convict Trump for his role in January's Capitol riots.

Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Ben Sasse of Nebraska, Mitt Romney of Utah, and Susan Collins of Maine are some of the names the Democrats could seek to persuade.

These four are frequent critics of Trump and have said in the past that he incited the insurrection. They have also joined with Democrats twice to vote against the Republican efforts to dismiss the impeachment trial.

Approaching impeachment 'objectively'

Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy could also turn the tables. Cassidy voted in favor of the GOP effort to dismiss the trial two weeks ago. However, he switched his vote this week, saying Trump's lawyers had done a "terrible" job making the case that the trial was unconstitutional.

Cassidy was seen taking considerable notes throughout Friday's trial. He said that the impeachment managers had raised some "intriguing questions" and hoped that Trump's defense counsels would answer them thoroughly.

He added that he was "trying to approach it [the impeachment] objectively."

Donald Trump team wraps up quickly

Trump's lawyers took only three hours to conclude their Friday presentation, where they called the impeachment unconstitutional and an "act of political vengeance."

"The Senate should promptly and decisively vote to reject it," defense lawyer Michael van der Veen said.

They argued that Trump's rally speech on January 6, where he told supporters to "fight," was rhetorical.

The former president's lawyers showed multiple video clips where prominent Democrats, including President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, could be seen using the word "fight" in their past speeches. **rw**

VACCINATION DRIVE

India vaccinates close to 8 million beneficiaries against COVID in 28 days

NEW DELHI: India has vaccinated close to 8 million beneficiaries in its fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed on Saturday.

"Till 8:00 AM 13 February, 7,967,647 beneficiaries have received the vaccination under the countrywide COVID-19 vaccination exercise. Out of these, 5,909,136 are health care workers and 2,058,511 are front line workers. A total of 164,781 sessions have been conducted so far," said MoHFW in an official statement.

On February 12, which is day 28 of the vaccination drive, 462,637 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 10,411 sessions.

The press statement said, "8 states which have vaccinated more than 400,000 beneficiaries each account for 59.70 per cent of the total beneficiaries vaccinated in India. Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for 10.8 per cent of the total beneficiaries in India. The number of beneficiaries being vaccinated every day has shown a consistent enhancement."

According to the statement, the total active coronavirus caseload stood at 136,571 on February 13. The active caseload consisted of just 1.25 per cent of India's total positive cases.

"A total of 1.06 crore people have recovered so far. 11,395 patients have recovered and got discharged in the last 24 hours. The National Recovery rate is 97.32 per cent," said the statement.

The ministry said 81.93 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in six states. Kerala has reported the maximum number of single-day recoveries, with 5,332 newly-recovered cases. A total of 2,422 people recovered in Maharashtra in the past 24 hours, followed by 486 in Tamil Nadu.

A total 12,143 daily new cases registered in a span of 24 hours, it said, adding that 86.01 per cent of the new cases are from six states. As per the release Kerala continues to report the highest number of new cases a day at 5,397, followed by Maharashtra with 3,670, while Tamil Nadu reported 483 new cases.

The report said further that 103 deaths were recorded in a span of 24 hours.

"Six states account for 80.58 per cent of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties with 36 deaths. Kerala follows with 18 deaths, while Karnataka and Punjab reported 8 deaths each in last 24 hours," read the report. **ANI**



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Majis Industrial Services SAOC (Majis) is a closely held joint stock company fully owned by the Government of Oman. Majis is engaged in providing various water utility services at the Sohar Industrial Port Area and Sohar Free Zone .

Tenders are invited from the qualified local contracting firms for the following tender: A brief Terms of Reference (TORs) is available at Majis' website (www.majisoman.com) for bidder's ready reference.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Description	Bids fees In R.O.	Last date for Obtaining Tender Documents	Last date for tender Submission	Contractor's grade with Tender Board
1.	Majis /4/2021	UPGRADING OF SEAWATER INTAKE PUMPING STATION FOR COMMON COOLING WATER SYSTEM AT SOHAR INDUSTRIAL PORT	750/-	28th February 2021	28th March 2021	Excellent Grade/ First Grade

Bidders who have made electronic transfer of bid fee will be emailed soft copy of the tender document on the Sunday 28th February 2021. The companies participating must be registered with Majis' in e-tendering system (<http://tendering.majis.om/VendorLogin.aspx>) during the tendering stage. The payment of bid fee should be made by direct transfer to the following bank account of Majis. (**Account Name: Majis Industrial Services SAOC, Bank : Bank Muscat SAOG, Account Number: 0423010783830018**).

While making payment by direct bank transfer name of the firm should be clearly mentioned and an email sent to tender@miscoman.com with a copy of the money transmittal advice. Tender documents will be emailed to such firms only.

The Tender should be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the **EXECUTIVE, NOMINATION & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE "ENRC"**, Majis Industrial Service SAOC, P.O. Box No. 553, Falaj Al Qabail, Postal Code 322, Sultanate of Oman (at Majis's reception).

Tenderers must not display their identities on envelopes. Majis is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Questions regarding this procurement process shall be directed to tender@miscoman.com.

ASIAN LE MANS SERIES

Al Harthy, Jonny Adam and Tom Canning eye a major push

Times News Service

DUBAI: Ahmad Al Harthy will line-up on the fifth row of the GT class grid for his maiden race in the prestigious Asian Le Mans Series at Dubai Autodrome on Saturday, 13th February, after an unexpectedly hard-fought qualifying session at the United Arab Emirates track on Friday.

Making his debut in the championship this weekend in Dubai, where a pair of four-hour races will be contested, Oman's Al Harthy and team-mates Jonny Adam and Tom Canning are eyeing a major push in race trim with their always immaculately prepared No.97 Aston Martin Vantage GT3.



Aston Martin factory driver Adam took qualifying duties on Friday morning, the session delivering the grids for both rounds one and two, and as the Oman Racing squad had predicted the impressive entry was very competitive indeed. Lapping with the 10th fastest time of 1m 56.603 seconds to secure a top 10 starting slot in the GT class for round one, the Scottish driver delivered a second quickest lap of 1m56.835 seconds for the race two grid

Having worked hard to fine-tune the best possible race set-up throughout testing and free practice during the three days leading up to qualifying, where the team was third fastest on Wednesday,

10th February, hopes are justifiably high for today's encounter.

Confident the Oman Racing Aston Martin will be much more competitive in race conditions than in qualifying, Al Harthy is relishing taking the start of round one and is determined to deliver one of his customary impressive performances.

"It's a very tight and tough grid", said the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, National Bank of Oman, Omantel and Barr Al Jissah supported driver, "Qualifying, to be honest, was how we expected it would be and we know we have a much more competitive race car - that's what we've been working extremely hard on during the build-

up to the weekend.

"I shall be starting both races this weekend and we're looking forward to a clean start, clean race and gaining positions. I'm sure we can climb through and make up some good places. The standards are very high, as we expected from the Asian Le Mans Series, and I think we have a really good car but we'll see how it works out for us. We're positive, though, we should be very competitive."

The long-awaited first round of the Asian Le Mans Series season will begin at 14.15 local time today, Saturday, 13th February, at Dubai Autodrome. Race two will follow on Sunday, 14th February, at 12.45 local time.

Late Indian wickets bring England back



India lost Rohit, Ajinkya Rahane, and Ravichandran Ashwin in the final hour of the play



CHENNAI: Three Indian wickets in the final hour of play tipped the opening day of the second Test slightly in favour of England after Rohit Sharma sensational knock had set the India innings up on Saturday.

India lost Rohit, Ajinkya Rahane, and Ravichandran Ashwin in the final hour of the play as the hosts lost three wickets in the

third session after holding the fort before tea. At stumps, India's score reads 300/6 with Rishabh Pant and Axar Patel unbeaten at 33 and five runs respectively. For England, Jack Leach and Moeen Ali picked two while Olly Stone and skipper Joe Root scalped a wicket each.

Resuming the third session at 189/3, Rohit and Rahane continued their fine form in the game

to put on 200 runs on board in the 58th over. Both the batsmen held the fort tight and didn't give England any chance to take the driver's seat.

While Rahane scored his 23rd Test fifty, Rohit brought went past the 150-run mark as India batsmen continued a solid display of skills on day one of the second Test.

Rohit brought up the 150-partnership with Rahane in style as he

lofted the ball wide over mid-on dancing down the track against Jack Leach in the 71st over.

However, a sensational innings from Rohit (161) came to an end as the batsman departed after sweeping Leach straight into Moeen's hands at deep square leg.

Minutes later, Moeen clean bowled Ajinkya Rahane bringing up two new batsmen, Rishabh Pant and Ravichandran Ashwin at the crease but Joe Root dismissed the India spinner as he was caught by Pope at short leg to collect his first wicket of the day.

Pant and Axar Patel then ensured that England bowlers didn't make any further inroads as India ended the opening day of the second Test at 300/6.

In the second session, Rohit's unbeaten century and Rahane's composure had helped India revived their innings and gain an upper hand after being three down in the morning. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Sandeep bowls Muscat to big victory against AER

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Riding on Sandeep Goud's superb 5 for 29 Muscat CT thrashed winless AER by 9 wickets in a Premier Division 50-over League game at OC Turf 1 in Amerat on Friday.

Having played eight matches without a win, AER had a forgettable outing, getting dismissed for 80 in 20 overs as Muscat pacers Sandeep and Ganesh Chandrashekhar (3 for 25) bowled sizzling spells. Asim Kamal top-scored with a defiant 30.

League leader Muscat raced to the target in only 7.4 overs, scoring 81 for 1. Shoaib Khan hammered 45 not out off only 23 balls while Kashyap Kumar Prajapati scored equally aggressive 27 off 14.

Sarco too good for OCT

Dileepa Srilal and Murad Khan struck solid half centuries while Sandip Patel picked up 5 for 34 as Sarco trounced OCT Muscat by 156 runs in an A Division 50-over League game at OC Turf2 on Friday. Sarco posted a robust 261 on the

board thanks to major contributions by Dileepa (72), Murad (66) and Sameer Mohammed (46). Muthir Al Balushi bowled well, taking 5 for 46.

OCT Muscat failed to fight, folding up for a meagre 105 in the 23rd over. Rashad Mohammed (49) and Majid Hussain (32) were its main scorers. Sandip was the pick of Sarco bowlers with a five-wicket haul.

Gurvir, Arif steer Orient to big win

A splendid 92 by Gurvir Singh and Arif Hussain's excellent all-round show powered Orient Travels/Gitacs to a thumping 174-run victory against OCT Al Hail A in a 30-over B Division League clash at Muscat Municipality ground 1.

Apart from Gurvir's top knock, Arif's 33-ball 63 was the other main feature of Orient Travels' 268 for 7. Abdul Ghani and Nadhir Ghulam bagged two wickets each.

OCT Al Hail's response was dismal to say the least as it was bowled out for 94 in 22.1 overs, Arif and Umar Rahman taking three wicket each.

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MARKETS LOGISTICS INDEX

Oman ranks fourth overall as the most competitive emerging market in the GCC, according to the annual Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index. In addition, Oman ranks eighth globally in the area of business fundamentals and third in GCC for international logistics.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



DIESEL PRODUCTION RISES

Gas oil (diesel) output increased by 28 per cent to 33.96 million barrels while aviation fuel oil production fell by 51 per cent to 6.98 million barrels at the end of December 2020, compared to the same period of 2019, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

ahlibank launches Imtiyaz banking services to suit modern lifestyles

MUSCAT: Determined to cater to the ever-changing lifestyles of today's consumer, ahlibank has launched the new Imtiyaz account, targeted at customers seeking a unique banking experience. This new account aims to deliver enhanced banking services, providing a package of specially curated offers designed to suit their modern lifestyles.

Keeping pace with the requirements of their modern life, the bank's Imtiyaz customers can enjoy a range of exclusive benefits and offers including dedicated prize draws under Wafra prize scheme, and branded debit and credit cards with discounts at a wide range of merchants. In addition to that, Imtiyaz customers have the opportunity to get the best prices on insurance products, and reduced interest rates on all types of loans.

Imtiyaz also offers its customers who transfer their salary to ahlibank a 5% cashback of their salary amount, a credit card which is free for the first year, and a one free night stay with complimentary breakfast at a 5-star hotel.

All ahlibank's customers with monthly salaries of RO 1,000 or above or with savings deposits of RO 10,000 or more, can avail the services provided by Imtiyaz banking, which is available to Omanis and non-Omanis. They can also participate in Imtiyaz draws under the bank's popular Wafra prize scheme, and win amazing prizes by maintaining an average balance of at least RO 10,000 in the account. In addition, Imtiyaz account holders are



also eligible to enter other prize draws provided that the eligibility criteria for each draw are met.

Furthermore, the Imtiyaz Platinum credit card offers its holders the opportunity to enjoy an exceptional banking experience, and also allowing them to earn a joining bonus of 2,000 pearl points and two supplementary cards without any fees. The card also enables customers to obtain free travel insurance, enter airport lounges, and many other offers. Imtiyaz banking also provides its

account holders with a branded cheque book which is free for the first time.

Muneer Al Balushi – AGM- Head of Retail Distribution, ahlibank, said, "At ahlibank, we are keen to meet the requirements of our customers and develop our banking products to suit their lifestyle needs and evolving preferences. We are committed to providing a unique banking experience, underscoring the importance we attach to our customers, following a service

excellence benchmark. This helps to ensure that they are provided with a variety of facilities that enhance their comfort when conducting their banking transactions."

"We are keen to continue our journey and enhance our customers' trust by adopting a clear strategy to provide leading banking services. This comes through the exclusive facilities and offerings that characterize our products. We believe that Imtiyaz will enhance our banking portfolio and help customers achieve their dreams and goals by the support that our experienced and talented staff in the industry gives to them, and work to ensure that our customers are satisfied and meet their needs with ease", Mr. Al Balushi added.

Established as a full-fledged commercial Bank in 2007, ahlibank is committed to enhance customer satisfaction with a comprehensive suite of services, use of modern technology and innovative solutions across its branches in Oman. All its product offering and account types are aimed at inculcating a culture of savings and developing financial stability. In line with its vision of being vibrant and an innovative centre of banking, the Bank offers top-class retail, commercial, investment banking solutions and is well-known for its customer-centricity. Additionally, the digitisation of procedures and the highly focused team offers a range of advisors and specialist services, which makes it one of the preferred Banks in the Sultanate.

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MARKET

AGILITY EMERGING MARKETS LOGISTICS INDEX

Oman ranks 8th globally in business fundamentals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman ranks fourth overall as the most competitive emerging market in the GCC, according to the annual Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index. In addition, Oman ranks eighth globally in the area of business fundamentals and third in GCC for international logistics.

The Index, now in its 12th year, ranks 50 countries by factors that make them attractive to logistics providers, freight forwarders, shipping lines, air cargo carriers and distributors. China, India and Indonesia topped the Index, while three Gulf countries made the top 10: UAE (4), Saudi Arabia (6) and Qatar (9).

In the area of business fundamentals, Gulf countries dominated the top spots. UAE was No. 1, followed by Saudi Arabia (3), Qatar (4), Bahrain (7), Oman (8) and Kuwait (11). Nearby Jordan was 10th. China, India and Indonesia rank highest for domestic logistics; China, India and Mexico are at the top for international logistics.

"Gulf countries are pushing hard to diversify and integrate their economies by developing world-class infrastructure and creating fair, transparent conditions for business," says Elias Monem, Agility Global Integrated Logistics

(GIL) CEO for Middle East & Africa. "Good infrastructure and stable business conditions are areas of huge competitive advantage for the Gulf region. They will be key to recovering from the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic."

The regional Gulf economy could get a boost as a result of the diplomatic breakthrough that ended Saudi Arabia's three-year economic blockade of neighbouring Qatar in late 2020. That could lead to tighter integration in a region where cross-border trade, trucking and e-commerce are growing dramatically.

Along with the Index, Agility surveyed more than 1,200 supply chain professionals for their views on the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the executives surveyed, 44.7 per cent see the Middle East/North Africa recovery in 2021; 38.9 per cent say recovery for the region won't take place until 2022-2024. A majority expect Asia, North America and Europe to rebound this year.

2021 index and survey highlights

Even when they consider easing dependence on China, few companies plan to bring manufacturing jobs back home. Only 7.8 per cent of industry executives surveyed say relocating production from

China would mean reshoring to their home countries. Vietnam (19.6 per cent), India (17.4 per cent) and Indonesia (12.4 per cent) are the leading choices for relocation, followed by Thailand (10.3 per cent) and Malaysia (9.6 per cent), according to those surveyed.

While the total cost is driving overall shifts in production supply chains, today low-cost labour is barely a consideration for emerging markets investment - with only 2.2 per cent of industry executive's saying it's important. Executives say the most important factors are government bureaucracy and regulation (25.8 per cent); infrastructure quality (14.1 per cent); and supply of skilled labour (8.0 per cent). As companies examine new production locations, they say their biggest concerns are inadequate infrastructure (14.5 per cent) and additional cost (13.5 per cent).

Of the executives surveyed, 19.1 per cent say 2020 sales decreased as a result of the pandemic. But only 9.4 per cent say COVID-related employee safety measures have decreased efficiency. The sustainability movement has momentum. More than a quarter (26.9 per cent) of executives surveyed say their companies are boosting the implementation of environmentally sustainable practices in the wake of the pandemic.



NCSI DATA: The Sultanate recorded a fall in the production of standard grade petrol (M-91) by Omani refineries at the end of December 2020 by 28 per cent. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

Diesel production increases by 28% in December 2020

Production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas dropped by 10 per cent to 6.12 million until the end of December 2020

MUSCAT: Gas oil (diesel) output increased by 28 per cent to 33.96 million barrels while aviation fuel oil production fell by 51 per cent to 6.98 million barrels at the end of December 2020, compared to the same period of 2019, according to data released by the

National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) dropped by 10 per cent to 6.12 million until the end of December 2020.

Standard grade petrol

The Sultanate recorded a fall in the production of standard grade petrol (M-91) by the Omani refineries at the end of December 2020 by 28 per cent as the output reached 9.59 million barrels until the end of December 2020, compared to 13.32 million barrels produced during the same period in 2019.

The output of super grade petrol (M-95) reached 12.80 million barrels until the end of December 2020. Of the total production of M-91 grade petrol, 7.83 million barrels were sold in the domestic market.

However, domestic sales of M-95 grade petrol declined by 12 per cent to stand at 11.53 million barrels while sales of gas oil (diesel) within the country was at 13.30 million barrels until the end of December 2020.

Domestic sales of aviation fuel oil dropped by 67 per cent to reach 1.68 million barrels while the LPG sales rose by 1 per cent to reach 2.76 million barrels at the end of December 2020.

As far as petrochemicals are concerned, production of polypropylene by Orpic at the end of December 2020 was 34,500 metric tonne (MT).

Furthermore, the Omani refineries exported 178,100 MT of benzene until December 2020 while exports of Paraxylene and polypropylene stood at 561,700 MT and 180,500 MT respectively. - **ONA**

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India's cement production likely to be up by 20%

NEW DELHI: After a sharp contraction by 14 to 17 per cent in fiscal year (FY21), cement production is likely to witness a growth of 18 to 20 per cent in FY22 and reach pre-COVID levels, according to investment information agency ICRA.

In the first eight months of FY21, cement production declined by 19 per cent year-on-year to 175 million tonnes.

ICRA said capacity additions are expected to be in the range of 15 to 17 million tonnes per annum in FY21 as against the earlier estimates of 20 million tonnes.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the demand was adversely impacted and companies are likely to preserve liquidity. The capex is likely to get back to 21 to 22 million tonnes in FY22.

The eastern region is expected to lead the expansion and may add 15 to 17 million tonnes during FY21 and FY22, said ICRA.

With the recent order by the Competition Commission of India for an investigation into the alleged cartelisation by cement companies, any significant increase in the cement prices is unlikely in the near term.

The decline in coal prices by 20 per cent during 9M FY21 has supported the decline in power and fuel costs for cement companies. - **ANI**

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Contact 92651105
Email reji_mathai@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

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

Contact 96324484

Finance Head

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

Contact 92148608

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

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

Contact: 78039935

B.E Civil Engineer

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

Please contact me on 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

11+ Yrs of experience (10 Yrs Oman experience)

- On Engineer Visa (Expiry - Feb 2022). Can get release also.
- Experience in Building and Factory projects with Ministry & Private Clients.

Looking for fulltime/part time job. Having Omani DL.

GSM: 94125368 ; premjithpremanathan@gmail.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Srilankan Senior Accountant looking for a suitable opportunity. 7 years experience in Oman & capable of handling accounts up to finalization. On hand experience in Tally, Spur, QB etc. Having D/L.

CONTACT: 92821932

FOOD AND QUALITY

A Post Graduate in Food science and Technology, with certification in Food Safety Level 4 and HACCP Level 3, actively looking for a job in food industry.Ability to handle in-Process quality and Food Technology related activities. Excellent communication and Interpersonal skills.

Contact +968 78359939
Mail id: vargheseroy98@gmail.com

HR Manager

17 years' experience in Finance & HR (10 Yrs), Indian Male, MBA & M.Com. NOC Available.

Contact: 96332608

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.

Contact: 92999419
d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

Junior Architect with 3-years Oman experience in designing, proficiency in AutoCAD, Sketchup, Lumion Vray & Photoshop. Has worked in quantity estimations. Looking for suitable placement in Muscat.

Contact 95972625

OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

MBA, B.Sc and CA (Intermediate) with 18 years of experience (12th year in Oman) in Retail, FMCG, Leasing and Property management sectors. Immediate joining. DL. NOC is available.

M: 9641 6394 / Mail: scms.acc133@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

More than 22 years of experience, Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree seeking suitable placement, having experience in Administration/ Document Control/IT, HR, and Finance Support, with valid Oman Driving Licence. NOC available.

Contact No. 99757759
Email: bijucchacko85@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male, 41 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (13 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager, Internal Auditor and statutory auditor. currently working as Accounts Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.

Contact: 99169501

Senior Software Test Engineer

Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.

Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@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

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.

Contact whatsapp: 99477009
Email: abualnutsum@gmail.com

Finance Manager / CFO

Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 99884291 / 99741875
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.

Mob: 95073054
Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

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Email: media@nexusnovel.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Electrical Engineer having 6 years of experience in construction sector in Oman in MEP, Data cabling,BMS System & Substation cabling works. Contact 968-96335725

B.Tech Mechanical, Indian Male, 1 yr exp in HVAC, now in visit visa, looking for job. Contact: 79813372

Arabic civil engineer excellent spoken and written english - 6 years experience in projects coordination & supervision, preparing submittals & engineering softwares resident and have DL. Contact 95432250

Safety officer (engineer), 5 years experience in GCC, two years in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid D.L. Contact 79318246

M.Tech Civil engineer 24 yrs GCC experience in all types of building in consultant office seeks suitable position. Contact 96750674

Civil and Structural engineer with 8years experience in construction projects, Gulf experience and D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 97906770

B.E civil engineer having 10 years Oman exp looking for false ceiling works. Contact 79882467

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years of experience in Oman. Hand on experience in MOTC, MOD and RCA prestigious projects. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 97118102 Email: probir1982@gmail.com

Bachelor in Civil Engineering 11+ years of experience in Oman. Experience in Commercial Building Projects Management & Engineering consultancy. Looking for full time suitable position. Having Oman DL. Contact 98611382

BE civil Engineer with 15 years of experience in Oman. Construction of Residential Commercial buildings, Hotels, Resorts, and industrial buildings. With valid visa & D/L.Contact 92779334, 95056144. Email anisubash12@gmail.com

Electrical engineer, having 4 years experience in motors maintains, electrical control, distribution panel and VFD, fluency in English and Arabic mother tongue, have resident in Oman. Contact 96434550

Civil Engineer with 10 years experience in construction and water pipeline works GRB water tanks. Contact 94334788

Scada Engineer with 06 yrs experience in Substation Control centre in oman with DL & NOC. # 94924976. Email: zeezee45ec@gmail.com

Civil engineer with 9years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

B.Tech Mechanical, engineer with 3+ yrs experience looking for job. Currently in Oman. # 94575752

Civil engineer, 18 yrs experience in Oman & Saudi Arabia, construction building & consultant, hotel, resort & infrastructure. # 97401992. Email: hamadamans2007@yahoo.com

B.E Mechanical Engineer 27 years old indian male 5 years experience Including 2 years in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.currently working in Oman. Contact 79332156

M/48/Indian Civil engineer, 28 yrs exp,18 yrs Oman exp with Consultants & Clients seeks opportunities. Contact 92370274

Mechanical Engineer, Indian, having 5+ years Oman experience in procurement and Production field. Have worked with reputed Companies and Government firms. Also have Oman D/Llicense and good knowledge in Autocad, CATIA.Seeking suitable job.Can join immediately. NOC available. Contact 92138450 Whatsapp +919544074049

15 yrs exp Dip.civil with DL seeking suitable placement as project maintenance coordinator. # 96534073

Electrical Engineer with 4 years experience in Africa and Oman , LV system , TX maintenance , water transmission line , motors control , with valid visa and driving license, Contact 91936392

Indian BE Civil engineer 10 yrs experience in building Construction, Oil & gas field in Oman having valid D/L. Immediatly join. # 96455880

QA/QC Civil Engineer, Total 9.7 year experience/Oman & Gcc, on site, O&M, NOC available. # 96421733

BE Civil Engineer 8 to 9yrs experience. Contact 93850875. Email abdulcivico2015@gmail.com

8 Years experienced Electrical Sales and Estimation Engineer with valid driving license available to join immediately. Contact: 79696089. Email xjnirmal@gmail.com

Omani is looking for job. UK graduate since 1991. B.Engg+MBA, experience PDO, Diwan, AbuDhabi, group of companies as GM. Contact/Whatsapp 94174443

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

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

22 years experience in modular kitchen. Working as a project co-ordinator/Designer/Sales co-ordinator Contact 99757846 email: baiju.zukait@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

A 35 years experienced person with exposure in purchase and other day to day activities office activities seeking a suitable job. Contact 98528907

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience, Admin/Operations/Purchase/ Stores, etc. NOC,D/L.. # 78363835

Procurement & Logistics Head with 17+ yrs exp, Indian # 99224623

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

Indian purchase assistant, store keeper,10 yrs experience in Oman valid DL, looking for suitable job. # 98615731 sanal73@gmail.com

Supply chain, procurement office, Oil & gas, fabrication sectors. Having 13 yrs experience in oman. Looking for good opportunities. Indian male. Contact 79868872

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SALES / MARKETING

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

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

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

Sales, Business development manager, construction, FMCG,UPVC 7 years GCC experience Oman D/L. Contact 95842228

Indian male 27 yrs MBA graduate with specialized degree in Management seeking suitable placement. valid Oman DL available. # 91209360. Email amirasadc@gmail.com

BM, with 26 yrs FMCG exp, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. Contact 90925520

Indian male with Oman D/L, looking for job in Sales.Having experience in sales in a very well reputed FMCG company in Oman. Contact 90625165, Email id:farookshamas@gmail.com

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ROUND-UP



Save now with benefits across Toyota range

The campaign that began on February 11 will last until April 11



MUSCAT: Toyota is offering all enthusiasts an opportunity to make the most of and save. From petrol sedans to SUVs and Hybrid Electric vehicles, Toyota has a vehicle for every need. And now is the best time to own a Toyota and save more.

According to a representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive, "Nowadays, customers are looking for opportunities where they get more value with every purchase. At Toyota, we understand this customer need and are catering to it with an opportunity they shouldn't miss. Own a Toyota today and save now. The campaign that began on February 11 will last until April 11."

Customers looking to own a Toyota vehicle can benefit with Cash Gift from RO 500 up to RO 5400, Interest 0% up to 2 years OR 1.99 % up to 4 years OR 2.99 % up to 5 years, Service from 2 years / 20,000 km up to 5 years / 50,000 km (Whichever is earlier: On Land Cruiser 4.6L and 5.7L models only) and One Year Comprehensive Insurance. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details, please).

In Oman, the Toyota range includes

All-New Highlander: Toyota Highlander, a sophisticated 7-seater SUV brings a new level of bold, distinctive design to a foundation built on safety, comfort, quality, durability and reliability.

Highlander amplifies all qualities while taking on a dramatic new design direction that combines a powerful SUV presence with sophisticated detailing. The Highlander is equipped with Panoramic Moonroof, 8" Navigation System, 7" Multi-Information Display, Leather Seat Material with Front Seat Air Conditioner, Toyota Safety Sense, Power Back Door and more. The Highlander offer an impressive fuel economy of 20 Kms/L (GLE Grade) & 19.3 Kms/L (LTD Grade) as per GSO Conformity Certificate and comes with 8 Years/160,000 Kms Hybrid Battery Warranty.

All-New C-HR: Toyota C-HR, a stylish Compact High Rider, represents a leap forward in design, manufacturing and engineering for Toyota. The iconic gemstone of the Toyota C-HR evokes universal notions of luxury, attractiveness, sophistication, and strength. The C-HR is equipped with Adaptive Front Lighting System, Leather Seat Material, 4.2" TFT Multi-Information Display, Display Audio System with 6 Speakers, Electric Parking Brake and more. The C-HR offers impressive fuel economy with 23.9 Kms/L as per GSO Conformity Certificate and carries a Hybrid battery warranty of 8 Years/160,000 Kms.

Toyota Avalon: The Avalon is a statement of luxury. Right from its design to its plush comfort, the Avalon offers a remarkable feeling on every journey. The Avalon truly belongs in a league of its own. The Avalon is equipped with 3.5L

V6 Engine, LED Headlamps with Adaptive Cornering Lamps, Premium Leather Seat Material, 9" Navigation System with 14 JBL Speakers, Head-Up Display, Toyota Safety Sense and more.

Toyota Camry: The Camry has been one of the best-sellers owing to its design, driving dynamics, fuel-efficiency and ownership experiences. The Camry is now available with 8" Navigation System, 7" TFT Multi-Information Display, Remote Engine Starter, Moonroof, Wireless Charger, Leather Seat Material and more. The Camry is also available in a Hybrid option.

Toyota Corolla: The Toyota Corolla is built on the Toyota New Global Architecture, called TNGA platform. The New Corolla has been developed from a driver and passengers' point of view first. The Corolla is equipped with 17" Alloy Wheels, LED Projector Headlamps and LED Front Fog Lamps, 7" Display Audio System with DVD Player, 4.2" TFT Multi-Information Display, Moonroof, Rear View Camera and more. The Corolla is also available in a Hybrid option.

Yaris: The Yaris sedan has been a popular choice for customers who love a mix of practicality and performance. It delivers a dynamic driving experience, with a choice of 1.3-Litre and 1.5-Litre engines. The Yaris is equipped with 15" Alloy Wheels, Daytime Running Lights, Smart Entry & Push Button Start, Auto Air Conditioner, TFT Multi-Information Display, Front Corner & Rear Parking Sensors and more.

Land Cruiser: The Land Cruiser is the benchmark by which other off-road vehicles are measured. The Pride of the Land, the Toyota Land Cruiser is a symbol of strength, durability and reliability. Rugged yet luxurious, the Land Cruiser delivers high-end performance and advanced off-roading capabilities and safety features. They include V8 Engine, 20" Alloy Wheels, Remote Engine Starter, Premium Leather Seats, 9" Navigation System with 14 JBL Speakers, Moonroof, Pre-Crash Safety System with Radar Cruise Control and more.

Prado: Visually stunning, the Prado features a unique design which appears even more dynamic, yet maintains three core strengths essential to the Prado's celebrated 'go-anywhere' credentials. The Prado includes 4.0L, V6 Engine, LED Headlamps & Fog Lamp, 9" Navigation System, Ventilated Front Seats, Moonroof, Airbags: Driver + Front Passenger + Curtain + Side (Front) + Knee (Driver) and more.

Fortuner: Equipped to offer you the best experiences both on and off the road, the Fortuner is one of the finest 4WD SUVs available. The Fortuner is equipped with 4.0L V6 Engine, 18" Alloy Wheels, LED Projector Headlamps with DRL, Navigation System, Power & Ventilated Driver & Front Passenger Seats, Power Back Door and more.

RAV4: Toyota's sporty, and stylish RAV4 ticks all the boxes when it comes to enjoying extraordinary moments. Aspects like design, features, technologies and driving dynamics make the RAV4 a pure fun-to-drive vehicle. The RAV4 includes features like 19" Alloy Wheels, LED Headlamps & DRL, Power Back Door, Wide Moonroof, 7" TFT Multi-Information Display, Wireless Charger (Qi-Enabled) and more.

In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality.



Bank Muscat receives Best Foreign Exchange Provider in Oman award

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has won the Best Foreign Exchange Provider in Oman (2021) award from Global Finance.

The foreign exchange and international payments landscape is an essential part of banking relationships in today's global economy. Given the dynamic environment and continuous enhancement in technology, the responsibility for quicker and efficient processing is a shared effort by all financial institutions. Superior transaction processing quality resulting in higher efficiencies, faster payments, cost reductions and honouring of commitments to operational excellence have been the hallmarks of the bank's operations.

Bank Muscat is focused on offering a number of niche services to sustain its competitive edge and is the only bank in the country to offer a full suite of treasury products and services on a 24x7 basis through its Treasury & Capital Markets division.

The bank is a consistent winner of the Best Foreign Exchange Provider in Oman award as well as awards by major international banks for outstanding performance in error-free remittance

and fund transfers. The award criteria included transaction volume, market share, the scope of global coverage, customer service, competitive pricing and innovative technologies.

The prestigious publication *Fast Markets* MB has consistently ranked the bank among the top 5 global institutions for a commodity price forecast. A multi-award-winning organisation, Bank Muscat has established more than 500 correspondent banking relationships across the world through its Global Financial Institutions division. Its performance across different facets of banking and finance have been consistently lauded by the international financial and banking community for several years.

The treasury products and services include meeting foreign exchange requirements of customers and offering hedging solutions for foreign currency, interest rate benchmarks and commodity price risks. The division offers streaming foreign exchange prices to its counterparty banks and customers and is among the few regional banks to offer a comprehensive commodity hedging product suite to its customers via precious metals, base metals, agricultural and energy products.



ROUND-UP



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Valentine's Day special at Anantara Resort

Enjoy a range of celebratory experiences and savings at the Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort across room rates, F&B, spa and recreation



luxury destination.

Kick-off your special time toasting your partner with a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine or date juice on arrival and take advantage of many other benefits, from daily breakfast at the resorts' casual dining restaurant, Al Maisan, to a romantic dinner set against the breathtaking scenery from your private villa.

What: A special limited time only staycation package on Villas for Valentine's Day. When: Available until February 28. Daily buffet breakfast served at Al Maisan for two persons. One in-villa set menu dinner for two people per stay, inclusive of food and soft beverages only. One bottle of date juice on arrival. 50 per cent savings on Anantara Spa treatments, including packages, during the stay. 50 per cent savings on luxury transportation.

Bella Vista

Mark this special occasion with a specially curated four-course set menu dinner for two at Bella Vista, the resort's gorgeous casual dining restaurant that re-imagines traditional Italian cuisine with a contemporary flair.

Savour home-style regional classics, each crafted from seasonal produce rich in authentic flavour, as you breathe in the fresh mountain air and admire stunning canyon views.

What: A four-course set menu

dinner for two at Bella Vista. When: Available on February 14.

Chocolate Fondue at Diana's Point

From 1pm to 6pm, guests can enjoy some Chocolate fondue for two at Diana's points, overlooking the grand views. What: Chocolate fondue for two. When: Available until February 19, from 1pm to 6pm.

Dining by design

Also available for couples on Valentine's Day is the most ideal and unique dining experience, Dining by Design, allowing guests to delight in an intimate dinner for two at either Diana's Point or the newly opened The Royal Edge, an exclusive platform which presents guests an incomparable grandiose canyon view.

Complete with stunning backdrops promising to spark romance between partners, enjoy the ultimate tailor-made experience with a selection of mouth-watering dishes from the connoisseur's menu or curate an entirely new one with your chef.

What: Tailor-made intimate dinner for two. When: Available daily, on-demand. Where: Diana's Point or The Royal Edge

Spa experiences

For Valentine's Day this year, couples can choose from two packages to celebrate their love in utter

relaxation at the award-winning Anantara Spa at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar, "Blissful Romance" or "Happy Togetherness".

Blissful Romance consists of a glorious 90-minute couples Hammam treatment followed closely by a 30-minute massage to compliment.

On the other hand, as the name suggests, the Happy Togetherness session will offer a 60-minute couple massage that promises to release any tensions, body and mind alike, and elevate your mood to new heights.

Whatever your choice, be prepared to leave the spa glowing and feeling completely serene.

Blissful romance

What: A 90-minute couples Hammam treatment and 30-minute massage. When: Available until February 19. Where: Anantara Spa at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

Happy Togetherness

What: A 60-minute couple massage. When: Available until February 19. Where: Anantara Spa at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar

Recreation

For more adventurous couples, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar is also offering a tempting offer sure to have you jumping for joy. Couples with an active and daring spirit can head over to the resort for an eventful not-so-traditional Valentine's Day celebration.

Ultimate Jabal Activity Wall

What: Experience one of the highest climbing routes in the Middle East. When: Available until February 28 (subject to availability)

Signature Hike

What: A four-hour-long hike through the mountains. When: Available until February 28 (subject to availability).

FIRST PARTICIPATION



Mazoon Dairy to participate in Gulf Food Exhibition

MUSCAT: Mazoon Dairy announced its participation in the Gulf Food Exhibition Gulfood 2021 which is held in Dubai World Trade Centre from February 21 to 25 in its 26th edition. This is the first abroad participation for Mazoon.

Ahmed Mohammed Al Ghafri, Chief Support Officer, said, "The participation of Mazoon in the Gulfood exhibition is the company's contribution that gives Oman a major role in food industries in the region and the world. This participation strengthens Mazoon's brand and makes it a leading brand in the sector."

Al Ghafri added: "This participation will open the horizons of the new cooperation, experience exchanging in the food industry and emerging food technologies. Moreover, it provides the chances of expanding to the Gulf and international markets."

Khalid Hamed Al Mahruqi, Branding Manager, said, "Mazoon has gone a long way in diversifying its products' basket since it launched its operations in October 2019. It produces a wide variety of fresh milk with many flavours such as Luban milk, yoghurt, and fresh dairy products. In addition to that, it produces long-life milk in various sizes and flavours of strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate. Moreover, it launched the free-sugar juices that are distinguished by their unique taste, ice cream in different sizes and flavours, and recently launched Mazoon spreadable cheese, which is free of vegetable oils and made

from fresh cow's milk."

Al Mahruqi added, "Mazoon Dairy distributes its products around the Sultanate through distribution centres in the governorates. The company aims to expand the number of its products from 118 products currently to 250 products of various types and sizes."

The gulf food exhibition Gulfood is one of the largest commercial annual exhibitions in the food and beverages sector. The 2019 edition was its largest so far. The number of visitors is more than 100,000 visitors and 5,000 participants from more than 200 countries visit the exhibition.

Besides the commercial aspect of the exhibition, there are multiple activities such as festivals, where creativity and distinction in the culinary field are displayed. One of the famous activities that included in the 2020 edition is the BBQ Masters competition. Additionally, the Gulfood International Kitchen Arts Competition, a one-day competition that launched its first session last year, in which four teams of the world's most famous chefs competed, serving dishes from Asian, European, American, Middle Eastern, and North African cuisines. In addition to that, tens of thousands of prepared food and beverages will be shown in eight specialised sections: beverages, dairy products, fats and oils, health products and organic materials, pulses, cereals and grains, meat and poultry, big brands, and international foods.

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BEST BANKS POLL

Bank Nizwa once again bags Best Islamic Bank in Oman title

MUSCAT: Recognised as a leading Islamic bank in the Sultanate, Bank Nizwa has regained the title of 'Best Islamic Bank in Oman' at the Islamic Finance News (IFN) Best Banks Poll 2020 in the category of innovation, creation and tradition.

The IFN Best Banks Poll 2020 is the biggest and broadest yet survey by IFN and recognizes the best Islamic finance service providers across 44 categories and 35 countries. The poll respondents consist of Islamic finance issuers, investors and government bodies.

The IFN award is a testament to Bank Nizwa's unparalleled commitment to constantly inculcate innovative strategies, capitalise on the latest technological advancements and remain at the forefront of encouraging digitalisation in the banking sector. Demonstrating utmost resilience in all its operations and exhibiting exceptional performance across all its departments even in the face of unprecedented challenges, Bank Nizwa has recorded OMR11.067 million in net profit indicating a 9 per cent growth after tax for the period ended 31 December 2020, compared to OMR10.17 million in 2019. The bank's total assets also grew by 17 per cent to reach OMR1,205.99 million compared to OMR1,034.58 million in the preceding year. Its growing preference amongst customers is re-



flected in its increasing customer deposit portfolio which increased by 16 per cent to OMR924.2 million against OMR797.1 million on a year-on-year basis. The bank's financing to customers rose by 20 per cent to OMR1,004.1 million for the year ending 31 December 2020 compared to OMR839.3 million in 2019.

"It is a moment of great pride as Bank Nizwa has once again been awarded this coveted title by IFN. The IFN Awards honour the very best in the Islamic financial industry and is highly recognised by the global Islamic capital markets," said Khaled Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa.

"Our thoughtfully curated portfolio of Sharia-compliant products and services, unflinching

customer-centric approach and dedication to digital transformation in all areas of business has helped us make our mark in the Islamic banking sector."

Incorporating digitalisation in different areas, Bank Nizwa has proved itself as a pioneer in the field, paving the way for digital transformation and innovation in the banking sector.

While ensuring the highest level of cyber and data security, Bank Nizwa has infused innovation in all its operations and built a digital ecosystem for the bank. This has helped in redefining the customers' journey when it comes to progressive Sharia-compliant solutions that meet all financial requirements of the customers. Bank Nizwa also boasts of hav-

ing a versatile mobile application that provides greater banking accessibility through a wide range of user-friendly services and is constantly updated to include additional features. All its e-banking portals offer a seamless user experience, thus encouraging everyone to move to a digital space.

Apart from winning the same title in 2018, Bank Nizwa has also been awarded other prestigious titles like the most recent award by Signature Magazine which named it the most trusted Islamic Bank. Last year, Bank Nizwa was awarded the 'Most Innovative Islamic Bank' at The International Finance Magazine Awards and the 'Best Performing Company - Large-Cap' at the Alam Al-Ikhtisaad awards 2020, to name a few. Global Finance also ranked Bank Nizwa as one of the 'World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions in 2020'. Spearheading new initiatives, Khaled Al Kayed, the bank's CEO was named 'Global Islamic Finance CEO of the Year 2020' at the Global Islamic Finance Award. Over the years, Bank Nizwa has received various such local, regional and international awards that have helped it strengthen its position as a much-revered bank that has been leading the way to promote awareness and bring about innovation in the Islamic financing sector.

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Sodium Free Drinking Water

The healthy choice

It is beneficial to limit sodium intake if you have blood pressure, diabetes, heart or kidney disease.

Call Toll-Free **800 71 222** or GSM **9275 5522**
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