

**SAYYID ASA'AD RECEIVES
ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR**

His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan received at his office here yesterday Mohammed Irki, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Sultanate. **>A2**



**HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RECEIVES
THANKS CABLE FROM KSA KING**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of Prince Fahd Mohammed Abdulaziz Al Saud. In the cable, King Salman expressed his thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's good feelings and sincere prayers, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harms. **-ONA**



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OIL PRICE RALLY TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMY



Political tensions and global recovery are expected to boost oil prices

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The continuing rally in oil prices will help strengthen the economy of Oman with the prices now returning to where they were before the pandemic struck, and reaching their natural position, according to experts.

On Monday, Oman oil prices rose sharply by US\$1.94 to reach US\$68.35 compared to the price of last Friday, when it closed at US\$66.41.

The average price of Oman Oil (March Delivery 2021) has now stabilised at US\$54.78, this is US\$4.79 per barrel higher than February Delivery 2021, Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME) data reveals.

Speaking exclusively to the *Times of Oman*, Dr Mohammed Al Wardi, an academic and economic analyst,

\$68.35
was the average price of Oman oil at the Dubai Mercantile Exchange on Monday

said, "Oman oil price has risen because of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), fixing production cuts and Saudi Arabia continuing its voluntary reduction until the end of April."

"With the emergence of indicators of high inflation in the US economy due to fiscal stimulus initiatives, this may boost oil prices in the future," he further added.

Khalfan Al Touqi, an economic analyst, spoke exclusively to the *Times of Oman* regarding the reasons for the rise in the price of Oman oil which he expects to reach nearly \$70 per barrel. "The rise in prices of oil is due to several reasons, the most important of which is political tensions in the region. The global economy's recovery, although very slow, will help in oil prices to increase."

"Besides, due to the lack of interest of the United States in investing in American shale oil

there will be an increase in oil prices," he added.

Regarding the future of world oil prices and the price of Oman oil, Al Touqi said, "I think that the future of oil is not very important, especially as the world is heading to clean and renewable energy, and during the next five to ten years, I expect that the future of oil will be very weak and threatened by the world's transition to renewable energy such as electric vehicles, wind energy, water energy and due to adoption of advanced technology."

"Therefore, Oman and the Gulf countries should take this into consideration and also move to other sources of income, especially since the Gulf countries have begun to invest in the US bond and stock markets in order to be part of them and increase their financial share," he said. Regarding his lack of optimism about the rise in oil prices further, he said, "I am not optimistic about the rise in oil prices further because the industrial sector in Europe and America slowed down due to the effects of the pandemic and also the rise in China's strategic oil reserves which it can supply to the market, as well as the Opec+ deal that they have extended the agreement to reduce oil production."

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN 'VAT payments also due on unsold goods'

1 Value added tax is due on stocks of goods that have been bought by companies to be sold to customers, even if they remain in storage, once that company has ceased operations. **>A3**

WORLD Syrian president tests positive for COVID-19

2 Syrian President Bashar Assad and his wife tested positive for coronavirus, his office said on Monday. Syria has so far officially recorded 15,900 coronavirus cases and 1,063 deaths. **>A7**

MARKET Tethys Oil announces production update

3 Tethys Oil's share of the production in February, before government take, from onshore Blocks 3&4 stood at 328,209 barrels of oil. **>B1**

RESEARCH

Omani doctor helps develop new stem cell technique, operation saves British child's life

MUSCAT: Physician and clinical researcher Dr. Hind Khamis Al Balushi, Head of Unit of Stem Cells Engineering and Cellular Therapies Department at the Royal Hospital, has been able to develop a technique to cultivate stem cells for the rebuilding of non-cellular textures and the analysis of their curative abilities.

Dr. Hind, a specialist in centres for management, engineering and manufacturing of stem cells and medical cellular treatment units, made the achievement when con-

ducting dissertation towards a PhD study in stem cells engineering at University College London.

The research enabled Dr. Hind to join a renowned medical team based in Royal Free Hospital and London University, United Kingdom, that was conducting a rare operation to rescue and treat a child in critical condition. The child had swallowed a battery cell that damaged the trachea.

The medical team received a licence from Medicine and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA),



UK, to use the new technique to treat the child. The operation was conducted at Cellular and Genetic

Treatment Centre at Royal Free Hospital. The implant, termed success, took place at Great Ormond Street, London. The child recuperated and is currently enjoying good health three years after the operation.

A detailed account of the operation will be published in *Nature Medicine* journal. The new technology is being used to start clinical experiments at Barouh Hospital London, Cambridge University, London University and a specialised drug firm. **-ONA**



**Oman marks
International
Women's Day**

A4

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sayyid Asa'ad receives Algerian ambassador

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan received Mohammed Irki, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Sultanate, at his office on Monday.

The meeting reviewed the good, bilateral relations between the Sultanate and Algeria, as well as aspects of the existing cooperation between them in many fields to serve the joint interests of the two brotherly countries and their people. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General and the two advisers at Sayyid Asa'ad's Office. -ONA



MEETING: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan with Mohammed Irki, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Sultanate. - ONA

FISH FARMING

Researchers from SQU develop fish aquaculture project



MUSCAT: Researchers from Sultan Qaboos University, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, have successfully established an experimental farm to produce barramundi or Asian sea bass fish.

The project, which received the support of The Research Council (TRC) for two years, focuses on researching methods of contributing to the national revenues through fish farming, both by increasing income and rationalising the volume of water used in fish farming.

Barramundi (Lates calcarifer) is found in the Indian Ocean and the west Pacific zone and it lives in fresh water, river mouth and some sea zones.

This type of fish is considered a new species that enters the aquaculture industry in the Sultanate.

Over the past few years, a research group from the Marine Sciences section explored opportunities for breeding barramundi and it gained great experience in the field.

In 2016, a number of students managed to raise adult barramundi at an average size of 800 grams by the 10th month at the SQU's aquaculture farm. -ONA

MEETING

Egyptian president receives credentials of Oman's envoy

CAIRO: President Abdel Fatah el Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt received Abdullah Nassir Al Rahbi, who presented his credentials as the Sultanate's ambassador to Egypt on Monday.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to President el Sisi along with His Majesty's best wishes of good health and well-being to the Egyptian President and people.

The Egyptian President asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people.

President el Sisi pledged support for the development of bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the ambassador expressed his keenness on cementing ties between Oman and Egypt at all levels. -ONA



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Al Najjar meets FAO representative

MUSCAT: Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development met with Dr. Nora Ourabah Haddad, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) office in the Sultanate, at the ministry on Monday.

The meeting touched on several matters pertaining to social development, in addition to means of upgrading partnership between the two sides. -ONA



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Charitable Organization

Tender Announcement

Supply of Food Parcels for the "Ramadan Iftar Program" for the Year 1442 AH / 2021 AD for Al Mahrah Governorate and Surrounding Areas in the Republic of Yemen

Tender No. 1/2021

Oman Charitable Organization (O.C.O.) announces a tender for the supply of 25,900 (twenty-five thousand and nine hundred) food parcels for the "Ramadan Iftar Program" for the year 1442 AH / 2021 AD, and distributing them to all the districts of Al Mahrah Governorate and the surrounding areas according to the attached list of locations (16 locations).

Specialized merchants and suppliers wishing to submit their bids for this tender can obtain the terms and conditions from the Financial Department of Oman Charitable Organization against payment of nominal fees, during the period from Sunday 7 March 2021 AD to Thursday 11 March 2021. The last date for bid submission and acceptance shall be Tuesday 16 March 2021.

Bids shall be deposited in the tender box at the Financial Department, O.C.O. Headquarters at the Wilayat of Baushar, Muscat Governorate, Al Khuwair 33, Southern Street No. 47, near Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque.

Bids shall be placed in closed envelopes sealed with red wax and addressed to H.E. the Chairman of the Projects and Tenders Committee of O.C.O. before the specified date.

"O.C.O. is not obligated to award the tender in whole or in part or to consider the lowest price."

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VAT payments also due on excess, unsold goods

VAT shall be levied on all transactions in a supply chain, even if the revenue of products or services is not in fact sought after or realised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Value added tax is due on excess stocks of goods that have been bought by companies to be sold to customers, even if they remain in storage once that company has ceased operations, a legal expert in the country has said.

VAT is expected to come into Oman on April 18, 2021, and companies that are liable to pay this tax are required to register before then.

"VAT shall be levied on all transactions in a supply chain, even if the revenue of products or services is not in fact sought after or realised," said Ola Al Nabhani, a legal consultant at BK Law, a judicial firm in the country. "This includes the storage of products after one has ended or stopped conducting his commercial activity. It also includes products and services provided for free."

"However, goods and services provided by commercial organisations as gifts are exempt from taxation," she added, speaking to TTV. "Unless specifically exempt by law, VAT applies to almost all products and services. You must know that as a commercial trader, whether you are engaged in mar-



Ola Al Nabhani, legal consultant at BK Law



Goods and services provided by commercial organisations as gifts are exempt from taxation, according to a legal consultant

keting, distribution, manufacturing, or retail, you should budget for this tax."

The imposition of value added tax in Oman was passed into law through the issue of the Royal Decree 121/2020 - Promulgating the Value Added Tax Law.

"VAT is calculated as five per

cent of the total price of any given commodity or service. Being an indirect tax, those who have to pay tax if they are a part of the supply chain can claim a reimbursement," explained Al Nabhani. "Consumers, however, are not entitled to one, because they are the end point of the supply chain."

"Indirect taxes such as VAT are collected from consumers, be it at retail outlets, malls, or any other entities organised in the sale of goods and services," she added, once again reminding those who are required to pay VAT to register well in advance of it coming into practice in the country.

VAT rates applied in the Sultanate are among the lowest in the world. With this tax being applied across more than 160 countries, global rates range between five and 27 per cent. The application of VAT will have a positive impact on economic and social development and the international competitiveness levels of the Sultanate, while strengthening its financial position.

Sustainable economy

This will help contribute to building a sustainable economy, as the tax collected will provide additional financial resources for the state that will enable it to improve public services, and help with continued development of infrastructure in the future.

Basic food commodities, goods and services related to medical care, goods and services pertaining to education, and items used by people with disabilities are all exempt from tax.

Furthermore, there will be no VAT added to sales deals involving residential real estate and vacant, undeveloped land.

VAT will also not be imposed on investments in gold, silver and platinum, as well as companies involved in supplying or operating vehicles that transport goods and passengers, by land, sea or air.

Companies involved in the supply of rescue and emergency service aircraft and other vehicles, as well as those operating in supplying crude oil and its derivatives, and natural gas, will also not need to pay VAT.

CIVIL SERVICE LAW

New gratuity rules fair and clear, say expat workers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rulings over gratuity payments to expatriates working in Oman's public sector have been welcomed by them, owing to the fairness and clarity these changes provide.

The changes apply to expatriates who have served less than 10 years in government offices, and became official under Ministerial Decision No. 35/2021, which makes modifications to the country's Civil Service Law.

The decision was passed by Dr Mahad bin Said bin Ali Ba'owain, the country's Minister of Labour.

"When expat workers in the public sector do leave service, the new rules will make sure they are adequately compensated," said Sudip Kumar, an Indian expatriate in the country. "I think the new changes make the compensation policy very fair to expatriates working in the government sector."

"When an expat comes to work in a foreign country, irrespective of where they work, they bring with them certain skills that are vital, and will help develop local conditions along with the native workforce," he added. "It is good to see them receive fair compensation."

This was an opinion shared by Mark Wilson, another foreign worker in the country, who called it good thinking on the part of the government.

"Whenever we join any organisation, whether in the private or public sector, there are certain aspirations with which we come to work every day," he said. "One of the most important among them is that employees are properly taken care of, and that is what is being done here."

Praising the fairness and openness of the gratuity scheme under the updated Civil Service Law, Cyril Alfonso, a Filipino national, said,

"With these new rules, there can be no ambiguity over how much compensation a person is due on leaving a government company, or the reasons behind which he has been provided a certain amount."

"The changes to the Civil Service Law make gratuity payment policies absolutely clear," he added. "Clear workplace practices make working in the office easier."

The updated regulations state that expatriates in the public sector are paid one month's gratuity for every year served in that organisation. Up to 10 months' salary can be paid as gratuity for workers from grades one to six, and up to 12 months for those employed between grades seven and 14.

The total value of compensation, however, cannot exceed OMR 12,000. Employees, who have been dismissed as punishment for actions they have committed, or owing to criminal activity, are not eligible for gratuity. Gratuity under this scheme will also be only provided to those who have worked for more than five years, unless they have been dismissed due to ill health, or have unfortunately died while still under employment to the company in question.

As of January 2021, there were 41,866 expatriate workers employed in the country's government sector, a slight drop compared to December 2020, when there were 42,240 employees, according to data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The majority of expatriate workers in the country have jobs in the private sector. Expat employment numbers rose slightly from 1,148,207 at the end of December last year, to 1,148,871 in January 2021. Some 249,171 expatriates are employed by families, around 3,500 fewer than there were last December.

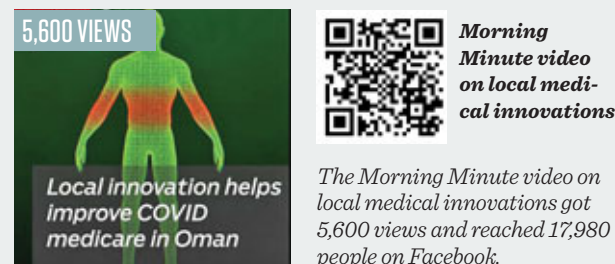
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A story on new gratuity rules for expats in Oman reached 38,142 people and had 13,809 engagements on Facebook.

VIDEO MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK



The Morning Minute video on local medical innovations got 5,600 views and reached 17,980 people on Facebook.

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The Maghrib Minute news wrapup had 2,262 views and 100 likes on Instagram.

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OMAN MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY



The Sultanate joined hands with world countries in celebrating International Women’s Day on March 8.

Oman’s participation in the event stems from the attention accorded to women in the Sultanate and their engagement in all spheres of national action, including development plans and programmes.

The Sultanate lays emphasis on supporting and empowering women across all sectors and highlighting their constructive roles in economic, scientific, social, educational, health and technical fields—to name a few, besides their household responsibilities of upbringing the offspring and enhancing family cohesion and social harmony.

This year, the United Nations (UN) marks the occasion under the theme of “Women in leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World.”

The event celebrates the tremendous efforts exerted by women and girls around the world in forming a future where the world enjoys equality at a greater scale. It underscores women’s action in addressing the pandemic and alleviating its impacts. The event also focuses on loopholes yet to be tackled in the global social texture.

The Royal attention accorded to women since the dawn of Oman’s blessed renaissance and through the Renewed Renaissance era inducted by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who pledged his noble Royal support to women by reinforcing their participation in the march of national development and by empowering them in all fields.

In this context, Sayyida Maani Al-Busaidi, Director-General of Family Growth Department at the Ministry of Social Development, said “The Sultanate extended full support to woman as a human entity by fostering her partnership with man in the nation building process.”

Sayyida Maani pointed out that His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik stressed this point in a Royal speech in which he said that

“Citizens’ partnership in moulding their country’s present and future is considered a basic pillar of national action. We are keen on enabling women to enjoy their rights stipulated by law, so that she could work side by side with man in all fields as she serves her country and her society. We also pledge our constant backing to these national fundamental principles that can neither be evaded, nor compromised.”

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Sayyida Maani pointed out that the Sultanate presses ahead with efforts to promote women’s status in a manner that guarantees their effective participation in social, economic and political development, as well as public life. “In Oman, woman participates alongside man in representing her country at international events. She proved capable of this mission right from the start of the Sultanate’s modern renaissance. Oman was among pioneering countries in terms of women’s empowerment in the regional and international arenas,” said Sayyida Maani.

The axis of “woman” in Oman Vision 2040 laid emphasis on furnishing a suitable environment to ease their participation in all aspects of life — economic, social, political and civic aspects—in a manner that upgrades their capability and empower them to engage in the Sultanate’s comprehensive, sustainable social development efforts.

The designation of 17 October every year as Omani Woman’s Day, under a Royal order issued in 2009, was the key outcome of a symposium held at Saih Al Makarim in Sohar. The annual day reflects conviction in the vital role of women in society. It consolidates the principle of public participation, upheld by the Omani renaissance march since its inception. Omani Woman’s Day also felicitates women’s brilliant contribution which brought about a major shift in national development, thanks to the statutes that safeguarded woman’s rights at social, economic and political levels.

-ONA





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QURIYAT DESALINATION PLANT



The maintenance work is expected to continue for 72 hours from 6am on Thursday to Saturday (March 11, 2021). — OMA

Muscat water supply to be hit for 72 hours, says Diam

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Water (Diam) will on Thursday begin a programme of maintenance and improvement of the desalination plant in Quriyat.

The programme coincides with steps to maintain the main water supply line from Wilayat of Quriyat desalination plant to Muscat Governorate.

The work is expected to continue for 72 hours from 6am on Thursday to Saturday (March 11, 2021).

Diam calls upon all subscribers in wilayats that receive water supply from the desalination plant to take precautions and fill their rooftop tanks so that they would be having sufficient water supply during the maintenance period.

Diam also cautioned all to avoid coming close to the maintenance sites and to rationalise their water use.

— OMA

EDUCATIONAL SECTOR

OCCI, Ministry hold meeting

MUSCAT: Education Committee of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held a meeting with Sheikh Nasr bin Amer Al Hosni, Undersecretary for Labour at the Ministry of Labour.

The meeting took place in the presence of Ridha bin Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of OCCI with the participation of Dr Faisal bin Abdullah Al Farsi, Director General of the Public Authority for Social Insurance) and members of Education Committees, other OCCI branches in the Governorates.

They discussed the challenges facing the educational institutions at the private sector, the necessity for provision of facilities and incentives to owners of nursery schools and the schools for memorisation of the Holy Quran and the various private schools who are wholly devoted to management of their schools and who maintain high percentages in employment of the national cadre and to change the classification of the private schools activity from a commercial activity to educational service activity.

— OMA



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PAKISTAN SOCIAL CLUB OMAN

Notice for Annual General Meeting 2021

Members are hereby notified that The Annual General Meeting of Pakistan Social Club Oman will be held on Saturday 27th March 2021 at 9:00 am by online voting. The following will be the agenda for the meeting:

Agenda:

1. Recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.
2. Address by the Chairman.
3. Annual General Report by the Secretary General.
4. Presentation of the audited accounts& Auditor's report.
5. Election of the Executive Committee for the period 2021-2023(Board of Directors).

Schedule of Election:

1. Renewal Membership	from 01 March to 10 th March 2021.
2. Collection of Nomination papers by the Interested members against Nonrefundable prescribed fee	From Thursday 11 th March to Monday 13 th March during office hours
3. Submission of Nomination Papers:	From Sunday 14 th March to Monday 15 th March During office Hours. Morning 9:00-1:00 Evening: 5:00-8:00 pm
4. Withdrawal of the Candidature:	Thursday, 18 th March 2021 during office hours.
5. Display of Final list of the Candidates:	Saturday, 20 th March 2021
6. AGM proceedings & polling:	Saturday, 27 th March 2021, 9:00 am by Online voting.

Note: Members with 6 month's older valid memberships are eligible to attend the AGM & members exceeding 1 year membership status can contest in election. All are requested to keep their Membership and Residence Cards with them to attend the meeting online .

Mohammad Munir (Chairman)
Pakistan Social Club-Oman, GSM: 93955004

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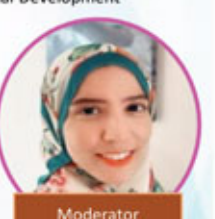
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HE Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar
Minister of Social Development



Guest of Honour
HE Asila bint Salim Al-Samsami
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion



Honorable Lujaina Mohsin Darwish
Chairperson for Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial & Consumer Solutions (ITICS) of Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC.



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Ms Rym Aoudia
Entrepreneur
Former TV News Anchor at Oman TV and Radio Host



Omani Guest
Eng Bahiya Hilal Sultan Al Shualbi
Founder & CEO of Global Space & Technology Company (GSTC)



Omani Guest
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Head of Banking Operations Group Oman Arab Bank



Omani Guest
Ms Luma Al Saleh
Deputy Managing Director at TRACCS



Omani Guest
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Translator and media specialist & Member in the board of Al Noor Association for the Blind



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Omani Guest
Ms Kanan Khimji
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Omani Guest
Ms Mahira Saleh Al Raisi
Chief Human Resources Officer Sohar International Bank SAOG

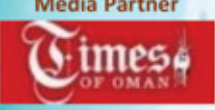
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Let's Talk Legal

Wednesday 11am

Ola Al Nabhanl
Lawyer at BK Law Firm

CRACK DOWN

Two killed after police crack down on anti-coup protests in Myanmar

NAYPYITAW: Violence escalated in Myanmar on Monday as authorities continued to crack down on people protesting against the military coup that took place on February 1.

Witnesses reported that two protesters were killed and several injured as police opened fire in the northern town of Myitkyina.

Police fired tear gas at a crowd of around 1,000 in the capital, Naypyitaw. Thousands of protesters abandoned a march in the city of Mandalay over fears of violence by security forces.

General strike in Myanmar

The latest demonstrations followed an appeal by trade unions for mass walkouts to bring the economy to a standstill.

At least nine unions from a range of sectors, including construction, agriculture and manu-



facturing, said that “all Myanmar people” should stop work in order to reverse the military coup. They also called for the restoration of the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

“The time to take action in defense of our democracy is now,” the unions said in a statement. It added that allowing economic activity to continue as usual would help the military “as they repress

the energy of the Myanmar people.”

More than 50 killed in protests

The country has been in a state of turmoil since last month's coup ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power, sparking mass protests against the military junta.

Protests are being held almost daily nationwide despite the use of deadly force by security forces.

Authorities have responded with an increasingly brutal crack-down on protesters. According to UN figures, more than 50 people have been killed and nearly 1,800 arrested.

Myanmar's military generals have shown no sign of listening to calls for restraint despite mounting international pressure, including targeted sanctions by Western powers. **bw**



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COVID-19 UPDATE

Brazil's coronavirus cases exceed 11 million

SAO PAULO: Brazil reported an accumulative 11,019,344 COVID-19 cases as of Sunday amid a second wave of the outbreak of the disease, the Brazilian Ministry of Health said.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,086 people died in the last 24 hours, a record for a Sunday, bringing the national death toll to 265,411, the ministry said. The country's

hospital network was on the edge of collapse due to the second wave generated by the P1 variant, which is more contagious and lethal than the original strain.

The states of Mato Grosso, Santa Catarina, Parana, and Rio Grande do Sul have reported 100 percent capacity in intensive care units, with lines of patients waiting for beds. **ANI**

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WORLD



MORE THAN 90 SERIOUS

8 killed, 170 injured in migrant detention centre fire in Yemen

SANAA: At least eight people were killed and 170 more injured in a fire at a migrant detention center in the Yemeni capital city Sanaa on Sunday, the UN Migration Agency said.

It remained unclear what caused the fire in the centre run by rebels.

“We are extremely saddened by the death of migrants and guards resulting from a fire at a holding facility in Sana’a, Yemen, today,” director of the UN Migration Agency (IOM), Carmela Godeau, wrote on Twitter.

Although eight people had been confirmed dead, “the total death toll is reported to be much higher,” she added. More than 90 of the injured are thought to be in a serious condition.

Migrants in Yemen face many dangers

A UN official told the Associated Press that the fire started in a hangar close to where more than 700 migrants were being held. The majority of them had been detained in the northern province of Saada as they attempted to cross the border in Saudi Arabia. Tens of thousands of migrants continue to make the journey across the waters of the Horn of Africa to try and find work as housekeepers, construction workers and servants in the rich gulf countries, despite the ongoing conflict in Yemen.

Sunday’s fire “is just one of the many dangers that migrants have faced during the past six years of the crisis in Yemen.

All people, including migrants, should be afforded protection and safety,” Godeau wrote.

Migrants traverse war zones for a better life

Some 138,000 people made the journey to Yemen in 2019. This number fell to 37,000 in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The migrants are often vulnerable to trafficking gangs, many of which are believed to be working in cooperation with armed groups involved in the regional conflict.

Earlier in March, at least 20 migrants were killed after smugglers threw 80 people overboard while travelling from Djibouti in East Africa to Yemen. **bw**

MILD SYMPTOMS

Syrian President Assad tests positive for COVID

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Assad and his wife Asma tested positive for coronavirus on Monday, his office said on Monday.

Syria has so far officially recorded 15,900 coronavirus cases and 1,063 deaths, but the actual figure is estimated to be much higher.

According to the statement, Assad and his wife took a PCR test after experiencing “mild symptoms”. They tested positive, but are in “good health and a stable condition”. They would continue to work during a “home quarantine period lasting two or three weeks.”

Previous health issues

In August of last year, Assad, 55, who is a trained ophthalmologist, paused during an address to parliament due to a slight drop in blood pressure, before gathering his composure and resuming his speech a few minutes later.

In 2018, Asma underwent treatment for breast cancer, which the presidency said had been detected

early. A year later, she said she had made a full recovery.

The Middle Eastern country has been ravaged since peaceful pro-democracy protests in March 2011 evolved into a full-blown war, drawing foreign fighters and powers. **bw**

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SUMMARY OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

(Amount in RO'000)

ASSETS	2020	2019	LIABILITIES	2020	2019
1 Cash on hand	2,081	2,159	1 Capital and reserve	3,002	2,858
2 Deposit with Central Bank of Oman	100	100	2 Borrowings from banks	-	-
3 Precious metals	-	-	3 Balance due to branches	-	-
4 Balance due from banks	623	481	4 Balance due to money changers	111	173
5 Balance due from branches	-	-	5 Loans and advances payable	-	-
6 Balance due from money changers	3	23	6 Cheques and drafts issued outstanding	-	14
7 Cheques and drafts purchased	-	-	7 Other liabilities	79	112
8 Fixed assets	180	199			
9 Investments	-	-			
10 Other assets	205	195			
Total	3,192	3,157	Total	3,192	3,157

We certify that the above balances are in agreement with the books and records of the company as at 31 December 2020.

Auditors: CROWE MAK GHAZALI LLC
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
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DEAL OF THE DAY



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INVITATION TO ATTEND ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG (the Company) are delighted to invite the shareholders of the company to attend the Ordinary Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) to be held on Tuesday, 23 March 2021 at 5.00PM through Muscat Clearing & Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event the legal quorum for the meeting is in-sufficient, a second meeting will be held on Sunday, 28 March 2021 at 5.00PM to consider the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Director’s 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 Auditor’s Report and to approve the Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account) of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.
- To consider and approve the sitting fees of the Board of Directors and Subcommittees for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 and determination of the fees of the Board of Directors and Subcommittees for the next financial year ended 31 December 2021.
- To consider and approve the proposed distribution of cash dividend of 14 Baiza per share to the shareholders as on AGM date.
- To consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of RO 94,021 as remuneration for the Board of Directors of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2020.
- To inform the related party transactions for the financial year ending 31 December 2020.
- To inform the Corporate Social Responsibility for the financial year ending 31 December 2020.
- To approve the criteria for measuring the performance of the Board of Directors for the year ending 31 December 2021.
- To appoint an independent external consultant to evaluate the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ending 31 December 2021 and fix their fees.
- To appoint the statutory Auditors of the company for the financial year ending 31 December 2021 and fix their fees.
- To elect the members of the new Board of Directors of the company (vacancy: 7 members). Any person who wishes to stand as candidate shall fill the Nomination form and submit it to the company at least five (5) days prior to the AGM i.e. before 5:30PM on Wednesday, 17 March 2021. Forms submitted after this cut-off time will not be accepted.

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

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

If you have any queries you may please contact Mr. Yousuf Ismail Al Kamali on telephone 26751763 / 4 / 5 Ext: 117.

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Auditor

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Novak Djokovic breaks Roger Federer's record

Djokovic has extended his stay at the top spot for 311 weeks and has broken Federer's record

LONDON: Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic has broken Roger Federer's record of being at the top of the ATP Rankings for the maximum number of weeks.

With the start of this week, Djokovic has extended his stay at the top spot for 311 weeks and as a result, the record of Federer has been broken. "The record is broken! @DjokerNole now holds



RECORD BREAKING: Federer had held on to the record for being at the number one spot for most weeks as he stayed at the pole position for a total of 310 weeks.



the record for most weeks at No. 1 in the @fedex ATP Rankings," the official handle of ATP Tour tweeted.

Federer had held on to the record for being at the number one spot for most weeks as he stayed at the pole position for a total of 310 weeks.

The 33-year-old Djokovic had risen to the top of the ATP Rankings for the first time in July 2011.

Djokovic had ended 2020 at the number one spot in the rankings and this was the sixth time that the Serbian finished the year at the pole position.

Earlier this year, Djokovic had won the Australian Open for the ninth time. On February 21, Djokovic defeated Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in the finals of the Australian Open 2021 at the Rod Laver Arena to clinch his 9th Australian title. This was also the 18th Grand Slam win for the Serbian player.

-ANI

OOC Secretary General meets Jaber Al Shabibi

MUSCAT: Taha bin Sulaiman Al-Kishry, Secretary General of the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC), met with Jaber bin Muhammad Al-Shabibi, Vice-Chairman of Oman Bowling Committee, yesterday. Al-Kishry congratulated the Vice-Chairman of Oman Bowling Committee on obtaining a master's degree in Olympic Studies (Olympic Education - Olympic Events Organising and Management) from the Greek Peloponnese University. The OOC succeeded to get grants supported by the International Olympic Solidarity (IOS), as part of the keenness of the Board of Directors to pay attention to human resources in institutions

working in the field of sports and to provide training opportunities to sports sectors in accordance with the best advanced management practices.

This programme is considered as one of the many opportunities provided by the International Olympic Solidarity (IOS) to the National Olympic Committees, as OOC was able to obtain a number of academic and technical programmes for members of sports Federations and Committees in the past, which would provide sports institutions in the Sultanate with qualified sports cadres, knowledge and experience to sports.



OMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

PREMIER LEAGUE



Man United win Manchester derby

MANCHESTER: Manchester United defeated Manchester City on Sunday in the Premier League 2020-21 season to reduce the gap between both sides in the table standings.

Bruno Fernandes and Luke Shaw got among the goal-scoring charts as United defeated City 2-0 on Sunday here at the Etihad Stadium. City is at the top of the Premier League standings with 65 points from 28 matches while United is at the second spot with 54 points from as many games.

With this loss, Manchester City's winning run has come to an end. Before this match, Pep Guardiola's side had won 21 matches in a row.

Bruno Fernandes got the first goal of the match in just the second minute as he converted a goal after getting a penalty. This goal have United an early momentum in the match. The first half saw no more goals and at halftime, United went in with a 1-0 lead over table-toppers City.

In the second half, Luke Shaw got the second goal in the 50th minute and as a result, the visitors gained a 2-0 lead. No more goals were scored in the match and in the end, United walked away with a 2-0 victory. Manchester City will next take on Southampton in the Premier League on Wednesday while United will lock horns against West Ham on March 14. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Riding on Nishad K's excellent all-round show, Zawawi Powertech beat Awatad International by two wickets in A Division's T20 League game at OC Turf 2 in Amerat on Saturday.

Nishad was outstanding with the ball, taking 3 for 14 in his four-over spell, restricting Awatad to a modest 102 for 6 in 20 overs. Prabhakaran Kannan claimed 2 for 17.

Zawawi took a slow and steady route to victory, scoring 104 for 8 in 19.2 overs as Nishad topscored with 33. Annermon Abdulrehman bagged 3 for 12.

Brief Scores (A Division T20 League): Awatad International 102 for 6 in 20 overs (Nobish Kattileparambu 29 - 3x4, Nishad K 3-14, Prabhakaran Kannan 2-17) lost to Zawawi Powertech 104 for 8 in 19.2 overs (Nishad K 33 - 1x4, 1x6, Kalairasan Natarajan 29 - 2x4, 2x6, Aneermon Abdulrahman 3-12, Muhammed Waqas 2-22) by 2 wickets.

Zeeshan bowls ARTT to victory

Earlier in the morning, Zeeshan Siddiqui's 3 for 18 was the highlight of Arabian Region Travel and Tourism's (ARTT) exciting 6-run victory against Basta CT in another A Division T20 match at OC Turf 2.

ARTT posted 145 for 8 on the board, Bilal Asim topscoring with 28 and Pranav Mehta contribut-



Sultan Ahmed of E&Y.

ing 23. Najeeb Shaheer claimed 3 for 25 while Shahid mehmood took 2 for 16.

Basta paid the price for batting slowly, leaving itself an improbable task of scoring 30 off the final over.

However, Malik Alikhan (24 not out off 10 balls) brought it within 6 runs of victory before Basta ran out of overs, scoring 139 for 9.

Chirag was its main scorer with a fine 50. Zeeshan was the pick of ARTT bowlers with a three-wicket haul while veteran Ahmed Khan took 2 for 21.



Alkesh Joshi of E&Y

Brief Scores (A T20): ARTT 145 for 8 in 20 overs (Bilal Asim 28 - 4x4, Najeeb Shaheer 3-25, Shahid Mehmood 2-16) beat Basta CT 139 for 9 in 20 overs (Chirag 50 - 3x4, 3x6, Zeeshan Siddiqui 3-18, Mohammed Ahmed 2-21) by 6 runs.

Sultan stars in E&Y win

Sultan Ahmed's outstanding all-round performance powered Ernst and Young to a sensational one-run win over ACT in an A Division 50-over League game at OC Turf 2 on Friday.

Sultan and Alkesh Joshi bowled exceptionally well, taking three wickets each as ACT was dismissed for 225 in the 38th over. Opener Hafiz Irfan topscored with 71-ball 86.

Sultan led the chase with a solid 54 whereas Shahid Naseem struck 45 as E&Y chased down the total with two balls to spare, scoring 226 for 9.

Rajesh Devashya, Muhammed Zeeshan and Toseef Ul Hassan all bagged two wickets each.

Brief Scores (A Division 50-over League): ACT 225 all out in 37.2 overs (Hafiz Irfan 86 - 11x4, 3x6, Alkesh Joshi 3-38, Sultan Ahmed 3-40, Rana Zeeshan 2-55) lost to Ernst & Young 226 for 9 in 49.4 overs (Sultan Ahmed 54 - 3x4, Shahid Naseem 45 - 4x4, Rajesh Devashya 2-35, Muhammed Zeeshan 2-44, Toseef Ul Hassan 2-49) by 1 wickets.

Brief Scores (F Division T20 League): KCA Deutag 121 for 6 in 20 overs (Khalid Balushi 31 - 2x4, Sufiyan Muhammed 3-16, Yasir Jamal 2-19) lost to Israr Ghala 122 for 3 in 13.4 overs (Ahmed Tahir 44 - 5x4, Sagheer Muhammad 29 - 1x3, 3x6, Haneef Muhammad 2-22) by 7 wickets.

Brief Scores (F Division T20 League): BSI CT 136 for 7 in 20 overs (Usman Siddique 32 - 5x4, Mohammad Ali 2-21) lost to ACT Cricworld 137 for 9 in 19.5 overs (Mohammed Ali 86 - 11x4, 2x6, Saud Haroon 4-13, Druvin Shetty 3-15) by 1 wicket.

FOOTBALL



LA LIGA: All 206 NOCs and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will be encouraged to have their flag carried by one female and one male athlete at the Opening Ceremony.

Real Madrid will fight until the end for La Liga title: Zidane

MADRID: After playing out a 1-1 draw against Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane has not given up on the La Liga title hopes, saying that the side would "fight until the end".

Karim Benzema struck late in the second half to cancel out Luis Suarez's early opener, ensuring the spoils were shared in El Derbi at Wanda Metropolitano on Sunday.

"The objective is this, to continue. We know there is a lot left [but] we are going to fight until

the end. Everything can always change. We are doing things well, we can improve. It is what we are going to do," Goal.com quoted Zidane as saying.

"I am very proud of all my players. We are in the same boat and we are going to fight to the end," he added.

Madrid were perhaps unlucky to not pull level earlier after they were turned down for a penalty call against Felipe, with the Atletico man appearing to handle the ball with his forearm and elbow.

Zidane, however, declined to criticise the decision in his post-match press conference, stating: "I don't mess around [with the referee], his job is difficult. He made that decision to watch the play and not whistle, and we respect him. That's it. We know it's complicated. We can't get into that. We have to respect that. It will not change."

Real Madrid are at the third spot with 54 points in 26 games, five points shy from front-runner Atletico Madrid, who have played one game less. **ANI**

FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN

Kane, Bale shine as Tottenham Hotspur thrash Crystal Palace

LONDON: Harry Kane and Gareth Bale scored two goals each to register a fourth straight win as Tottenham Hotspur defeated Crystal Palace 4-1 on Sunday (local time).

Bale put Tottenham in front before the visitors equalised through Christian Benteke on the stroke of half-time, but Spurs quickly opened up a 3-1 lead early in the second period through Bale and Kane. Kane also assisted both of Bale's goals. Spurs were on the front foot right from the start and deservedly went ahead in the 25th minute. Lucas Moura did superbly well to win the ball from Luka Milivojevic 30 yards from the Palace goal and find Kane down the left who rolled the ball across the six-yard box for Bale to tap home at the far post.

It was a commanding first-half display although the Eagles had a spell of pressure late in the half and looked to have seen out the danger only for the visitors to score with 10 seconds of the period remaining when Benteke powered a header past Hugo Lloris. It was their first attempt on target and only the second touch in the box during the first period.



Tottenham made a great start to the second half with two goals inside the opening seven minutes. Bale put the side back in front on 49 minutes, beating Cheikhou Kouyate in the air to head past Guaita for his sixth goal in six games. And it got even better three minutes later with a fabulous Kane goal, hitting Matt Doherty's pass with a first-time right-foot curler from 25 yards to the right of the area which dipped over the Palace goalkeeper and into the top corner.

The visitors almost reduced the deficit in the 69th minute when

Wilfried Zaha struck the post with a low 20-yard drive but the home side wrapped up the points six minutes later when Heung-Min Son squared for Kane to nod into an empty net.

It was a significant goal as it marked the 14th time the two players have combined for a Premier League goal this campaign, a new record for a single season in the competition.

Tottenham sits at sixth place with 45 points and will next take on Arsenal in the Premier League on March 14. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2021 reaching \$68.35, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.94 from the price of Friday, which was \$66.41. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSM index closed at 3,667.71 points, up 0.34 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.67 per cent at 540.30 points. Oman Arab Bank, up 6.54 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cement, down 7.78 per cent, was the top loser.

Tethys Oil's production in Oman reaches 328,209 barrels in February

The official selling price, as published by Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals, is the benchmark price for Tethys Oil's monthly sales excluding trading and quality adjustments



OIL PRODUCTION: Oil production in Oman is currently subject to production limitations under the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec+ agreement). - **File photo**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of the production, before government take, from Blocks 3&4 onshore the Sultanate of Oman amounted in

February 2021 to 328,209 barrels, corresponding to 11,722 barrels of oil per day. Oil production in Oman is current-

ly subject to production limitations under the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec+ agreement). As a consequence, produc-

tion from Blocks 3&4 is subject to limitations but is likely to fluctuate on a monthly basis. The Official Selling Price (OSP)

for Oman Export Blend Crude Oil for the month of February 2021 amounts to \$50.00 per barrel. The OSP, as published by

Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals, is the benchmark price for Tethys Oil's monthly oil sales excluding trading and quality adjustments.

Wholly-owned subsidiary

Tethys Oil, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Tethys Oil Block 3 & 4 Ltd, has a 30 per cent interest in Blocks 3&4. Partners are Mitsui E&P Middle East with 20 per cent and the operator CC Energy Development (Oman branch) holding the remaining 50 per cent.

Tethys Oil is a Swedish oil company with a focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58.

Tethys Oil has networking interest 2P reserves of 26.9 mmbbl and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 13.9 mmbbl and had an average oil production of 11,336 barrels per day from Blocks 3&4 during 2020. The company's shares are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm (TETY).

WEBINAR

Oman and Sri Lanka emphasise cooperation in Information, Communications Technology sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sri Lanka Embassy in the Sultanate along with the Export Development Board of Sri Lanka (EDB) organised an introductory webinar meeting in association with Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM) with a view to connecting Sri Lankan and Omani Information and Communications Technology/ Business Process Management (ICT/BPM) sector companies.

Opening the webinar, the Director-General of the Export Development Board of Sri Lanka, Chitranjali Dissanayake, said Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Ameer Ajwad, had stated that the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has emerged today as the most vital means of both resolving challenges and responding to the new reality.

The COVID-19 crisis has triggered the need to further enhance international collaboration in this sector. He also pointed out that since Sri Lanka and Oman have identified the ICT sector as the key priority in their national policy framework, ICT/BPM companies in both countries could find synergies for collaboration. To this end, the ambassador informed that the Embassy would organise B2B webinar meetings between the ICT/BPM companies of both countries



KEY PRIORITY: Since Sri Lanka and Oman have identified the ICT sector as the key priority in their national policy framework, ICT/BPM companies in both countries could find synergies for collaboration. - **Supplied picture**

in the near future.

He further stated that as the Ouran ICT sector emphasises innovation-driven solutions, Sri Lankan companies could leverage their experiences gained from the projects such as Smart Cities, Special Economic Zones, Tourism, and Telecommunication projects.

Sri Lankan ICT/BPM companies could also offer IT solutions

for the Omani banking sector, aerospace, defence, stock exchange and so on. Welcoming this initiative, Director, Business Development of KOM, Saif Hamdan Al Riyami, provided with a briefing on the ICT/BPM industry at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat having Oman's first and most successful tech park and hosting over 190 future-focused domestic, regional

and global companies, institutions and organisations.

Assistant Director, Export Services of the EDB Vajira Kularathne introduced the ICT/BPM industry in Sri Lanka followed by presentations from industry experts. While BPM/KPM sector opportunities in Sri Lanka were introduced by SLASSCOM (Sri Lanka Association for Software and Services

Companies) Director Shiraz Lye, IT sector opportunities in Sri Lanka were introduced by FITIS (The Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka) Director, Theekshana Kumara.

Sri Lankan ICT/BPM companies, namely TIQRI Corporation, Metatechno Lanka Company (Private) Limited, Inexis Consulting (Pvt) Ltd, Informate Private Limited, ZILLIONe Business Solutions Pvt Ltd, Master Minds Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, Arimac Lanka Pvt Ltd, Design Box (PVT) LTD, ERP Lanka (PVT) Ltd, presented their profiles during the webinar. ICT/BPM sector in Sri Lanka has been identified as one of the strategic National Export Strategy (NES) initiatives and it ranks as the 4th largest foreign exchange generator of Sri Lanka which contributed US\$ one billion in 2019.

The sector has more than 400 SMEs and large scale companies as well as more than 500 startups that are catering to prominent markets in the GCC, EU, USA, UK, Japan, Australia etc.

More than 120,000 IT professionals are working in the sector. The EDB along with the industry associations unveiled the brand name for the ICT/BPM sector of Sri Lanka in 2018 as "Island of Ingenuity - Sri Lanka Knowledge Solutions". This accelerated the promotional activities of this industry in the international market.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB releases data to support more sustainable transport sector

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday released the first batch of data as part of a new regional knowledge platform to guide sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Asian Transport Outlook (ATO) will support the planning and delivery of transport sector assistance by ADB as well as transport policy and initiatives by Asian governments in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement and other international agreements.

"This first batch of information reminds us of the challenges faced by economies in Asia and the Pacific in developing the transport sector as they start to look at the period beyond COVID-19," said ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bambang Susantono. "We are now getting data that detail the shortages in transport infrastructure and transport services experienced by ADB members. This will help ADB, its member governments and other stakeholders to build back the transport sector in Asia and the Pacific in a more sustainable manner in the coming years."

The ATO collects, organises and shares data on the transport sector in economies using more than 400 indicators. The first batch of information includes data for 234 indicators on the status of transport infrastructure, transport activity, access and connectivity, road safety, climate change, air pollution and health as well as socio-economic conditions.

The ATO will also document the institutional frameworks, policies and financing of transport in these economies. More batches of data on the transport sector will be released in the coming months.

The ATO is developed on behalf of ADB by the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT), the leading global multi-stakeholder partnership on sustainable, low carbon transport.

"The ATO will help ADB and SLOCAT in mobilising the transport community in support of evidence-based action on transport in Asia," said SLOCAT Secretary-General Maruxa Cardema.

"The coming years will be decisive in determining whether we are meeting the objectives of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The manner in which the transport sector in Asia develops is key for both processes and the ATO will tell us whether we are on track." - **ANI**

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA launches electronic system for licencing health insurance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with Oman Vision 2040 to achieve its objects in speeding up digital transformation moves to smart government and in continuation of the Capital Market Authority's (CMA) approach in digitalising its services to the public swiftly and easily, the CMA launched an electronic system for licencing health insurance Third Party Administrators (TPAs).

The electronic system is part of the e-services series provided to the participants of the capital market and insurance sector through the CMA's portal to create time-saving channels for the participants coupled with the best standards of quality.

The CMA now has 40 electronic services in the various sectors and the TPAs licensing system is the first in the electronic transformation plan of 2021. TPAs can now apply for registrations and renewal of licenses electronically.



ELECTRONIC SYSTEM: The electronic system is part of the e-services series provided to the participants of the capital market and insurance sector through the CMA's portal. - **File picture**

CMA has earlier issued licensing requirements for TPAs as a significant move to enhance the regulatory aspects of the health insurance sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

It included the components of the insurance process related to health insurance products as such

companies are a party to the insurance relationship for their role in claim administration between insurance companies and health services providers through a valuation of compensation and provision of a wide network of health services providers for the insurance policyholders.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Indian banks' modest recovery faces challenges from COVID-19 stress

MUMBAI: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to pose challenges to improving the financial performance of Indian banks once asset-quality risks manifest in the financial year ending March 2022 (FY22), Fitch Ratings said on Monday.

The banks reported lower impaired loans and improved profitability for nine months ended December 2020 due to various forbearance measures and continued large write-offs. Particularly, government-owned banks remained more risk-averse than in prior years which was reflected in their weak credit growth.

Fitch said it expects a moderately worse sector outlook for Indian banks for 2021-22 based on muted expectations for new business and revenue generation, and deteriorating asset quality.

The government's less-than-

adequate recapitalisation plans for its banks further underscores the risk which will likely keep risk aversion high among banks amid continuing uncertainty about asset quality and uneven economic recovery, it said.

"The disproportionate shock to India's informal economy and small businesses coupled with high unemployment and declining private consumption have yet to fully manifest on bank balance sheets." The banks' impaired-loans ratio declined by 130 basis points to 7.2 per cent at 9M FY21 but it is yet to factor in the majority of pandemic stress which is unrecognised due to judicial intervention or forbearance.

As these measures unwind, Fitch expects banks to reverse the improvements in asset quality and profitability with state banks. - **ANI**

MARKET

MSM index ends higher



Oman Arab Bank, up 6.54 per cent, was the top gainer, while Oman Cement, down 7.78 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,667.71 points, up 0.34 per cent from the previous close.

The Sharia Index ended down 0.67 per cent at 540.30 points. Oman Arab Bank, up 6.54 per cent, was the top gainer, while Oman Cement, down 7.78 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Ahli Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 680 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR44.5 million, with more than 388 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded stocks, 15 advanced, 9 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, Omani investors were net sellers for OMR72,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR52,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,626.76 points, up by 0.78 per cent. Oman Arab Bank, Al Omaniya Fi-

nanacial Service, National Bank Oman, Al Anwar Investment and Sohar International Bank were up 6.54 per cent, 4.05 per cent, 2.94 per cent, 1.32 per cent and 1.19 per cent respectively. United Finance was the only loser by 4.55 per cent. Industrial Index closed at 4,730.18 points, down 0.53 per cent. National Aluminum Product, Jazeera Steel Product, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry and Raysut Cement were up 5.71 per cent, 2.29 per cent, 0.62 per cent, 0.40 per cent and 0.33 per cent respectively. Oman Cement and Al Maha Ceramics were down 7.78 per cent and 1.42 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.94 per cent before closing at 1,530.73 points. Oman Telecommunication was the only gainer by 1.65 per cent. Al Maha Marketing, Al Jazeera Service, Oman Investment & Financials, Phoenix Power and Ooredoo were down 4.78 per cent, 3.85 per cent, 2.41 per cent, 2.08 per cent and 0.99 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,667.71	3,645.15	3,667.71	3,655.17	12.55	0.34
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,626.77	5,583.04	5,626.77	5,583.04	43.73	0.78
Services Index	1,543.73	1,530.74	1,530.74	1,545.34	-14.60	-0.94
Industry Index	4,755.60	4,724.06	4,730.18	4,755.60	-25.42	-0.53
MSM Shariah Index	543.41	540.31	540.31	543.94	-3.64	-0.67
MSM TR INDEX	4,232.86	4,206.83	4,232.86	4,218.38	14.48	0.34

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
388,212,384	44,517,178	680	20,402,721,222	15	9	18	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 8

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	158,000	12,209	10	0.074	0.077	0.074	0.077	0.074	0.003	4.054	0.077	0.075	0.077	23,479,008
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	183,658	40,950	29	0.219	0.225	0.219	0.223	0.218	0.005	2.294	0.222	0.220	0.222	27,852,245
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	96,875	72,846	15	0.740	0.740	0.720	0.740	0.728	0.012	1.648	0.720	0.708	0.780	555,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,908,894	226,811	92	0.077	0.079	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.316	0.077	0.077	0.078	15,400,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	390,603	33,347	16	0.084	0.087	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.087	0.081	0.087	206,933,072
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	386,576	164,069	33	0.424	0.426	0.424	0.424	0.422	0.002	0.474	0.426	0.424	0.426	1,377,797,557
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	10,670	3,201	2	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.299	0.001	0.334	0.300	0.290	0.300	60,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	5,000	195	2	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.038	0.039	11,978,707
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	46,936	15,958	11	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.334	0.350	80,379,400
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	215,610	86,391	25	0.400	0.404	0.400	0.400	0.404	-0.004	-0.990	0.404	0.402	0.404	280,377,692
OM0000003005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	181,200	50,192	19	0.278	0.279	0.273	0.277	0.281	-0.004	-1.423	0.277	0.276	0.277	15,235,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	688,350	55,494	49	0.080	0.082	0.080	0.081	0.083	-0.002	-2.410	0.080	0.080	0.080	19,197,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	154,649	38,540	33	0.260	0.260	0.243	0.249	0.270	-0.021	-7.778	0.243	0.243	0.243	82,387,305
Total		5,449,821	800,205	336											

Parallel Market

OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	120,204	19,594	9	0.165	0.167	0.160	0.163	0.153	0.010	6.536	0.160	0.165	0.164	0.100	272,113,630
OM0000003139	ALUMINIUM PROD.	925,070	102,871	62	0.105	0.115	0.105	0.111	0.105	0.006	5.714	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	3,728,431
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	140,466	19,646	13	0.139	0.140	0.137	0.140	0.136	0.004	2.941	0.140	0.140	0.143	0.100	227,632,490
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	55,000	4,396	5	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	8,000,000
OM0000003200	AHLI BANK	319,096,523,43	077,466	7	0.106	0.135	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.101	0.107	0.100	208,613,349
OM0000002549	BANK DHOOFAR	24,453	2,616	4	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.107	0.116	0.100	320,609,694
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	107,716	34,900	12	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.322	0.002	0.621	0.324	0.324	0.330	0.100	95,973,233
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	73,250	36,769	11	0.500	0.504	0.500	0.502	0.500	0.002	0.400	0.502	0.450	0.502	0.100	45,029,400
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	500	48	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.098	0.100	11,640,000
OM0000003101	DHOOFAR CATTLE	4,950	421	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	5,438,200
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	791,000	68,028	14	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	17,026,900
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	802,712	38,013	36	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.049	0.100	5,728,125
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	5,942	143	3	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.023	0.024	0.100	4,971,633
OM0000003036	Muscat Thread MILL	1,000	72	2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	1,257,168
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	694,670	33,274	26	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.052	0.100	13,919,071
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	3,000	381	2	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.120	0.127	0.100	10,500,955
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,280,136	126,489	64	0.099	0.100	0.098	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	17,325,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	3,000	154	2	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	10,000	520	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.050	0.053	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,272	200	2	0.087	0.089	0.087	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	13,688,435
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS.	200	20	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	10,330,166
OM0000007407	DHOOFAR GENERATING	3,400	544	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.170	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.100	37,780,800
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,500	238	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.093	0.104	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	78,700	3,706	7	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.001	2.085	0.047	0.046	0.048	0.100	68,742,289
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	37,100	11,144	4	0.302	0.302	0.300	0.300	0.312	-0.012	-3.846	0.300	0.300	0.320	0.100	18,361,282
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	238,000	10,018	12	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.044	-0.002	-4.545	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.100	14,664,065
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	14,705	8,205	3	0.558	0.558	0.558	0.558	0.586	-0.028	-4.778	0.558	0.546	0.558	0.100	38,502,000
Total		324,516,469,43	599,672	326												

VAT IMPLEMENTATION

RSM Oman and WTS Dhruva Consultants collaborate for VAT services in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To provide VAT implementation and related services to clients in Oman, RSM Oman has partnered with WTS Dhruva Consultants, UAE, which is a boutique tax services provider with extensive experience in VAT implementations across India, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

WTS Dhruva Consultants has won several awards including being recognised as the “Best Newcomer Firm of the Year” at the ITR European Tax Awards 2020 and consistently being recognised as

the “India Tax Firm of the Year” at the ITR Asia Tax Awards in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

George Mathew, the Managing Partner of the firm said, “With VAT coming to Oman, it is essential to address the requirements of each of our clients and provide the best possible services so that our clients can comply with Oman’s VAT laws. WTS Dhruva’s highly experienced consultants, working along with our tax consultants will bring the required knowledge and experience to serve our clients well.”

Nimish Goel, the Partner of WTS Dhruva Consultants, UAE,

said, “This will be a highly strategic partnership where we, at WTS Dhruva Consultants, will bring our extensive VAT experience to Oman. Our market-leading expertise in handling complex VAT implementations across the Middle East and GST implementations in India for varied sectors including real estate, retail, healthcare, construction, education and financial services enables us to provide a distinct advantage to the businesses we serve.”

A series of industry-specific webinars on VAT and its impact is being planned.

RSM Oman (George Mathew

LLC) has been operating in Oman since 1988, providing a range of audit, tax and consulting services to governmental, national and international clients. RSM is the 6th largest global audit, tax and consulting network, with 48,000 people in over 120 countries and a global fee income of \$6.3 billion.

Oman had announced the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) on October 12, 2020. The VAT Law was published in the Official Gazette of Oman on Sunday, 18 October 2020 vide Royal Decree No. 121/2020. The date of implementation of VAT in Oman is April 16, 2021.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

US job growth rises past expectations as economic recovery gets back on track

WASHINGTON: The US economy created more jobs than expected in February as falling new COVID-19 cases and additional pandemic relief money from the government boosted hiring at restaurants, putting the labour market recovery back on firmer footing.

Though job growth momentum is expected to build in the months ahead amid an acceleration in the pace of vaccinations and more fiscal stimulus, it will probably take several years for the labour market to heal from the deep scars inflicted by the pandemic, which is now in its second year, Reuters reported.

Employment report

The Labor Department’s closely watched employment report on Friday showed at least 4.1 million Americans have been out of work for more than six months, accounting for 41.5 per cent of the unemployed population in February. Another 3.5 million have permanently lost their jobs.



Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Thursday offered an optimistic view of the labour market, but cautioned a return to full employment this year was “highly unlikely.”

“Looking ahead, it appears the ship is pointed in the right direction and the additional stimulus from

Congress should be the wind in the sails to get the economy back on track,” said Charlie Ripley, senior investment strategist at Allianz Investment Management.

Nonfarm payrolls surged by 379,000 jobs last month after rising 166,000 in January. Payrolls fell in December for the first time

in eight months. Employment remains 9.5 million below its pre-pandemic level. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast February payrolls increasing by 182,000 jobs.

Restaurants and bars hired 286,000 workers last month, accounting for 75 per cent of the gain in payrolls. There were also increases in employment at other leisure and hospitality businesses.

Temporary help, seen as a harbinger for future hiring, increased further. Healthcare and social assistance also added jobs, and retailers hired 41,000 workers. Manufacturing payrolls increased by 21,000 jobs. But construction employment decreased by 61,000 jobs because of the bitter cold across the country.

“At this pace, employment would not return to its pre-recession peak for almost seven years,” said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. — BNA

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6. DOCUMENT CONTROLLER - 2

7. CIVIL ENGINEER - 2

8. MECHANICAL ENGINEER - 2

9. ELECTRICAL ENGINEER - 2

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11. H.S.E ENGINEER - 1

12. QA/AC ENGINEER - 1

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16. STORE KEEPER - 1

17. CAMP BOSS - 1

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An Excellent Grade Construction Firm based in Muscat has immediate vacancy for

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An Excellent Grade Construction Firm based in Muscat has immediate vacancy for

Civil Construction Manager (Civil) (BE/B-Tech)

- Minimum 15 Years GCC Exp. In Civil Construction works.
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- NOC/Transfer availability preferred.

Interest Candidates May forward their CV & Expectation etc... by Email cvomanhr@gmail.com

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Contact 99329289
Email sales@oceancentre.co

Pest Control Treatments - Cockroaches, Ants, etc. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 99329289
Email sales@oceancentre.co

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

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Website: www.almalaki.co

Contact: 90608097

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for a Christian Orthodox boy aged 27 (B.Tech Mechanical) doing own business in Oman (Investor). Accounting, finance, B.Engg professionals are preferred. Contact 92284635

Pakistani Urdu speaking sunni syed parents residing in Muscat seeking 25-30 year old suitable match for their 22 year old 5'5" B.Com unmarried Muscat born daughter. No cast restrictions. Preferably Urdu speaking sunni. Contact: +968 92366248

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTANT

Required Senior Auditor with CA and experience of 10 -15 years in Taxation. Preferably Arabic Speaking and having valid Oman Driving License.
Email: advance@omantel.net.om

Required ACCA passed Graduate, preferably Arabic Speaking.
Email: advance@omantel.net.om

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Reputed pool company is looking for pool technician. Share cv to poolsooman@gmail.com

Urgent Rolling Shutter Installation Technician with 2-3Years Experience in Garage and Industrial doors. Location: Muscat. Call/Whatsapp : +96892655402

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with MOH license & minimum 3 years of experience,required for a reputed pharmacy based in Muscat. Send your CVs to info@infinitiom.com

Urgently required pathologist/microbiologist with PHD, GP doctors, nurses, x-ray technicians, Arab speaking gynecologist, pediatrician, dentist & orthodontist for Salalah Oman. MOH license holders are preferred. Whatsapp +968 98899345 Email hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

DESIGNER

Wanted a graphic designing with Arabic & English knowledge in Ruwi area (part time). Contact 96419126 Email arscreens04@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

We are hiring: Pastry Chef.
Send your CVs to: operations@lepetitparisoman.com

We are hiring: Hostess [Lady only, Arabic Speaker Preferred].
Send your CVs to: operations@lepetitparisoman.com

SKILLED/UNSKILLED

Young, experienced Indian tailor with good knowledge of ladies tailoring required immediately for a boutique in Muscat. Should be hard working, proactive and with pleasant mannerism. Contact 95759535

REQUIRED

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE

International Land survey company in Oman requires Senior Sales Executives. Target oriented candidates with local driving license and prior experience in building materials / land survey will be preferred.

Contact +968 9533 1963
recruitment.world.2019@gmail.com

REQUIRED

Experienced Accountant Cum Inventory In-Charge

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- Preparation of transactions.
- Stocking, labelling, and sorting out of raw and finished materials.
- Encoding information into ERP system and generate accurate report.
- Managing stock levels and ordering raw materials from supplier.

Interested applicants may send CV at jobs2000@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

Accountant, 4 years experience in Oman with DL # 95762756

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADMIN/HR

Commercial/Secretarial with Stenography/Documentation/Administration cum Basic Accounts 20+ years experience working in oman with NOC & D/L looking for a suitable job. Contact 92925926, 97704828. Email ffrancis7@gmail.com

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

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

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

Commercial/Secretarial with Steganography /Documentation/Administration cum Basic Accounts 20+ years experience working in oman with NOC & D/L looking for a suitable job. Contact 92925926, 97704828. Email ffrancis7@gmail.com

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

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

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

BCom Fresh Graduate, 23, looking for an opening in assisting administrative job roles. Available to join immediately. Mob: 78018480 Email: saadsakeer2009@gmail.com.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

Indian Female, Msc Biotechnology graduate currently in Muscat looking for suitable opportunities. 94687398 Email gayathrisprem21@gmail.com

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

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. 9 yrs. Contact 93191575

Looking for driving job. Contact 98763258

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

Looking for driver job, 2 yrs experience. Contact 95160208

Driver with 8 yrs experience looking job. Contact 79352646

3 yrs experience in driving, looking job. Contact 98763258

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CONNECT

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Contact 78073734
Email sajeevsmi2005@gmail.com

EGYPTIAN CIVIL ENGINEER

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

Contact 97500522
Email: mohamdelgeziry@gmail.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

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

Contact: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

FINANCE

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

Contact 99250104, Email: hyder065@gmail.com

ENGINEER

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

Contact: 95119284
alya_alsiyabi93@outlook.com

B.E Civil Engineer

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

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

GIS Engineer

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

Contact: 99738614, deepitkotian14@gmail.com

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

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

ELECTRICAL MANAGER

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

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

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator

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

Please contact – 78022980

Indian male B Com, ICWA intermediate with 20 years of Oman middle management experience in handling MIS, project finance management, managing banks, budgeting, forecasting, finalization of accounts and year end audits, seeks proper placement. NOC / DL available.

Please contact 94839479, sureshswaminathan2311@gmail.com

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

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

CONTACT 99283938

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

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

Contact 96324484

FINANCE MANAGER

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

CONTACT +968 95808315 / 94411825

FINANCE

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

Contact 97131091, Email: gokulsbg@gmail.com

FINANCE

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

Contact 94953826 / 92824146

ACCOUNTANT

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

Contact 71990782

Finance Head

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

Contact 92148608

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Electrical Engineer with 6+ years experience Available in Oman. having valid transferable Engineering Visa and oman DL, seeking new opportunities. Have ability to work as Estimation Engineer, Procurement Engineer, Design Engineer, Site Engineer and QA/QC Engineer in MEP department. Contact : 0096896739500 Whatsapp : +919633799797

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

Mechanical engineer, experience 4-5 yrs as Mechanical supervisor seeks job. Contact 79859336

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

Indian male Diploma Electrical Engineer, with 15 years of experience with 8 yrs exp in Oman with CEP and NOC available. Valid Oman D/L. Looking for suitable placement can join immediately. Contact 99579171

Civil Engineer fresh graduate, 6 months UAE/ Oman intensive training in construction and infrastructure, holder of valid D/L, Arab native who speaks 3 languages on a visit visa. seeking a job. Contact 97727285

Indian 25 yrs, Mechanical engineer, having Oman valid D/L. Looking for suitable placement. # 78043052

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian, 1 year Exp, living in Oman seeks job. Contact 94227623

BSc.Civil Engineer PMP Certified with 12 years experience in construction and road works. # 99715328

B.E Civil engineer having 12 years oman experience looking for sub contracting works like block work,plaster, tiling, false ceiling and so on. Please contact 72132426

Electrical Engineer, 20 yrs experience in Oman worked in construction sector as MEP project Coordinator with valid DL & visa (NOC available. Contact 99068277. Whatsapp 91-9567621821. email vijayanki1965@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 7 years experience, working in reputed construction company in UAE seeking job in Oman.Contact 78031493 Email: sharathp20@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

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

IT

Indian female MCA, 4 yrs experience in TCS as a software testing engineer seeking suitable position. Contact 95249883 Email rejaaramdas@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Indian 24 yrs presently in Oman, graduated in BCA,experience in Rent a car in Oman, airport & in Car showroom. Contact 79224987

8 yrs experience, Customer service,operations, logistics, secretary, trading,NOC available, currently in Muscat, D/L, Excellent communication in English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam. Contact 91116374

8 years experience in supply chain and logistics.Having a vehicle and Oman valued D/L & valid work visa which can be transmitted. Contact 97338399 ,79844071. Email manjeshbpillai@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

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

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

MANAGER

Expert in oil and gas supply chain, operation and commercial management 18 years of Oman experience as mid level executive looking for immediate placement. Contact 95148237

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

Male having 10 years Experience (Oman), working as a "Fleet Manager" looking for a suitable position. Contact 93363316

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

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

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

Tower crane operator. NOC available. Contact 91519095

Indian fitter with diploma certification in piping & structural engineering looking for job. Immediate joining. Contact 79500069

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

16 yrs Oman experience in procurement, logistics & customs with valid Oman D/L & NOC seeking suitable position. Contact 95174968

Indian male, working last 12 years in Oman as a Purchasing officer and site coordinator, D/L NOC available looking for suitable job. # 97099785. Email maniugcc@gmail.com

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

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

SALES / MARKETING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOUR / TRAVEL

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

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

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



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ROUND-UP

Mazda emerging as the most preferred automotive brand

While Mazda is quite small in its sales volume globally and in Oman, the brand has beaten a lot of top-selling auto brands to grab one of the top 5 spots in the vehicle category

MUSCAT: Mazda has made it to the top 5 most preferred auto brands in Oman with not just the locals but expatriates as well. A recent 'The Most Trusted Brands in Oman 2020', conducted by a leading Research Agency and published by a leading Business Magazine confirmed that amongst Omanis and expats male and female, rated Mazda as the top 5 most preferred auto brand in Oman. While Mazda is quite small in its sales volume globally and in Oman, the brand has beaten a lot of top-selling auto brands to grab one of the top 5 spots in the vehicle category. This could be attributed to some amazing products, effective and smart marketing and attractive pricing combined with its impeccable after-sales service. Mazda has been consistently gaining the trust of its valuable customers by repeatedly working on its design philosophy with its prime focus being on JinbaIttai, a Japanese philosophy that describes the unity of horse and the rider. Mazda is the pioneer of incorporating this concept in its designs and driving experience. In another first, Mazda is Consumer Reports' 'Best Overall'. Pub-



lished in a leading daily in UAE, Mazda was honoured as the most reliable automotive brand for the first time. To be listed in the top 5 preferred automotive brand in Oman as well as the most reliable within the region, Mazda has come a long way to establish its presence in the market. It has emerged as a brand that means a lot to a select few, rather than trying to be something for everyone. Mazda cars are designed in such

a way that makes the driver feel as if the car is their extension, promising its drivers smooth and long drives. Having an organic and holistic approach, Mazda has understood the human body and how everything is interconnected. From the engine, and from the tires to the seats, each part functions in an interconnected manner in the same way all parts of the human body are connected. This human-centric philosophy ensures fatigue less and comfortable drive

perfect for long and tiresome journeys. And with a product range that provides 3 choices in the small to mid-level sedan range to an impressive 4 models to choose from in the Crossover segment. On this fabulous recognition, Riyadh Ali Sultan, General Manager, TAC, appreciated the efforts made by the Mazda team in Oman to improve the customer experience and to Mazda for delivering immersive cars to extend the imagination and the comfort of driving. "Mazda is

also changing the game in the world of engines. It has introduced Sky-Activ engines which assure fuel efficiency without compromising on CO2 emissions, performance & safety. The Mazda 2, 3, 6, CX-3, CX-30, CX-5 and CX-9 are all big on performance and at the same time give drivers a premium feel. With its luxurious and beautiful interiors combining a sporty feel behind the wheel, presents great value for money. With spectacular attributes like these, there's no question

as to why Mazda is emerging as the most preferred automotive brand in Oman." In Oman, TAC is recognised as a trusted name in customer service and a pioneer in the automobile business since 1972. A group company of the W J Towell Group, TAC takes off from the principle of its parent company and ensures the easy availability of high-quality motor products coupled with the highest standard of service to its esteemed customers.

MEETHAQ NESWA SAVINGS ACCOUNT



Neswa: A savings account specially designed for woman

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic banking from Bank Muscat provides a wide range of Sharia-compliant products and services, which have been specifically designed to meet the financial and banking needs of its wide range of customers. Meethaq's Neswa Savings Account is specially designed taking into account the requirements of women in the contemporary world. It enhances their privacy and has several features that are tailor-made to meet their needs. Neswa account holders have access to a wide range of features, which include a Visa Debit Card with an ATM withdrawal limit of OMR800, access to the largest network of ATMs and CDMs across Oman, complimentary Takaful life cover up to OMR 10,000, coverage up to OMR 1,000 for loss of a wallet or handbag resulting in misuse of cards and coverage up to OMR 100 for loss of ID cards and keys. Account-holders can also receive attractive indicative profit rates on their average monthly balance up to 1.50 per cent p.a. and are eligible for up to 50 per cent discount

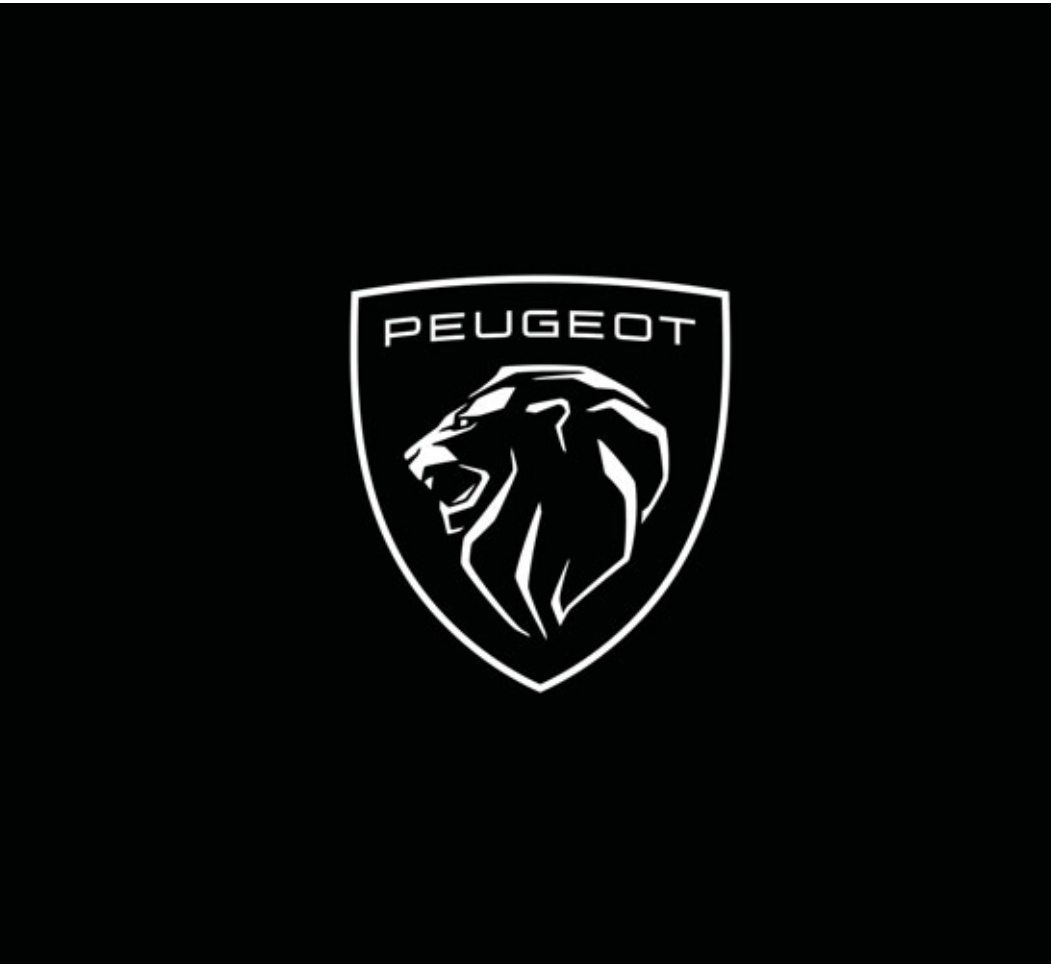
Meethaq's Neswa Savings Account is specially designed taking into account the requirements of women in the contemporary world

on the first year's rental charge for safe deposit lockers. All Omani and resident women above the age of 18 are eligible to open a Neswa savings account with a minimum balance amount of OMR300 or a minimum salary transfer of OMR500. The Neswa customers can also set up a Meethaq Savings Plan transferring an amount from their Neswa account. Meethaq's Savings Plan allows customers to achieve their financial goals by saving a small amount regularly over a long period to meet their

financial goals such as saving for their child's education, retirement planning and other personal goals. The Meethaq Savings Plan is open for all customers between the ages of 18 and 64 and comes with the option of direct debit/standing order to facilitate one's contributions. It also has an attractive indicative profit rate of 3% p.a. and inbuilt Takaful cover to protect and quickly grow savings. All contributions are invested in Sharia-compliant investment activities and come with the option of withdrawing up to 10% of the accumulated contributions in case of an emergency. A partial withdrawal may be made once during a calendar year. The full amount can be encashed and withdrawn by a customer subject to the payment of a 1% pre-closure fee applied to the total savings plan value at the time of application. Every Meethaq product is certified by the bank's Sharia Supervisory Board for compliance with Sharia principles and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

NEW LOGO

The Peugeot Lion roars louder



MUSCAT: The world's oldest surviving automotive brand is reaffirming its personality and character with a new logo. It is turning over a new page in its history. On 25 February 2021, Peugeot unveiled its new logo: a coat of arms adorned with a magnificent lion's head. Since 1850, Peugeot has had 10 successive logos, all of which feature the lion's emblem. An eleventh version, even more streamlined, more qualitative and more elegant, has been unveiled by Peugeot. This new coat of arms, in the effigy of the lion, has always been part of the brand. It shines a proud spotlight on the values of the brand. The logo has been designed as a timeless, universal, multicultural form synonymous with prestige, confidence, longevity and lineage. The new logo embodies what Peugeot meant

yesterday, what Peugeot means today, and what Peugeot will mean tomorrow. Setting out to conquer new lands, to accelerate its international growth. Peugeot is a brand in tune with the times. It keeps abreast of innovation, anticipates changes in behaviour and paves the way for new mobility solutions. It has had the experience of all the revolutions: industrial, technological, political, social, digital and, now, environmental - the energy transition and zero-carbon mobility being at the heart of its strategy for a sustainable future. All these forms Peugeot's DNA. It is also a powerful and instinctive brand, a reflection of its emblem: the lion. Over the last 10 years, the entire product range has undergone an astonishing upmarket move. And this is what it has achieved: "In-

ternational Van of the year" with the Peugeot e-Expert in 2021 and Partner in 2019, and three "Car Of The Year" on the road (Peugeot 308, chosen in 2014, Peugeot 3008, chosen in 2017 and Peugeot 208, chosen in 2020). And above all an electrified range for both passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. At the beginning of 2021, with the launch of a range that will be ushered in by the new Peugeot 308, with a new website and with the creation of Stellantis, the stars are aligned. The Peugeot brand is turning over a new page in its history. A New Era. This opens the way to a brand ecosystem that is not limited to its visual identity alone. It carries within it a deeper change. A shift instance; a new state of mind; a new lifestyle. The Peugeot brand is timeless. It is reinventing itself, over and over again.

ROUND-UP



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The best time to own a Lexus RX is now



The Lexus RX makes every drive power-packed with its choice of two powertrains

MUSCAT: Customers looking forward to owning an RX must take advantage of the exclusive benefits that include free service 3 years/ 30,000 km and free registration (Conditions apply. Please visit your nearest Lexus showroom for details).

The Lexus RX makes every drive power-packed with its choice of two powertrains. The RX 350 model comes with a 3.5-litre V6 petrol engine, which produces 296 HP and 37.7 Kg.M of torque and is paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission. Meanwhile, the RX 450h hybrid variant is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 petrol engine and two electric motors and produces a combined system output of 308 hp. The RX Hybrid is available with a hybrid battery warranty of 8 years or 1,60,000 km, whichever is earlier.

The Lexus RX 450h can be driven in EV drive mode to reduce noise while driving in residential areas and to reduce exhaust gas in indoor parking lots and garages or through a combination of its petrol engine

and two electric motors, depending on the vehicle's speed and customer's driving behaviour. The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord.

A host of advanced technologies ensure the RX 450h drives like any other conventional vehicle, while not requiring special fuel.

As with any Lexus vehicle, safety is a top priority for the new RX. Drivers can enjoy complete peace of mind thanks to the Lexus Safety System+, an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS), all-speed range Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Tracing Alert (LTA), and Adaptive High-beam

System (AHS).

The vehicle also includes a comprehensive array of safety features designed to protect its occupants, such as SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Parking Support Alert (PKSA), Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (RCTA) and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), among many others.

In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as a Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Virgin Mobile driving gender diversity and inclusion in Middle East

MUSCAT: In celebration of International Women's Day, FRIENDi mobile's parent company, Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa, has announced that it has achieved its gender diversity and inclusion targets for the Middle East, with 40 per cent of the total workforce in 2020 being made up of women, and 25 per cent of leadership positions in the business being held by women.

Commenting on Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa's gender diversity goals, Erik Dudman Nielsen, CEO at Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa said, "Gender diversity clearly continues to represent not only a key challenge but also a significant opportunity for the future of our industry. Diverse teams, including those with greater gender diversity, are on average more creative, innovative, and I feel privileged to work alongside so many talented people as we push towards our goal of making mobile better, not only through our services but also through our culture. We believe in creating an inclusive environment, and a key sustainability goal for us is to improve the progression of women within our organisation, and ensure they have the same development opportunities as their male counterparts, in an industry that is often viewed as being male-dominated."

Here in Oman, FRIENDi mobile is immensely proud of the fact that it has the first and only female CEO in the Omani telecom industry, with the appointment of Salma Al Maawali in 2018. Furthermore, several other Omani women are working in senior positions across the different departments of the company.

Commenting on FRIENDi mobile's achievements, Salma Al Maawali, CEO at FRIENDi mobile said, "We are constantly striving to advance the careers

of all of our staff and we are especially supportive of our female employees. We have consistently sought to train and develop them to take on more senior roles, and now we have many women in leading positions across marketing, customer service, technical, HR and regulatory."

FRIENDi mobile was launched in April 2009 and offers a great prepaid mobile experience that combines exciting offers and services with competitive prices. Moreover, FRIENDi mobile offers the best customer care in Oman, very good network coverage, high-speed internet, easy to use products and low international call rates.

Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa is part of the Virgin family group of companies. Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa is responsible for all Virgin Mobile operations in the Middle East and Africa region and is headquartered in Dubai, UAE.

Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa has been in the region since 2007 and operates the two consumer brands of Virgin Mobile and FRIENDi Mobile across the region. Partnering with telecoms operators across the region, the Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa team provides customers with innovative products and packages designed to make their mobile experience better. We work closely with other Virgin companies across the world to make sure we can create experiences for our customer's that surprise and delight them, and which can't be matched.

Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa believes in having the best people on the team, and the management team is made up of senior-level team members from a variety of successful regional and global mobile operators, as well as from MVNOs.

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'CO-CREATING THE POST-COVID-19 WORLD'

Arab Open University's Business Studies faculty holds international conference



MUSCAT: The faculty of Business Studies at Arab Open University, Oman organised an international conference on 'Co-Creating the Post-COVID-19 world: Exploring Sustainable Paths' yesterday, virtually.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has created a significant negative effect on the daily life of people as well as the global economy. The economic growth and development pathways have undergone a shock that affected the economy directly and indirectly. For the first time in world history, a health

crisis has slowed down the entire global economy. Every nation, economy, industry, business, and individual are to be mobilised for a rapid response and the most comprehensive, rigorous, and adequate measures to be adopted. An international coordination mechanism is required for the management of the impact on all the sectors.

In this respect, The Arab Open University organised a conference under the patronage of the president of Arab Open University. During this conference, an edited volume book titled "Co-Creating the

Post-COVID 19 world: Exploring Sustainable Paths" was released. The Arab Open University brought together eminent scholars from around the globe to present and discuss and their views on rediscovering, redesigning, and reinventing the strategies to overcome this challenging situation faced by various sectors of the economy.

This conference featured two keynote presentations, 'The Promise of an Entrepreneurial orientation for Sustainability in the Post COVID-19 World' by Dr Andreas Walmsley, Director

of The International Centre for Transformational Entrepreneurship, Coventry University, UK. The second is titled 'The Importance of Digital Transformation in the Post COVID-19 World' by Maqbool Al Wahaibi CEO, Oman Data Park, Oman.

16 research papers were presented by scholars representing 10 countries providing insights to explore the post-COVID-19 world. The papers will be presented and discussed under the themes of Industry, Enterprise, Economy & Education.

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