



CROWN PRINCE OF KSA

HM receives phone call

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Tuesday received a phone call from Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

Prince Mohammed bin Salman conveyed greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the KSA along with best wishes of continuous health and happiness to His Majesty the Sultan, and the Omani people further progress and prosperity. His Majesty the Sultan asked Prince Mohammed bin Salman to convey his greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the brotherly people of KSA further progress.

The telephonic conversation also touched on the initiative of “Green Middle East” announced by the Saudi Crown Prince in partnership with countries of the region. The initiative is considered the largest afforestation programme meant to address environmental challenges.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed his appreciation for the KSA efforts in the field of environment conservation and sustainability. His Majesty the Sultan reaffirmed the Sultanate’s constant support for all efforts exerted in this respect. -ONA

ROYAL ORDERS



On Royal orders, Oman steps up efforts to solve crisis in Yemen

MUSCAT At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman is exerting efforts in close coordination with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the UN and the US envoys to Yemen and the Yemeni parties concerned to hammer out a com-

prehensive political solution to the ongoing crisis in the Republic of Yemen. Oman hopes that these contacts will achieve the desired results shortly to help restore to Yemen its peace, security and stability and to safeguard the security and interests of the region’s countries. -ONA

TRAINING FOR JOBS

More jobs for Omanis in electricity sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 800 young Omanis will be provided training and employment in the country’s electricity sector, as part of the Omanisation efforts to employ more nationals in the private sector.

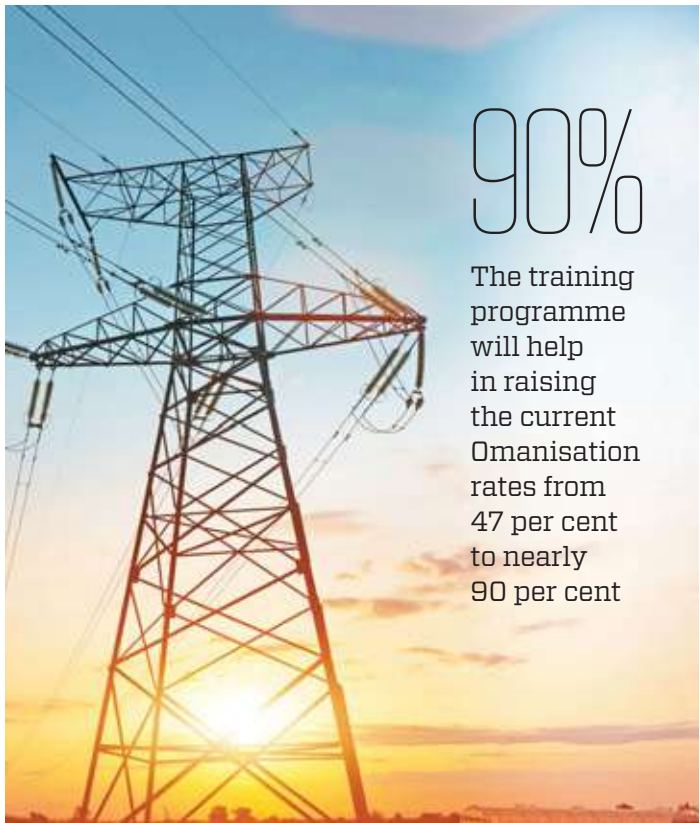
The efforts are part of an initiative involving a number of organisations, including the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Labour, Nama Holding Company, and companies licensed to operate in the nation’s electricity sector.

Under this programme, the jobs of people who work on a permanent basis with subcontractors in the country will be Omanised.

“The programme aims to provide an opportunity to train and employ 800 young Omanis in various technical positions,” said a statement by Oman News Agency (ONA).

“This will help contribute to raising the current Omanisation rates from 47 per cent to nearly 90 per cent.

“This effort comes as part of the strategy of the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) to implement Oman Vision 2040 by developing and enabling Omanis to take up jobs in the electricity sector,” added the agency.



90%

The training programme will help in raising the current Omanisation rates from 47 per cent to nearly 90 per cent

A number of Omanisation efforts have taken place recently to increase nationalisation across many sectors in the country. Earlier this month, many major

oil and gas companies joined efforts to boost employment levels of Omanis. Similarly, about 6,000 Omanis have been hired as teachers over the past five years.

NO MORE WATERLOGGING IN AL KHUWAIR



98 per cent of the sustainable solutions installed on that section of the highway have been completed by Muscat Municipality

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Waterlogging and flooding on the Al Khuwair portion of Sultan Qaboos Street will come down drastically, following extensive roadwork to greatly improve its drainage capacity.

98 per cent of the sustainable so-

lutions installed on that section of the highway have been completed by the Muscat Municipality.

To drain the water that accumulates on the road at a faster rate, primarily during rains, additional box ferries have been constructed.

The roadwork also includes upgrades to the service lane that runs

parallel to the main road, as well as the refitting and reconstruction of the canals designed to carry water away.

“The number of lanes on the road has also been expanded to three,” said Abdullah Al Ameri, assistant director of the Roads Projects Department at Muscat Municipality. “This will help aid the diversion of traffic to and from Sultan Qaboos Street.

“The rehabilitation of the canal, located next to the main road, and on the other side of the commercial area in Al Khuwair, involving expanding its width to between three and five metres, increasing its depth by two metres, and extending its length to 945 metres,”

he added. “We have also built protective barriers for the canal, constructed a pedestrian walkway next to it, and provided additional box ferries to collect water from Wadi Al Khuwair when it is in flow.

“The canal has been built over used interlocking paving stones,” added the engineer. “Work on this phase – the second stage – of roadwork began in October 2019, and it is expected that the rest of the related tasks will also be completed on time. Improvements on Sultan Qaboos Street involve changes to many services available there, taking into account the high density traffic on this road.”

The third phase of roadwork will involve raising the elevation of the

main road, so that its placement is in accordance with the other improvements that have been done thus far. It also includes beautification and reforestation of the areas which have and will be subjected to construction and repair works.

“With the completion of these public works, we hope the problem of rainwater flooding on Sultan Qaboos Street, opposite the ministries district, will end,” said Al Ameri.

The first cluster of roadwork included the development of a water channel, measuring 1.15 kilometres in length, which begins in the ministries district and ends in the form of an outlet that pours the collected water into the sea. This

was followed by the construction of a closed canal subdivided into three units about eight metres long and 1.5 metres high.

430 metres of the water channel are closed to the outside, while the remaining 685 metres – near the embassies quarter – are open.

“While setting up this project, the municipality took into account the need to develop plans to protect all of the service lines that cross the length of the canal and provide essential utilities,” said Al Ameri.

“This project began in the third quarter of 2017, and was one of the main works completed as part of the first phase, which ended in 2019.”

AVIATION

Muscat-Dubai flights suspended

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The flights between Muscat and Dubai were suspended for commercial reasons, a senior official of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said. Speaking to the *Times of Oman*, the official said, “The flights were suspended for operational reasons as there is a difference in views between the two sides for scheduled flights.”

“But we are currently discussing the issue with the General Civil Aviation Authority in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to solve this problem as soon as possible.”

He confirmed that what is being



The flights were suspended for operational reasons, officials said.

circulated on social media is that there is an exception for SalamAir flight to Dubai.

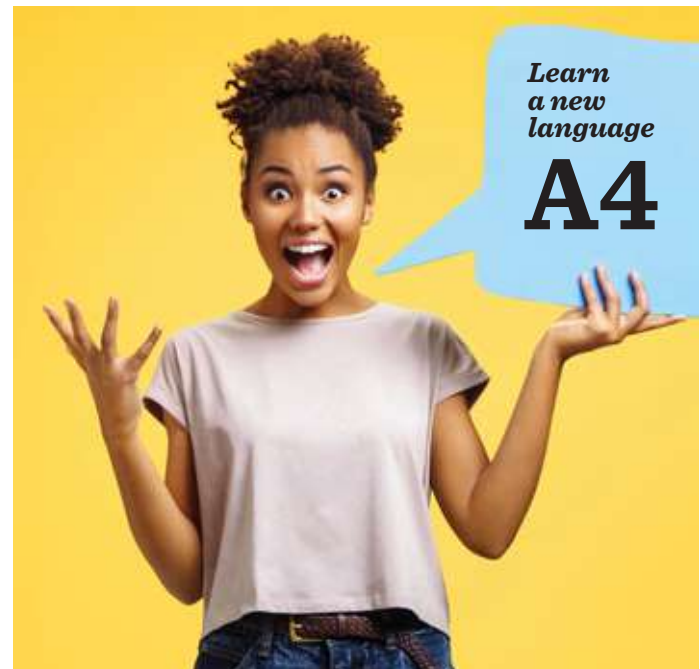
“But that is not correct and currently there are no scheduled flights between Dubai and Muscat,” he said. He also said that there is

one SalamAir flight which is operating today. “But that is an unscheduled flight. SalamAir has not flown to Dubai since the beginning of the summer season, which started on March 28,” he added.

He also confirmed that Oman

Air and SalamAir are operating flights to other emirates of the UAE except Dubai. On the other hand, airlines like Air Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Etihad, are also operating flights from the UAE to Muscat but not from Dubai. He explained that there are two types of flight schedules, which are the winter and summer aviation schedules.

The winter aviation schedule ended on March 27, 2021, and the summer schedule began on Sunday, March 28, 2021, and accordingly discussions are currently underway with the General Civil Aviation Authority to approve the schedules between the two countries.



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Oman's 10th Five-Year Plan seeks to achieve health for all

The new plan for Health Development 2021-2025 is considered a paradigm shift in Oman's health system and planning as health is on the top of national priorities within Oman Vision 2040



FOCUS ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: The plan was also built on the global agreement towards achieving universal health coverage, the results and recommendations of the evaluation for the 9th Five-Year Plan. — ONA

MUSCAT: The 10th Five-Year Plan for Health Development (2021-2025) and the Health Sector Strategic Plans were launched under the auspices of Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Health, on Tuesday.

The 10th Five-Year Plan for Health Development 2021-2025 is considered a paradigm shift of Oman's health system and planning as health is on the top of national priorities within Oman Vision 2040.

Comprehensive services

The 10th Five-Year Plan aims at providing more comprehensive services to achieve health for all, better care and quality by collaborating with other health sectors and stakeholders.

Aligned with the strategic approaches, the 10th health development plan was therefore based on Oman Vision 2040, the Health Vision 2050 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in ad-

dition to the World Health Organization's (WHO) work programme, the Political Declaration of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), as well as Salah Declaration on UHC 2030.

The plan was also built on the global agreement towards achieving universal health coverage, the results and recommendations of the evaluation for the 9th Five-Year Plan.

The implementation of the 10th Health Development Plan 2021-2025 is supported by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the commitment of the directorates general to achieve the best indicators locally and globally to contribute in enhancing health services in the Sultanate. The 10th plan is empowered by qualified national competences to provide high quality health services and advanced



QUALITY HEALTH SERVICE: The 10th plan is empowered by qualified national competence to provide high quality health services and advanced systems and devices. — ONA

systems and devices.

The availability of an operational budget with a systematic utilisation of its resources, along with facilitating the funding of

systems of six strategic objectives, key priority initiatives, and 43 expected results, carried out by the ministry including central directorates and directorates in the governorates, according to the levels of implementation.

National Health Plan

The MOH's 10th five-year plan has been developed in line with the National Health Plan that includes governmental and private agencies offering health services in the Sultanate. It aims to establish a culture of joint planning and implementation and emphasising that health is everyone's responsibility.

The plan comprises six strategic programmes carried out through initiatives and projects to achieve universal health coverage, health sector governance and restructuring, a more sustainable efficient health sector planning and financ-

ing system, human resources development for health, sustainable availability of medical and pharmaceutical products and equipment, and digital transformation in the health sector.

The training and meetings regarding the development of the 10th Five-Year Plan for Health Development (2021-2025) and strategic programmes at the central level and at the level of operational plans for the governorates was carried out via video conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The launching ceremony was attended by senior officials, representatives of the UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), Directors General of Health Services of the governorates, as well as senior officials from Ministry of Economy, hospitals' directors and Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-Up Unit. — ONA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES



AGREEMENT: The agreement was signed by Dr. Ahmed Nassir Al Bakri, Agriculture Under-Secretary and Said Talib Al Ma'awali, Board member of OMIFCO. — ONA

Pact to finance mobile veterinary clinics inked

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources on Tuesday signed an agreement with Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) to finance the setting up of four mobile veterinarian clinics and vet equipment.

The agreement provides curative and guidance services for livestock herders in the wilayats of Al Kamil Wal Wafi, Ja'alan Bani Bu Hassan and Ja'alan Bani Bu Ali.

Ali Salim Al Hashmi, Director of Agricultural Development Department at Al Kamil Wal Wafi, said that the agreement comes within the context of existing cooperation between the public and private sectors in supporting various projects of the livestock sector.

Livestock herders

Al-Hashmi pointed out that the clinics will contribute to extending preventive, curative and in-

structional services to livestock herders in different villages.

Health and safety

They also help enhance the income of herders, develop the productivity of livestock and improve its health and safety.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Ahmed Nassir Al Bakri, Agriculture Under-Secretary and Said Talib Al Ma'awali, Board member of OMIFCO. — ONA

FIRST MEETING

National innovation strategy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The technical committee of the digital platform project for the national innovation system of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) held their first meeting of the year.

The meeting was headed by the chairman of the technical committee of the project Dr Saif bin

Abdullah Al Haddabi, Undersecretary for MoHERI.

During the meeting, Dr Sharifa bint Hamoud Al Harthy, vice-chairman of the technical committee of the digital platform project for the national innovation system, gave a presentation to introduce the project and its relationship to the National Innovation Strategy (NIS).

General project questions were

also discussed, including, for example, how the platform will convert ideas into companies and what kind of ideas the platform aims to convert into emerging companies.

During the meeting, the team also discussed defining the goals, vision and mission of the platform in addition to the importance of having the performance indicators of the platform.

إعلان مناقصة

TENDER NOTICE

The Sultanate of Oman Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) invites suitable experience and qualified consulting companies to submit their offers for the following:

Tender No. 1/2021
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- TRA is inviting local specialized tenderers to conduct Billing Accuracy Audit as specified in the scope of service.
- The interested party shall transfer the Tender fee (R.O.50/-) via Bank Draft, Telegraph Transfer or through SWIFT wire in favor of TRA account details as given below

Bank Muscat
Bait Hatat Branch
Account No. 0335001866100013
Swift code: BMUSOMRXXX
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

- The bidders shall pay the Tender fee by 12:00 P.M 19th April 2021. Notifications of payment shall be sent by email to complete the registration of the prospective bidders.
- The Tender documents may be obtained from TRA premises located at the address given below. Alternatively, tender document may be requested by letters or email to: standards@tra.gov.om.
- Tender offers may be delivered by hand at TRA premises or by post to reach on or before the deadline for offers submission by 12:00 P.M 26th April 2021, (Oman Timing) at the following address:

The Secretary, Tender Committee
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
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- Enquiries and requests for clarifications regarding this tender may be sent via letter, email or fax address given above or through telephone no: +968 24 22 20 89/ 24 22 20 90 with the subject "Tender No.: 1/2021/Enquiry" clearly indicated by 19th April 2021.
TRA reserve the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

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400 expatriate workers held for fishery law violations

OMANI ORIGIN PRODUCTS

He added that upon joining the Lisbon Agreement document, the producers of Oman-origin products, like the famous Omani khanjars or daggers (particularly the Sa'eedi Khanjar), Omani halwa (sweets), Omani lemon products, the breeders of abalone, mountain goats, Batinah plain goats and other artisans have wide scopes for marketing their products. — **ONA**

A tall, modern skyscraper with a distinctive triangular top, surrounded by palm trees under a clear blue sky. The building is the Kingdom Tower in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The image is a low-angle shot, making the tower appear very tall and imposing. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue. Several palm trees are visible in the foreground, some on the left and some on the right, framing the tower. The building's facade is a mix of glass and metal, reflecting the sky. The top of the tower has a unique, open triangular structure.

The Maghrib Minute wrap-up video had 3,485 views and 175 likes on Instagram.

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LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

Life in a lockdown can be difficult but it's also the perfect time to do something constructive. Now that you have enough leisure time in the evenings don't waste the precious hours complaining about boredom.

WHAT TO DO DURING NIGHT LOCKDOWN

part from spending quality time with family, cooking something special and watching the latest on Netflix, why not gain a new skill? And what better it could be than learning a new language. Remember the last time you went on a holiday to France and you did not know how to communicate with your cab driver. That moment you must have thought 'wish I knew how to speak French'. Or think of that day when you first landed in Oman and wanted to learn Arabic but somehow could not find time owing to your busy schedule. If learning a language has been on your wishlist, now is the time to fulfil that wish. While it's true you cannot attend any traditional classroom, there are several apps and websites that offer free language learning courses.

To start with, join Duolingo. It is the most well-known free language learning app available which has over 100 million users. Most of the courses offered help to ensure accuracy regarding how the language is spoken today. Their lessons adapt to your learning style and exercises are tailored to help you learn and review vocabulary effectively.

You can also download MemRise which has over 200 languages available. It has a free version and a Pro version and it truly excels in its ability to make vocabulary practice fun and engaging. MemRise normally uses memes to teach vocabulary which is entertaining and educating as well.

HelloTalk is another language learning app where apart from predetermined lessons a learner has the option to connect with a trainer. They also have an in-app correction tool, where users can make corrections. There is a translation option which helps you to know the right word. It has over 100 languages.

Though Babbel app offers only a few languages, the teaching techniques are quite effective and one can download lessons for offline study.

For those who want to learn Arabic, apart from Duolingo and MemRise one can join Rosetta Stone Arabic app. It begins with 10-minute lessons that also includes speaking, reading and listening. While it has a free plan, for full access to the lessons you need to subscribe. It gives you a complete, unlimited and immersive Arabic learning experience. Arabic Pod 101 helps with conversational Arabic and there are plenty of lessons pre-recorded that you can download and listen to on the go.

So what are you waiting for? Join a language learning course and next time when you travel the world, you can happily jump right into conversations with the locals of the place.

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AUDITED INCOME STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET OF STATE BANK OF INDIA

Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st December 2020			Assets and Liabilities as on 31st December, 2020		
	Current Year 2020	RO. 000's Previous Year 2019		Current year 2020	RO. 000's Previous year 2019
Details			Assets		
Gross Interest Income	1087	1028	1. Cash	168	133
Interest Expense	-114	-310	2. Balances with CBO	1,244	1,248
Net Interest Income	973	718	3. Capital Deposit with CBO	500	500
Interest Reserved	0	0	4. Government & other Securities	0	0
Other Operating Income:	0	0	5. Treasury Bills & Other Bills	0	0
1. Dividend Income	0	0	6. Due from H.O., branches, principal shareholders & affiliates abroad	49	40
2. Net Fee & Commission Income	0	0	7. Due from banks:		
a) Fee and Commission Income	201	137	i) Placements	11,676	14,768
Less: b) Fee and Commission Expense	0	0	ii) Loans & Advances	12,496	0
3. Net Foreign Exchange Income	0	0	8. Other Money Market Placements	0	0
a) Income	44	57	9. Investments	1,000	3,146
Less: b) Expense	0	0	10. Loans and advances (net of provisions for loan losses & reserve interest)	32,575	17,246
4. Net Income from dealing in Securities	0	0	11. Tangible Fixed Assets	28	30
a) Income	0	0	12. Losses carried forward	0	0
Less: b) Expense	0	0	13. Other Assets	516	642
5. Net Income from Investment Securities	0	0	Total Assets	60,252	37,753
a) Income	298	464			
Less: b) Expense	0	0	Liabilities		
Gross Income	1,516	1,376	1. Deposits (incl. Govt.)	7,526	8,820
General Administrative Expenses	-762	-757	a) Demand	2,638	3,383
Depreciation	-12	-12	b) Savings	1,354	1,062
Total Operating Costs	-774	-769	c) Time	3,534	4,375
Net Operating Profit (Profit on ordinary activities before provisions)	742	607	2. Certificate of Deposits	0	0
Income from Subsidiaries	0	0	3. Due to H.O., branches, principal shareholders & affiliates abroad	23,528	217
Income from Associate Companies	0	0	4. Due to Banks:		
Income from Other Licensed Activities	0	0	i) Placements	0	0
a) Investment Activities	0	0	ii) Borrowings	0	0
Profit from sale of non-banking assets	0	0	5. Other Money Market Deposits	0	0
Bad Debts written off	0	0	6. Borrowings from CBO	0	0
ECL Allowance (net) charged for Loans and Advances	-180	-157	7. Assigned Capital	20,550	20,550
Provision for diminution in value of investments	0	0	8. Reserves	-6	120
Provision for crystallized un-booked risks & commitments	0	0	9. Retained Earnings	7,957	7,489
Provision for Nostro unreconciled entries	0	0	10. Other Liabilities	697	557
Profit for the year after loan loss provisions	562	450	Total Liabilities	60,252	37,753
Taxation	-94	-58			
Net Profit After Tax	468	392			
Movement in fair value of available for sale investments, for the year	-126	-42			
Effect of currency translation for the year	0	0			
Any other comprehensive income for the year (Cumulative changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges)	0	0			
Total Comprehensive Income	342	350			

Auditors : BDO
Chief Executive Officer

Salalah House, Ground Floor, Ball Al Falaj Road, CBD Area, P.O.Box 264, P.C.112, Ruwail, Sultanate of Oman (Phone : 24704232 / 3, Fax : 24788966, Web : www.sbioman.com)

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ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Investment opportunities in nature reserves reviewed

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority (EA) on Tuesday reviewed investment opportunities in nature reserves in the Sultanate.

A meeting held under the Environment Authority's Chairman Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri discussed general principles for investment in nature reserves.

The meeting touched on ways of implementing sustainability based on social and economic pillars. Emphasis was laid on safeguarding biological and physiological diversity of the sanctuaries, encouraging specialised research, activating in-country economy, exchanging foreign-local investor

benefits and considering the interests of other parties involved in operations and supply of products and services.

During the meeting, investment opportunities were reviewed in a number of nature reserves, including Al Jabal Al Akhdar Natural Landscape Reserve, Al Saleel

Nature Reserve and Khor Taqah Sanctuary.

The meeting saw the participation of Aseela Salim Al Samsami, Investment Promotion Under-Secretary, Sheikh Abdullah Salim Al Salmi, CEO of the Capital Market Authority, and Hashil Obaid Al Mahrooqi, CEO of Omran. -**ONA**



MINISTRY OF HEALTH



1,173 new COVID-19 cases reported in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health has registered 1173 new coronavirus cases and 7 deaths in Oman.

The total cases in the country have now touched 158,056 including 143,398 recoveries and 1669 deaths, according to MOH.

In the past 24 hours, 454 recoveries were reported.

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Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Power Company S.A.O.C (DPC) invites reputable contractors for carrying out below said tender in Dhofar Region.

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Subject	UNE - LOT 021 - 2021
Tender Fee	RO. 100.000 Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DPC's office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id's for tender document
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid "DCRP Registration Certificate" and valid "CEP Passport by DPC" Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 14 th April 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 21 st April 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om ; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (2% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tax Authority announces that it is still accepting VAT registration for the category of persons (natural and legal) whose supplies exceed RO 1,000,000/- (one million Omani Rials), despite the expiration of the registration period specified by the Decision No. 3/2021. Those persons can submit their applications via the Tax Authority online portal <https://tms.taxoman.gov.om/portal/ar/home>

We would like to draw your attention that the working hours of the Customer Services Department in the Tax Authority building are from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Taxpayers can inquire by calling 24746996 Or Email us info@taxoman.gov.om



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Trial of Chauvin in George Floyd's murder case begins

Chauvin is accused of murdering unarmed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck

WASHINGTON: A jury was assembled at the Hennepin County Court on Monday, as the opening of the trial of former Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin got underway.

Chauvin is accused of murdering unarmed Black man George Floyd by kneeling on his neck – a killing that was caught on camera and which sparked outrage across the world.

The trial, in downtown Minneapolis, is expected to last some four weeks and is taking place under high-security conditions.

Relatives and lawyers for Floyd's family knelt in protest outside the courthouse, immediately ahead of the start of the hearing. They took a knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds – the amount of time that Chauvin was seen kneeling on Floyd's neck in the video.

Prosecution makes opening statements

One of the prosecutors in the case, Jerry Blackwell, said Chauvin's actions had been at odds with what was expected of police.

"You will learn that on May 25 of 2020 Mr. Derek Chauvin betrayed his badge when he used



TRAIL BEGINS: The trial, in downtown Minneapolis, is expected to last some four weeks and is taking place under high-security conditions.

excessive and unreasonable force upon the body of Mr. George Floyd," Blackwell said in his opening statement.

"That he put his knees upon his neck and his back, grinding and crushing him, until the very breath, no ladies and gentlemen, until the very life was squeezed out of him," Blackwell said.

Blackwell also said bystander witnesses included a Minneapolis Fire Department first responder who wanted to administer aid. The lawyer, who showed the jury the video of Chauvin pressing his knee into Floyd's neck, alleged that the officer pointed Mace self-defense spray at her.

"She wanted to check on his pulse, check on Mr. Floyd's well-being," Blackwell said. "She did her best to intervene. When she

approached Mr. Chauvin... Mr. Chauvin reached for his Mace and pointed it in her direction. She couldn't help."

Defence says politics has no role

Chauvin's defence lawyer asked a jury to ignore politics and social issues in the highly charged case.

"There is no political or social cause in this courtroom," Defense attorney Eric Nelson said, rejecting charges of murder.

Nelson used his opening statement to describe the chaotic scene during the arrest.

He said Chauvin had only been following his training, and that the screaming of bystanders had caused officers "to divert their attention from the care of Mr. Floyd."

Nelson said drug use, heart

disease, and high blood pressure, as well as the adrenaline flowing through his body, had all contributed to Floyd's death from a heart rhythm disturbance.

Final jury to be decided

Fifteen jurors were selected for the case. Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill was required to drop one juror on Monday and proceed with 12 and two alternates. A jury of 14 people is set to hear the case.

Eight jurors are white and six are Black or multiracial, according to the court. Two of the 14 will be alternates, although the judge has not said which ones will be alternates and which will actually deliberate the case.

It is rare for police officers to be convicted in the US, when charges are brought against them. **bw**

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RESHUFFLE

Brazil President announces cabinet reshuffle after ministers resign

SAO PAULO: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has announced a major Cabinet reshuffle, replacing six of his ministers in a move to possibly secure greater loyalty as the country battles a severe COVID-19 crisis.

This comes after former Defence Minister Fernando Azevedo e Silva handing in his resignation, saying that he had "preserved the Armed Forces as a State institution". He will be replaced by Army General Braga Netto, the former Government Minister, reported CNN. Former Attorney General Andre Levi, who also resigned, will be replaced by Andre Mendonca, Brazil's former Justice Minister, whose former seat at the Justice Ministry will now be filled by Federal Police Chief Anderson Torres, a known friend of the Bolsonaro family.

Meanwhile, Flavia Arruda, a federal deputy, has been appointed as the Secretary of State, while the former State Secretary, General Luiz Eduardo Ramos was appointed as Government Minister. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Ernesto Araujo has been replaced by diplomat

Carlos Alberto Franca. According to CNN, these changes appear to put several army generals closer to Bolsonaro in more strategic positions, following several other replacements at the top of Brazil's federal government this month.

A new COVID-19 crisis committee has also been formed to combat the devastating resurgence of the coronavirus, which claimed 3,000 lives for the second consecutive day on Saturday, while crossing 1,00,000 cases on Thursday, according to Brazil's Foreign Ministry.

This has led to intense criticism of Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic, accompanied with the emergence of the Brazilian COVID-19 variant known as P1, known to be up to 2.5 times more transmissible.

Previously, he had denounced the use of COVID-19 vaccines, saying that they can cause women to grow beards and Chinese-made vaccines are not worth buying. Bolsonaro has refused to endorse lockdown measures, citing the health of the economy and the personal liberty of citizens, reported CNN. **ANI**



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Death toll in Myanmar’s crackdown crosses 500



CRACKDOWN: The United States suspended a trade deal with Myanmar, demanding the restoration of a democratic government.

International pressure is mounting on Myanmar’s junta for using force against protesters

NAYPYITAW: The death toll in Myanmar’s military crackdown on anti-coup demonstrators has reached 510, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) confirmed on Tuesday, warning that the true toll might

be higher. The AAPP said at least eight civilians were killed in Myanmar’s biggest city Yangon on Monday. The total number of deaths the watchdog recorded on Monday was 14.

International pressure is mounting on Myanmar’s junta for using force against protesters since the military ousted the elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1.

On Monday, the United States suspended a trade deal with Myanmar, demanding the restoration of a democratic government.

The US, Canada, Britain and the European Union had imposed sanctions on Myanmar’s military generals. International organizations, including the United Nations, have continuously con-

demned the crackdown.

Garbage covered the streets of Yangon on Tuesday as activists found a new way to protest the coup. Images circulated on Twitter showed piles of garbage at main road intersections after protesters asked residents to leave their rubbish as a form of civil disobedience.

According to local media, authorities warned that they would take action against those who threw out garbage in Kyeemyindaing district, western Yangon.

Earlier in March, Myanmar’s junta imposed martial law in two districts in Yangon to gain more power amid increasing protests in the city.

Three of Myanmar’s armed ethnic rebel groups issued a joint

statement threatening the military with retaliation.

Bloodshed

The Ta’ang National Liberation Army, the Myanmar Nationalities Democratic Alliance Army and the Arakan Army (AA) said if the junta did not stop the bloodshed, they would “cooperate with the protesters and fight back.”

The statement came after the General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN), one of the leading groups organising demonstrations, called for ethnic minority forces to help protesters.

Since Myanmar’s independence from Britain in 1948, armed rebel groups have fought the central government for decades for more autonomy. **bw**

POLITICAL INTERFERENCE



White House to investigate if Trump interfered in scientific research

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden’s administration would investigate former President Donald Trump’s political interference in science across the government, the first step in what White House officials described as a sweeping effort to rebuild a demoralized federal workforce and prevent future abuses.

According to *The New York Times*, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy—in a letter to the leaders of all federal agencies—announced on Monday the formation of a task force aimed at identifying past tampering in scientific decisions. It will review the effectiveness of policies that were supposed to protect the science that informs policy decisions from inappropriate political influence and develop policies for the future.

“Restoring and safeguarding scientific integrity will require the participation and contribution of scientists from across government, who will bring their diverse perspectives to the endeavour, including type and size of the agency, scientific or technological discipline, stage of career, methodology, and personal and professional

background,” the letter read, as quoted by *The Hill*.

Jane Lubchenco, the office’s deputy director for climate and the environment, told *The New York Times*, “We know that there were blatant attempts to distort, to cherry-pick and disregard science – we saw that across multiple agencies.”

The Hill reported that the announcement comes on the heels of long-standing allegations by career scientific officials that they were sidelined under the Trump presidency.

Joel Clement, a former Interior Department official, testified in 2019 that he was transferred from a role focusing on climate to accounting, while Maria Caffrey testified that the department pressured her to remove references to human causes of climate change from a report on how sea level increases would affect national parks. The Environmental Protection Agency announced a similar move last week, with Administrator Michael Regan asking employees to convey “any items of concern” to scientific integrity personnel, according to *The Hill*. **ANI**

CONTROVERSIAL PLAN

China approves Hong Kong electoral system reform bill

BEIJING: The top decision-making body in the Chinese parliament unanimously adopted a controversial plan to reform Hong Kong’s electoral system by a vote of 167-0 on Tuesday.

The sweeping bill is the biggest overhaul of Hong Kong’s political system to occur since the territory returned to Chinese rule in 1997, and comes as Beijing seeks to consolidate power over the financial hub.

What does the election reform law change?

Under the changes approved by China’s National People’s Congress Standing Committee, the number of directly elected representatives to Hong Kong’s legislature will fall from 35 to 20, while the size of the legislature would increase from 70 to 90 seats.

The plan also allows China’s ruling Communist Party to appoint more of Hong Kong’s lawmakers, reducing the share elected by the public.

Any candidates intending to run would first need to be vetted for their political views, with police and the city’s new national security apparatus providing reports on candidates.

The number of election committee members will rise by 300 to 1,500.

The election committee is responsible for choosing Hong Kong’s Chief Executive and many



of the members of the legislative council (LegCo).

The full details of the election reform law have not yet been published to the public. The bill has been directly imposed by Beijing, bypassing Hong Kong’s legislature.

How will this impact Hong Kong?

As the majority of legislative seats will now be selected by pro-Beijing officials, the changes are expected to curb the power of the opposition.

The measures are seen as a bid to further erode Hong Kong’s autonomy and to crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, which drew tens of thousands to the streets in protests in 2019 and 2020.

Chinese authorities have rejected criticism, saying the election reform is necessary to assure

the region’s stability. Officials say the overhaul seeks to get rid of “loopholes and deficiencies” and assure that Beijing loyalists are in control.

In the wake of the pro-democracy protests, Beijing pushed through a controversial national security law in June last year, which has been used to prosecute or arrest campaigners.

What has the international reaction been?

The overhaul of Hong Kong’s political system sparked global outrage when the changes were approved by China’s National People’s Congress two weeks ago.

Following the announcement, the United Kingdom said China was no longer compliant with Hong Kong’s joint declaration — an agreement that ensured a “one country, two systems” arrangement for the territory. **bw**

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Power Company S.A.O.C (DPC) invites reputable contractors for carrying out below said tender in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DPC/Tender/2021/038
Subject	UNE - LOT 03G - 2021
Tender Fee	RO. 100.000 Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DPC’s office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id’s for tender document
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman
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SPORTS



Ali Mabkhout scores hat-trick as UAE register 6-0 win over India

Staying true to his words, India head coach Igor Stimac gave game-time to many new faces in the friendly

DUBAI: India lost to hosts UAE 6-0 in their second international friendly as striker Ali Mabkhout netted a hattrick at the Zabeel Stadium here on Monday.

Staying true to his words, India head coach Igor Stimac gave game-time to many new faces in the friendly, making as many as eight changes to the Blue Tigers starting XI, bringing in Gurpreet Singh (captain for the day), Adil Khan, Anirudh Thapa, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Lalengmawia Ralte, Pritam Kotal, Liston Colaco and Mashoor Shereef and giving them the opportunity to stake a claim for a spot ahead of the upcoming matches in June.



UAE VS INDIA: The UAE, ranked 74 on the FIFA Rankings, managed to get an early lead when Ali Mabkhout latched onto a through ball from Fabio De Lima and chipped it over the keeper.

Amongst those that retained their places in the XI from the 1-1 draw against Oman were Akash Mishra, Manvir Singh, and Suresh Wangiam -- with the likes of Sandesh Jhingan, Rowlin Borges, Bipin Singh, etc. not in action.

The hosts, ranked 74 on the FIFA Rankings, managed to get an early lead when Ali Mabkhout

latched onto a through ball from Fabio De Lima and chipped it over the keeper. India went looking for the equaliser after the goal and soon had a decent opportunity

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when debutant Liston Colaco -- the 11th debutant for the Blue Tigers in these two friendly games -- earned a free-kick from a dangerous position.

Anirudh Thapa attempted a move from the training ground, as he played Pritam Kotal through down the right flank but the danger was averted by the UAE defence.

On the half-hour mark, Fabio De Lima cut in from the right and took a shot, that was adjudged to have been blocked by Adil Khan's hand by the referee. Mabkhout again stepped up and slotted it home from the penalty spot on the 32nd-minute mark.

The two teams headed into the dressing rooms at halftime, with UAE leading by two goals to nil.

Blue Tigers boss Igor Stimac made two changes at the start of the second half, bringing on Yasir Mohammad in place of Anirudh Thapa, while Halicharan Narzary replaced Chhangte.

Mabkhout completed his hat-trick on the hour mark, as he controlled the ball inside the box, and slotted it home. Four minutes later, Khalil Ibrahim's first-time shot found the back of the Indian net, to make it four.

Raynier Fernandes and Ishan Pandita came on as substitutes in the 58th minute in place of Liston Colaco and Lalengmawia. In the 72nd minute, Hitesh Sharma replaced Suresh Wangiam in midfield. Ashique Kuruniyan was brought on for Akash Mishra with 10 minutes to go as well.

Fabio Lima added a fifth, before setting up substitute Sebastian Tagliabue towards the end, who scored his team's sixth goal as the hosts won the match. **ANI**

NZ VS BANGLADESH

New Zealand seal T20 series over Bangladesh

NAPIER: An all-round bowling performance from New Zealand neutralised the effect of Soumya Sarkar's fighting half-century and helped the Kiwis register an easy win over Bangladesh in the second T20I on Tuesday.

Skipper Tim Southee, Hamish Bennett, and Adam Milne all picked two wickets each to restrict Bangladesh to 142/7 in 16 overs. With this win, the Kiwis took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the T20I series. Glenn Phillips had played an unbeaten knock of 58 runs as New Zealand scored 173/5 in 17.5 overs. Rain played spoilsport in the first innings and after the DLS method, Bangladesh was given a target of 170 in 16 overs.

Chasing 170 runs, Bangladesh did not have a good start but Soumya Sarkar took on the New Zealand bowlers. The left-handed batsman single-handedly steered the visitors over the 50-run mark before the completion of powerplay.

While opener Liton Das went cheaply (6), Mohammad Naim played a sluggish T20 knock-in pursuit of 170 runs. However, Soumya continued his onslaught and fired Bangladesh to 85/1 in the nine overs.

Bangladesh needed 85 runs in the last seven overs and Soumya, who smashed his half-century in just 25 balls, was caught at long-on while trying to clear the rope.

Soumya's wicket triggered a collapse as Bangladesh lost Naim and skipper Mahmudullah in quick



succession. In the last four overs, Bangladesh needed 60 runs but the visitors kept losing wickets at regular intervals and fell 28 runs short of the target.

Earlier after being asked to bat first, Kiwi openers Fin Allen and Martin Guptill put on 36 runs inside the first four overs, but Bangladesh made a strong comeback as the visitors reduced New Zealand to 55/3 in the seventh over. Allen (17), Guptill (21), and Devon Conway (15) departed in quick succession for the hosts.

Will Young and Phillips then got together at the crease and the duo put on 39 runs for the fourth wicket, but as soon as the time came to accelerate, the hosts faced another roadblock as Mahedi Hasan dismissed Young (14), reducing New Zealand to 94/4 in the 12th over.

With New Zealand's score at 102/4 in the 13th over, rain played spoilsport and the match had to be stopped. However, the break was not for long and the game resumed soon after. Phillips and Daryl Mitchell went berserk in the final overs and the duo accumulated runs at a brisk pace.

However, rain once again halted play in the 18th over with the New Zealand score being 173/5. The hosts were not able to bat for their full quota of 20 overs and as a result, after the DLS method, Bangladesh was given a target of 170 from 16 overs.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 173/5 (Glenn Phillips 58*(31), Daryl Mitchell 34*(16), Mahedi Hasan 2-45); Bangladesh 142/7 (Soumya Sarkar 51*(27), Mohammad Naim 38(35); Tim Southee 2-21). **ANI**

OMAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Oman presents dossier for hosting World Indoor Hockey Cup 2023

MUSCAT: Oman Hockey Association yesterday held a press conference with the Oman Olympic Committee on the Sultanate's dossier for hosting the World Indoor Hockey Cup 2023, which will be organised for the first time.

The press conference started with a video presentation on the Sultanate's preparations for hosting this international championship, following which Talib bin Khamis Al Wahaibi, Chairman of Oman Hockey Association, gave a speech, highlighting the Sultanate's dossier for hosting the event, organizing the event since the announcement on initiation of the championship during a meeting of the International Hockey Federation and the steps taken for preparation of the dossier in partnership with Omran Group and Oman Sail.

Talib Al Wahaibi announced that the Sultanate's application for hosting the event, scheduled



to be organised at Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, has been sent. He said that a new modern playground for the event would also be established following the approval of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

The team for submission of the Sultanate's dossier is chaired by

Rashad bin Ahmed Al Hinai, Undersecretary for Sports and Youth at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

The country to host the championship would be announced on 21 May, following which planning for a national team for the event would take place. **—ONA**

FOOTBALL

Liverpool begin preparations for Premier League

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's non-international contingent returned to the training centre on Monday as players begin preparations for the upcoming clash against Arsenal.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp oversaw the squad's latest session ahead of the Premier

League match at Emirates Stadium. "Preparations for the weekend trip to Arsenal have begun at the @AXA Training Centre," Liverpool tweeted. Liverpool's Fabinho also took to Twitter to write: "Back to work."

Liverpool are currently struggling in the ongoing season of the

Premier League, sitting seventh on the points table with 46 points from 29 games.

Klopp's men had won the 2019-2020 season of Premier League but in this season, the team failed to replicate their dominating showing of the previous season. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Orient take on Maniz Azad, Aflag face Pitspot in knockout finals

MUSCAT: Orient Travels thrashed Douglas OHI in the semifinal of the Senior Knockout tournament by 75 runs at Muscat Municipality ground 1, setting up a title showdown on Friday, April 2 at the same venue with Maniz Azad which won a walkover against Al Hail CT A in the other semifinal on Friday, March 26 in Amerat.

The Junior Knockout final will see Aflag Group taking on Pitspot at Muscat Municipality ground 2 the same day.

Orient Travels posted an imposing total of 199 for 8 on the board, thanks to brilliant batting by Adil Khan (80), Gurvir Singh (47) and Nadeem Karamat (32). Abdul Rehman was the pick of OHI bowlers, taking 4 for 36.

Facing a big total, OHI failed to rise to the occasion, folding up for a dismal 124 in the final over. Mohsin Alimamad topscored with 26. Ihsan Khan, Gurvir and Nadeem Karamat all bagged two wickets



Mohazin Moosa of Pitspot.

each. Brief scores (1st semifinal – Knockout Senior): Orient Travels/Gitacs 199 for 8 in 20 overs (Adil Khan 80 – 9x4, 1x6, Gurvir Singh 47 – 4x4, 3x6, Nadeem Karamat 32 – 2x4).

Abdul Rehman 4-36 thrashed Douglas OHI 124 all out in 19.4 overs (Mohsin Alimamad 26 – 2x4, Santosh Wishwakar 25 – 4x4, Abhishek Rai 24 – 4x4, Ihsan Khan 2-21, Gurvir Singh 2-22, Nadeem Karamat 2-26) by 75 runs.

Brief scores (2nd semifinal – Knockout Senior): Maniz Azad International reached the final as Al Hail CT A did not turn up for the game.

Arif bowls Aflag to vital win

Mohammed Arif Khattak's superb 3 for 27 was instrumental in Aflag Group's 5-wicket win over Israr Ghala in the first semifinal of the Junior Knockout tournament at Muscat Municipality ground 3 on Friday.

Invited to bat first, Israr Ghala

scored 171 all out in 20 overs with Muhammed Sagheer (43) and Muhammed Abubakar (39) making major contributions.

Apart from Arif's brilliant bowling, Arnold Lewis and Junaid Iqbal bowled well too, taking two wickets each.

Determined to make the most of the opportunity to reach the final, Aflag batted well to surpass the total in the final over, scoring 173 for 5 thanks to vital knocks from Farrukh Jamal (34), Haris Alam (31) and Thyagu Subramanian (27).

Brief scores (1st semifinal – Knockout Junior): Israr Ghala 171 all out in 19.3 overs (Muhammed Sagheer 43 – 4x4, Muhammed Abubakar 39 – 3x4, 1x6, Mohammed Wajid 31 – 5x4, 1x6, Mohammed Arif Khattak 3-27, Arnold Lewis 2-22, Junaid Iqbal 2-23) lost to Aflag Group 173 for 5 in 19.4 overs (Farrukh Jamal 34 – 5x4, Haris Alam 31 – 3x4, Thyagu Subramanian 27 – 1x4, 1x6) by 5 wickets.

Moosa, Fasil star in Pitspot victory

In the other Junior Knockout semifinal, Mohazin Moosa's crucial 40 and Valiyapee Fasil's 3 for 26 were the highlights of Pitspot's thrilling 4-wicket victory against Vanderlande at Muscat Municipality ground 4 on Friday. Fasil's superb spell was the reason Vanderlande was restricted to 151 for 8 despite a solid 63 by Barathwaj Vinayagam.

Pitspot's successful chase was led by Mohazin's 28-ball 40 and Wajid's 32 off 29 as it sealed victory in 19.4 overs, scoring 152 for 6. Rahul Chadha took 2 for 30.

Brief scores (2nd semifinal – Knockout Junior): Vanderlande 151 for 8 in 20 overs (Barathwaj Vinayagam 63 – 5x3, 1x6, Sebastian Ciril 31 – 3x4, Asfak Ahmed 29 – 2x4, Valiyapee Fasil 3-26, Aneesh Chaziyottill 2-35) lost to Pitspot 152 for 6 in 19.4 overs (Mohazin Moosa 40 – 3x4, Wajid Ali 32 – 3x4, Gopakumar Gopala 24 – 3x4, Rahul Chadha 2-30) by 4 wickets.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2021 reaching \$63.48, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 58 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$62.90. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



APPLE'S CONFERENCE

Apple announced it will host its annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) on June 7 through 11, in an all-online format. Free for all developers, WWDC21 will offer unique insight into the future of iOS, iPadOS, macOS, watchOS, and tvOS.

Treasury bills worth OMR146mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, starting from March 31, Wednesday until June 30, 2021

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR146 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, starting from March 31, Wednesday until June 30, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.802 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.800 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.79258 per cent and 0.79415 per cent, respectively. It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance. - **ONA**

CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed

commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). Furthermore, Treasury Bills

promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

EQUITY BENCHMARK

India's Sensex zooms 1,128 points, Nifty edges higher to 14,845

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices were on an upswing through the trading session on Tuesday and closed nearly 2.5 per cent higher with IT, metals, pharma and FMCG stocks witnessing substantial gains.

The BSE S&P Sensex closed 1,128 points or 2.3 per cent higher at 50,137 while the Nifty 50 edged

higher by 338 points or 2.33 per cent to 14,845. Except for Nifty realty which dipped marginally, all other sectoral indices at the National Stock Exchange were in the green with Nifty IT up by 2.9 per cent, metal by 2.8 per cent, pharma by 2.7 per cent and FMCG by 2.2 per cent. Among stocks, JSW Steel gained

by 4.9 per cent to Rs 467.35 per share while Tata Steel was up by 4.2 per cent to Rs 799.50. Wipro edged higher by 3.9 per cent, HCL Technologies by 3.8 per cent and Infosys by 3.7 per cent while agro-chemicals major ticked up by 7.6 per cent to close at Rs 629.85 per share. The others which gained were

HDFC Bank and NTPC. However, Hindalco, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bharti Airtel traded with a negative bias.

Meanwhile, Asian shares were mixed as global investors shook off worries about a hedge fund default that roiled global banking stocks overnight. - **ANI**

REPORT

Public-private partnerships drive national development in region

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are an essential tool to accommodate and advance Middle Eastern infrastructure requirements. When planned, designed, and implemented prudently, they can contribute to national development and support growth across all socio-economic sectors, benefitting public and private sector players. Arthur D. Little expounds this viewpoint in their latest report entitled Successful Public-Private Partnerships: How countries should set up an effective ecosystem for public-private partnerships.

The document is rich in insights outlining how specific requirements should be considered throughout the planning, structuring, and implementation phases of such projects. There are also key directions for how the private sector can spur innovation, exploring sector and country-level initiatives as they are articulated across four main ecosystem levers – governance, strategy, transaction process, and implementation/monitoring.

The consultancy highlights the growing gap between infrastructure spending and needs, despite the critical nature of infrastructure regarding economic and social development. In order to mitigate this void and cope with spending limitations, governments are advised to involve the private sector where possible, which can bring additional financial support, increased efficiencies and optimal delivery of projects in tandem with the public sector, creating long-term value for money and positive outcomes for all.

"PPPs can conveniently unlock substantial financial and non-financial resources to foster the procurement of infrastructure. We acknowledge that adoption has been limited due to high complexity, high costs, the need for an enabling environment, and availability of bankable projects, but see longer-term opportuni-



Sally Menassa

ties to deliver successful partnership projects in the future," said Carlo Stella, Partner at Arthur D. Little, Middle East. "Our work in the Middle East region and around the world has shown us that countries often struggle to implement PPPs. Encouragingly, we are starting to see signs of a turnaround with regional success stories providing tangible case studies to build confidence in this approach with all stakeholders involved."

One such example from the UAE is the Abu Dhabi government, which issued a new PPP framework in December 2020, offering a clear and structured approach to procurement in this area which will attract private sector players and spur regional projects. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) issued a new Private Sector Participation Law (PSP Law) this month so that PPP and privatisation projects fall under their legal framework as well as a PPP-focused resolution in late 2020, introducing key amendments on project approvals.

PPP ecosystem challenges and solutions

At the national level, the challenges are as follows:

Striking the right balance between empowering sectors and maintaining quality.

Ensuring the project pipeline is suitable and strong.



Carlo Stella

Ensuring the projects in structured in the right manner, protecting both public and private sectors.

Optimising implementation to maximise the success of PPPs.

Overcoming such challenges is crucial to optimise PPP ecosystems at a country level. A deliberate streamlining of approval authorities and the creation of PPP catalysers are both firm foundations for success. Moreover, sector ministries need to be empowered and responsible for implementing these projects whilst managing related contracts for the full project duration. In terms of building a sustainable project pipeline, sectors must articulate a private-sector participation plan, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment analysis, and select PPP projects that matter most in terms of eligibility and suitability.

"Governments need to carefully construct processes and mechanisms in order to select and nurture their partners. This is the optimum way for all entities to infuse efficiency and performance as projects grow," said Sally Menassa, Principal at Arthur D. Little, Middle East. "We know it is crucial that all personnel involved in such projects have clearly defined roles and are empowered to deliver success. If these basics are in place we have a strong foundation to deliver successful PPP-driven initiatives."

OIAFCO LLC wins coveted ISO 9001 certification



Quality control team that achieved ISO 9001 accreditation

SOHAR: Oman Insecticides and Air Freshener Co LLC (OIAFCO), the leading aerosol manufacturing company in the region, has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9001 certification. The internationally recognised standard was granted to OIAFCO's state-of-the-art factory at Sohar following a rigorous two-year certification process overseen by leading British-based international accreditation agency UKAS in collaboration with SGS Middle East.

For OIAFCO, the coveted international certification will reinforce its impressive credentials as the unrivalled aerosol filling and packing services provider in the Middle East. Popular among its 'Made in Oman' line-up are TOX insect killer spray, AYAM air freshener spray and CHAIR Home brands – part of a sizable portfolio of products that include insect sprays, domestic and household sprays, body sprays, perfumes and gels.

Commencing operations in the mid-80s as the first aerosol filling company in the Sultanate, OIAFCO has since evolved into a formidable player with a market presence that spans much of the Middle East and North Africa, besides the domestic market. Underscoring its immense market appeal, more than 90 per cent of the company's output is distributed across 15 countries in the region.

A cornerstone of the company's longstanding commercial success is the high-tech Sohar plant, which boasts a capacity to produce a world-scale 60 million finished goods per

annum. By leveraging the superior capabilities of the facility, OIAFCO has succeeded in holding its own against leading international brands for over three decades. Today, the company's products are available in major retail outlets across the Sultanate, attesting to their strong consumer appeal.

Welcoming the award of the certification, Mr. Gregory Brown, General Manager of OIAFCO, said: "We are delighted to have been recognised for our efforts to introduce and entrench internationally accepted practices that contribute decisively to the quality of our products and services. This is a testament to our commitment to providing the highest customer satisfaction."

Overseeing the quest for the ISO 9001 certification was a dedicated Quality Control team led by Edwin Pereira and Ethiraj Padmanabhan supported by their colleagues Abir Hamdan Al Darmaki and Asma Humaid Al Raisi. Together, they exemplify what a well-motivated and capable workforce can accomplish in support of the company's corporate goals.

A source of great pride for the company is its Omani employees who presently make up around half of the workforce. Their important contribution, coupled with the continuing support extended by the government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, will bolster the leading position of OIAFCO regionally.

advertorial



Abdullah Al Jabri, Head of Asset Quality Management, NBO

NBO appoints Abdullah Al Jabri as new head of asset management

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has announced the appointment of Abdullah Al Jabri as its new Head of Asset Quality Management.

Abdullah's career spans over 30 years, where he held many leadership positions in various government agencies, and Board Memberships in government, finance, human resources, information technology, and other more. Bringing his wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role at the bank, he is anticipated to drive the strategy across the total company's asset portfolio.

Abdullah Al Hinai, Chief Executive Officer at National Bank of Oman, said, "We warmly welcome Abdullah to his new role at the bank, where we look forward to benefitting from his impressive track record. We have one of the most experienced Asset Management Units in Oman, and are confident that his mix of perspective, skills and expertise make him the ideal candidate to control the bank's asset quality."

Before joining the NBO, Abdullah held several senior positions in sectors related to law, information technology, human resources and more. He has also been part of many committees including Board Member and Head of Governance and Audit Committee for the Oman Technology Fund (OTF), Board Member and Member of Governance and Audit Committee for the ROP Pension Trust Fund, and Board Member and Head of the HR and Finance Committee at Al Sahwa School. Abdullah's educational attainments include an MSc in

Abdullah's career spans over 30 years, where he held many leadership positions in various government agencies, and board memberships in government, finance, human resources, information technology

Criminology and Criminal Justice from Loughborough University, UK, as well as a Bachelors degree in Law from the Beirut Arab University, Lebanon.

MARKET

Apple conference to offer insight into future of iOS

Worldwide Developers Conference is an opportunity for developers to learn about the new technologies, tools, and frameworks they rely on to build innovative and platform-differentiating apps and games

CUPERTINO: Apple announced it will host its annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) June 7 through 11, in an all-online format. Free for all developers, WWDC21 will offer unique insight



into the future of iOS, iPadOS, macOS, watchOS, and tvOS. Building on the record-breaking participation and learnings from last year's online conference, WWDC21 is an opportunity for developers to learn about the new technologies, tools, and frameworks they rely on to build innovative and platform-differentiating apps and games. Apple also announced that this year's Swift Student Challenge, an opportunity for young developers to demonstrate their coding skills by creating a Swift playground, is now accepting submissions. "We love bringing our developers together each year at WWDC to learn about our latest technologies and to connect them with Ap-

ple engineers," said Susan Prescott, Apple's vice president of Worldwide Developer Relations and Enterprise and Education Marketing. "We are working to make WWDC21 our biggest and best yet, and are excited to offer Apple developers new tools to support them as they create apps that change the way we live, work, and play." As customers rely on Apple products more than ever to work, learn, express their creativity, entertain, and be entertained, WWDC21 will provide Apple's worldwide community of more than 28 million developers, as well as the next generation of app developers, with the information and tools needed to turn their ideas into reality. This year's conference will include announcements from the keynote and State of the Union stages, online sessions, 1:1 labs offering technical guidance, and new ways for developers to interact with Apple engineers and designers to learn about the latest frameworks and technologies. Apple will continue its longstanding tradition of supporting students who love to code with this year's Swift Student Challenge, inviting them to create an interactive scene in a Swift playground that can be experienced within three minutes. Swift Playgrounds

is a revolutionary app for iPad and Mac that makes learning the Swift programming language interactive and fun. Now through April 18, students can submit their Swift playground to the Swift Student Challenge. Winners will receive exclusive WWDC21 outerwear and a pin set. For more information, visit the Swift Student Challenge website. To support the local economy, even while WWDC21 is hosted online and as part of its \$100 million Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, Apple is also committing \$1 million to SJ Aspires, an education and equity initiative launched by the City of San José. Focused on enabling youth in underserved neighbourhoods to set goals and chart a path toward receiving a college education, SJ Aspires offers a performance-based scholarship programme that educates students about their college and career choices, and provides individual mentorship and advising as well as online tools to help reduce the barriers Black and Brown students face in accessing academic opportunities. This builds on Apple's multi-year partnership with the City of San José and the San José Public Library Foundation in support of technology programming.

World's free zones optimistic about growth performance

DUBAI: Free zones across the world are optimistic about their growth performance in the coming months as they prepare to become "future-ready" in a post-pandemic world, according to the latest indicators revealed by the Free Zones World Economic Barometer. About 40 per cent of free zone organisations expressed a positive outlook on their performance during the fourth quarter of 2020 and are looking at the first quarter of 2021 to follow the same trend, the World Free Zones Organisation (World FZO) said in its report. The report further noted that investment, employment, and profitability of free zones showed improvement during Q4 compared to the previous quarter of the same year. During the third quarter of last year, 49 per cent of free zones surveyed by World FZO reported "normal economic conditions", which then moved up to 53 per cent in the latest survey conducted in December 2020. Dr Mohammed Al Zarooni, Chairman of World FZO, stated, "Amidst the pandemic, free zones have been doing their best to ensure business continuity and resume normal activities. As with challenges, we also see the op-

portunities as economies work towards greater regional coordination and integration with the support of policy reforms and the use of the latest technologies." "Alongside these developments, free zones can be the most 'future ready' if they focus on recovering most sustainably based on greater transparency in their environment, social and governance commitment. Moreover, aligning their operations with the UN Sustainable Development Goals presents new opportunities to advance growth ambitions and societal development as well," he added. In line with its commitment to support the fast recovery of free zones, World FZO recently held a webinar themed "The Way Forward - Towards a Brighter Future", attended by nearly 500 participants. The event witnessed the presence of Dr Samir Hamrouni, CEO of World FZO and Saskia Meuchelbock, Economist at Kiel Institute for the World Economy. The impact of COVID-19 on free zones and a new development model designed to enhance the future readiness of free zones were discussed during the webinar. -WAM



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oman Banks Association holds AGM

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Banks Association held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, March 29. The meeting was held through an electronic platform and was presided over by Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, Chairman of the Oman Banks Association Board of Directors. The meeting was attended by a number of senior executives of Banks operating in the Sultanate. At the meeting, the Oman Banks Association presented to its members 2020 achievements, 2021 plan, 2020 audited financial statements, 2021 budget, and the appointment of external auditors, along with their fees, for the new financial year. Oman Banks Association is a non-profit professional association created to represent the banking sector, promote Omani banking activities, coordinate with the Regulators on matters of policy and strategy, and support banking excellence in Oman.



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MAJOR PROJECTS

Bahrain real estate sector deals valued at \$1.9bn in 2020

MANAMA: The real estate market in the Kingdom of Bahrain is gaining pace despite the challenges faced by the pandemic, with a series of major projects and initiatives driving sector growth. The rebound of Bahrain's real estate sector fuelled a 14 per cent and 20 per cent rise in real estate deals in the third and fourth quarter of 2020 respectively, with the total value of real estate transactions in Bahrain reaching \$1.9 billion in 2020. Bahrain's National Real Estate plan for 2021-2024 is set to further increase the sector's contribution to the national economy as part of continued economic diversification efforts. The plan includes five initiatives and 17 projects, including laws and regulations, long-term plans and operational initiatives for developing the real estate sector. Mixed-use major real estate projects in the Kingdom set to exceed \$12 billion which includes Eagle Hills Marassi Al Bahrain, Diyar Al Muharraq, Dilmunia and Bahrain Bay, which are creating prosperity through attractive and unique real estate destinations. Bahrain is a multi-dimensional marketplace that enables investment in a diverse range of properties.



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Indian male, 2 yrs accountant experience in Oman with NOC and 2 yrs admin assistant 2yrs accountant experience in India. Looking for appropriate placement in accountant, admin, clerical jobs. Master in commerce and PGDCA. Contact: +96891746925, +919744304725 Email: lenglev@gmail.com

Omani, 7 yrs experience in the field debt collection& PRO work looking for a suitable placement. Contact 99648284

Looking for part time accounting job. Contact 91019796

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

ADMIN/HR

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

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

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

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

Indian/male (24)/BBA.,LLB.(hons) / experience in law firms, administration and operations in Den network Trivandrum. Contact 79896282, 78265859 Email: harisuneethan96@gmail.com

Business administration graduate MBA holder, with 3 years experience looking for suitable vacancy. Contact 968-79387444 Email m.mukhtar2t4@gmail.com

Filipino, Female with 12years of experience in Oman as Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant in an Airline Company, customer service, inventory management,financing (claims & processing) having strong analytical skills. Contact +96899045640

Indian Male B.Com. 33 Years' experience in Oman, Worked as an Office Manager, Executive Personal Assistant, Accountant, Steno-Secretary, seeks Job, NOC & D/L. available. Contact 92558734

ARCHITECT

9 years experienced Female Architect/Master planner seeking for job Contact 96146645

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20+ yrs Exp. Architectural, Structural & ELV Draftsman Looking freelance job. Contact 99718163, Email: riyasoka@gmail.com

Srilankan, looking for MEP draftman / Const supervisor. Dip in MEP draftman with 3-4 yrs experience. Contact 93988825. Email amenulas@gmail.com

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Heavy driver 20 years GCC experience looking for a job call 93770264

10 yrs experience in driving (Oman) looking job. # 93770264

Experienced Pakistani Light Duty Driver. Excellent English/Arabic Speaker, Great knowledge of Muscat Roads/Areas. Looking Suitable placement. Contact 79250786

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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 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

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

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926. Email mubashirosmen89@gmail.com

10 Years experience in Plumbing, pipe fitter & camp boss assistant. Contact 93045800

Omani National Female with have Bachelor Degree in water technology. Contact 94421774

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

Tower crane operator. NOC available. Contact 91519095

MANAGER

Property/Facilities Manager, 10+ years Oman UAE experience+DL, can Manage any Operation. Contact 71052703

Operations Manager (Electrical), 10 years experience in primary and distribution substations and overhead line, D/L available. Contact 95357073

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

Accounts/Finance Manager well experienced (29 Years), expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, monthly MIS, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact 98803439

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

IT

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

LOGISTIC

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

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

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

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Contact 99653715

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.
aminol2424@gmail.com 79417515

Sales & Marketing
Indian male, professional in media ad sales and marketing, experienced in business development and planning and rolling out offline & online product promotion campaigns, organising product launch events & other BTL programs, looking for a suitable opportunity.
Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
Indian Male, Degree in Civil Engineer, 24 yrs Exp, with 15 yrs Gulf experience in handling Grid stations, OHL, Hospital Buildings, Road, MEP, Worked with (Ray International, L & T, ONEIC), under , OETC, Mazan, Mazoon, DPC. Having Oman D/L. Looking for suitable position. Immediate available for Join, NOC available.
Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774 Wts - 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Logistics and Operations
Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.
Contact: 79639093 Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

Omani Information Technology Field
Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.
Contact: 71771213 Email: Hafes707@hotmail.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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IT PROFESSIONAL
With 15+-years of experience. Currently working as Head Of IT Support for a reputed company in Muscat for last 7 years. MCSA, CCNA, ITIL certified. Experience in IT infrastructure, IT project management, Resource Management & Service Desk seeks suitable placement as IT Manager/System Admin.
Contact 92514687 Email: hi.binu@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT
WANTED PART TIME OR CONTRACT BASIS ACCOUNTING JOB UPTO FINALISATION. CONTACT: 91720776

Mechanical Engineer
Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 5+years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.
Contact 95434381 email: shuhaibusman313@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

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer with PMP having experience more than 21 years looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 95899628, prakashrathi7707 @gmail.com

MEP Mechanical engineer with 2 year exp. Contact 79027224

Sr. quantity surveyor - Civil / contracts with 14+ years of experience in commercial and residential projects in Oman, holder of D/L & NOC available. Seeking for suitable position. Contact no. 93249891

Construction engineer with 10 yrs experience in Oman consulting offices 7 experience in government project. Contact 86965100

Indian male 23 yrs, B.Tech (EEE) is looking for suitable job, presently on visit. Contact 95055966

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

Indian male, electric engineer 1 year experience in project coordination and MEP looking for suitable placement. Ready to shift location. Contact: 71148202. Email: Muhammadmizamml878@gmail.com

B.E Civil engineer Male, with 2 years of professional experience in municipal house construction project. Equipped with a valid D/L. Fluent in English & Arabic. Contact 96749821 Email mhassan9610@gmail.com

Civil engineer with 9 years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

Indian female M.Tech in Electrical power system having 4+ yrs of experience in Oman seeking suitable placement. Contact 79733520, 94306164

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman experience in all kinds of operation of civil & MEP and interior fit-out field with valued Visa and D/L, 95206259, looking placement

Electrical engineer 9 years experience in primary substations, OHL, and underground cables. With a valid D/L. Contact 98223842

Indian Male B.E Civil 6Y experience currently available in Oman. Ready for Immediate join Looking for Any job. Contact 91406778

Senior Civil Engineer with 12 years Exp in government and private construction projects. looking for a suitable position. Contact 95962450. Email: solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

B.E Mechanical engineer, 25 yrs with 2.5 yrs of experience in MEP execution & estimation is seeking suitable placement. Contact 94846765. Email akshaygopinath@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer (RE) with over 10 years of experience on major projects (Residential, Commercial & Industrial). # 78270396

Planning engineer, Indian more than 20 yrs experience in Oil & gas, pipeline building & MEP projects scheduling using primavera P6 seeks suitable job. NOC available. Contact 92651105 Email reji-mathai@hotmail.com

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

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

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

B.E in Mechanical Engineering with 2 yrs of experience in fire fighting & MEP. Currently working as estimation & design engineer is looking for a suitable placement. Contact 94417169

Indian B.Tech Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/MEP engineer. NOC available. Contact 98873092 Email ranjithr17@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FINANCE

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

GIS Engineer

Indian Male, Age 24, B.E. Computer Engineering and Masters of Science in GIS (Geographic Information System's) from U.K. Seeking suitable placement in GIS field. Having Oman Driving License. Resident of Oman. Ready to join immediately.
Contact: 99738614, deepitkotian14@gmail.com

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.
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B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL.
Contact No. 92180869 E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

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

Procurement, purchase officer having master degree searching for job. 07 yrs exp in oman in a well known construction & maintenance group of companies. NOC available. Contact 92587919, 99423614. Email jahanzeb_athar@yahoo.com

Indian, purchase assistant, store keeper 9 years working experience in oman. Valid Oman D/L(light) Looking for suitable job. Contact 98615731 Email: sanalk73@gmail.com

Indian male, 16 yrs experience in a multinational freight forwarding & logistic co, worked under the capacity of Senior operation executive/senior accountant (Ocen freight, air freight, land transport, warehouse operations & finance & accounting). NOC available. Contact 93587605

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: anwarijail51@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ROUND-UP



Savings with Mitsubishi

The promotion, which ends in just a couple of days, offers several benefits which include cash gifts of up to OMR4,200, free service for up to two years, attractive EMI rates, and much more

MUSCAT: The ongoing promotion of Mitsubishi models by General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, will be ending soon. The offer provides customers



with an opportunity to march into a world of savings thanks to an attractive range of offers on its entire range of vehicles. The promotion, which ends in just a couple of days, offers several benefits which include cash gifts of up to OMR4,200, free service for up to two years, attractive EMI rates, and much more. Commenting on the promotion, Manoj Ranade, the General Manager of GAC, said, "Our current promotion has been going strong ever since it launched. We are now, however, in the home stretch and there are just a few days left before

it comes to a close. I recommend any customer looking to benefit from this offer, purchase their vehicle before the end of the month." The promotion, which ends on 31 March 2021, includes the Pajero, Montero Sport, ASX, Eclipse Cross, Outlander, and the Attrage, with EMIs starting from OMR129, OMR125, OMR89, OMR129, OMR99, and OMR49, respectively. Customers purchasing a vehicle will also receive cash gifts ranging from OMR1,500 to OMR 4,200 depending on the model, 1-year free

insurance on all models except L200, all models will also come with one-year free registration as well as six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance. Select models will also come with a 2 years/20,000km free service package. "Since we are now approaching the end of the promotion. I highly recommend customers looking to purchase a Mitsubishi do so as soon as possible and get behind the wheel of their dream Mitsubishi before the offer closes out in just a few days," added Manoj Ranade.

SUHAIL BAHWAN AUTOMOBILES

Door-to-door service facility for customers from Renault Oman

MUSCAT: Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, has announced door-to-door vehicle service for its customers with prior service appointments. With Renault Oman's door-to-door service, customers can get their Renault picked up and dropped off from the location of their choice for service appointments. As part of this service, customers can be assured of pick-up and drop off, contactless process, vehicle sterilisation and cashless payment. However, this facility is available only in the Muscat governorate. To book an appointment, customers can choose below options Call toll free number 80050011, SMS Type <Book>and send to 99825454, E-mail us at appointment@sbigh.com or WhatsApp: 97692689. A spokesperson for SBA said, "You and your family's safety has always been our topmost priority. That is why we are proud to offer you an exclusive and unique service designed to ensure the wellbeing of both yourself and the people you love. Our Door-to-Door service assures you of having your Renault picked up from a location of your choice and delivered back to your doorstep. As an added precautionary measure, our team will sterilize your Renault before and after your vehicle is serviced, giving you true peace of mind. All



Renault customers can request door-to-door service for their service appointments for added convenience. The service offering pick-up and return of serviced vehicles will be available for customers in Muscat. This facility is designed to offer a hassle-free service experience and complete peace of mind to customers. Renault

Oman's team will come to pick up the car at a chosen location and time convenient to the customer. Once the job is over, the team will get back the car to your doorstep. This facility is available on prior appointment only." SBA is largely committed to supporting Renault Oman's growth in the Sultanate through

a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of 9 showrooms, 16 service centres & 23 spare parts outlets, SBA has further built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.

NINTH EDITION

Injaz Oman's Student Company Programme's competition moves to advanced stage

MUSCAT: The ninth edition of the Student Company Programme's competition has moved to an advanced stage and participating students are now in the process of writing the report and finalising its designs. The Zubair Corporation (Z-Corp) had recently signed a sponsorship agreement with Injaz Oman to support the ninth edition of the Student Company Programme. While the number of student companies participating this year reached 90, in all-around 950 students are participating in the competition from different governorates and regions of the Sultanate in the programme. Injaz Oman's Student Company Programme aims to enable university students and private colleges to establish real projects after receiving qualification and training from a group of qualified experts in the field of entrepreneurship during the period of their participation in the programme. KhaulaAl Harthy CEO of Injaz Oman said, "The first stage of the competition was to receive applications for participation in the competition. The turnout has been really great, and we are overwhelmed by the response. Following the application process, the student companies sent their proposals. We contacted each team separately and discussed the ideas giving them suggestions and recommendations to make a success of the proposals. After this stage,



the participating teams were filtered to 80. Subsequently, the companies worked on the idea by visiting the institutions interested in their area of specialities to develop the concept further and work on the prototype, and thereby prove the quality of their products." She added, "During the competition period, several Kaif workshops were held to enrich students' knowledge on how to choose and develop an idea, how to market this idea, how to obtain patents, and how medium and small enterprises operate." The participating teams have

now passed the idea, team building and modifications phase. They have also conducted modifications to their idea and tested it on the ground and worked on the initial product after obtaining necessary permits. Presently the students are working on writing the report, which will be submitted to Injaz Oman on April 3. The Student Company Programme falls within Z-Corp and Injaz Oman's strategies to support education, training and entrepreneurship. Injaz Oman works with students between the

ages of 5-24 years through implementing programmes in middle schools, high schools, vocational colleges, and universities. Their various programmes help prepare students for future success in Oman's private sector based on three core pillars including entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy. Ibrahim Al Salmi Communication General Manager Z-Corp said, "We are happy with the progress the competition has achieved. As a private-sector organisation, Z-Corp is delighted to be working in partnership with Injaz Oman and



Badr Al Samaa hospital organises webinar on Women of Tomorrow

MUSCAT: To mark International Women's Day & Mothers Day Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals organised a special webinar, Women of Tomorrow, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by women. The motivation behind this was to uphold women's achievements, raise empowerment and focus greater attention on women's wellbeing. Dr Amira Raidan, Head - Mental Health, Non-Communicable Diseases Department, Ministry of Health was the chief guest and Dr Yasmin Al Bulushi, Project Manager for "Eitmad", National Leadership Project, Ministry of Labour was guest of honour at this event. The event was attended by managing directors, senior management, doctors & staff of Badr Al Samaa and people of the Sultanate especially women. In his welcome address, Sameer P T, Group CEO said the Private Healthcare sector of Oman has brought great reforms to empower women and more than 70 per cent of workforces in the private healthcare sector are females. He said women are leading in many areas like clinical including diagnostics & critical care, quality accreditations, administration, etc. He said in Badr Al Samaa we continually empower women for their better tomorrow. Dr P A Mohammed, Managing Director, said in the fight against COVID female staff has been a shoulder to shoulder with men and their selfless efforts should be acknowledged and appreciated. He also said that anyone will be amazed to know that at Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals more than 60 per cent of the workforce are females. Dr Amira Raidan appreciated the initiative of Badr Al Samaa to acknowledge women for their exemplary work. She urged all ladies to have a good work-life balance and focus on their wellbeing which will ul-

timately result in the wellbeing and progress of our societies and country at large. She appreciated the healthcare sector works for their great effort during this pandemic. Dr Yasmin Al Bulushi said women are born leaders which are evident by their priceless contributions in family and at work. Women by birth have a winning combination of traits like assertiveness, persuasiveness, risk-taking ability, emotionally connected, good communication skills, decision-making abilities and hard work. She said women have proven again and again that they are capable to do anything which should inspire more and more women to come forward and explore their true potential. Dr Heba Tolba, Specialist Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Al Khoud presented a health talk on irritable bowel syndrome and PCOS. She said diet, exercise and certain lifestyle modifications help in dealing with these situations but before this one should have a thorough evaluation with a gastroenterologist. Asif Shah, Head Branding and Communication who was also the host of the event said it is appreciating to see how a woman fights the stereotypes in today's world and how she courageously and fearlessly face the challenges and rise successfully and become an inspiration for everyone. He also presented the special health screening packages which Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals launched to mark International Women's Day and Mothers Day. KO Devassy, Chief Marketing Officer presented thank you note and appreciated all the panelists for their motivational and inspiring words on women empowerment. He said Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals always acknowledges the exemplary contributions of women and will organise more such events to celebrate their success.

MG announces special promotion ‘Festival of Winning’ this Ramadan

Underscoring its commitment to customers, MG’s Festival of Winning extends an incredible value proposition that encompasses buying any of MG’s stunning 2021 models; and getting a Scratch and Win card that enables one to win a galore of amazing prizes

MUSCAT: MG Motor, from the house of Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), has announced a special promotion – Festival of Winning that is designed to make the advent of Ramadan, even more attractive. Underscoring its commitment to customers, MG’s Festival of Winning extends an incredible value proposition that encompasses buying any of MG’s stunning 2021 models; and getting a Scratch and Win card that enables one to win a galore of amazing prizes! Prizes include - Huawei mobile phone bundles, 100 rial fuel cards, up to 200,000 km service packages; and the brilliant opportunity to win one’s car back! What’s better - is that this also includes free registration, insurance, manufacturer’s warranty and VKool window tinting.



of MHD’s Automotive, Construction Equipment & Renewable Energy (ACERE) division said, “We aim to come up with something special for our valued customers every Ramadan. As part of this year’s ‘Festival of Winning’, we are extending attractive benefits for our customers; and would like to underline that Ramadan is the best time to buy an MG as one can benefit immensely from the

Festival of Winning.” MG Motor has built up its reputation through innovative technology, and a broad product line-up. In Oman, people have increasingly opted for MG models because they come with class-leading features, great performance, ideally suited to the sultanate’s weather conditions and offer great value for money. Every customer purchasing an

MG can be assured of the brand’s top-class after-sales service, which guarantees the advantage of trained experts. Customers can expect consistency and support during after-sales service, which ascertains MG’s performance in the years to come. MHD is largely committed to supporting MG’s growth in the sultanate through a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by

providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of showrooms and service centres, MHD has further built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers. Having state-of-art showrooms and service centres in Ibri, Sur, Salalah, Sohar and Muscat, MG Motor Oman also has an e-

commerce platform that helps enhance its customers’ purchase experience from the comfort and safety of their homes. The platform <https://mg-om.com/buy-online/> allows customers to select vehicles from the available stock, reserve vehicles, conduct online payments and schedule home delivery of cars. Additionally, customers can also book home test drives.

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OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB announces names of winners of its Hasaad savings scheme for February

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced the results of the first draw of its Hasaad Savings Scheme for 2021. 101 customers won prizes of OMR 500 each, alongside 5 winners of OMR 1,000 each from the salary transfer segment. As for Elite account holders, two customers won OMR 10,000 each from the Barka and Al Qurum branches. Commenting on the launch of the new scheme, Rashad Al Shaikh, Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, “We are delighted to see a huge number of our customers continue to save, especially given the prevalent conditions. This way, they can ensure that they have a form of finance to rely on, for themselves and their families. “As always, we strive to reward them for their efforts towards saving with an array of exciting benefits every month and giving them a greater chance of winning by having them save more.” The Hasaad Savings Scheme 2021 will see 101 lucky winners each month from the 54 branches winning OMR500 each, as well as 5 winners of OMR 1,000 each, from those who transfer their salaries to Oman Arab Bank. This is in addition to a Big Prize draw which will see two winners of OMR 10,000 each, every quarter. The Elite Draws will see two winners every month of OMR



10,000 each. This is replaced by an Elite grand prize draw conducted every three months with one lucky winner of OMR 25,000. “I congratulate all the winners of the February Hasaad Savings Draw and wish the rest of our valued customers the best of luck for the rest of the upcoming draws, which will take place over 2021.

I would like to encourage them to continue saving so that we can enable them to build a savings culture for their own benefit and a better future.” Oman Arab Bank has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in the Sultanate. Today, the bank operates a nationwide

network of 54 branches and representative offices with 160 ATMs spread across Oman. OAB provides a complete range of financial products and services through its OAB Online App. Customers can now digitally open an account and benefit from several other services, directly from the convenience of their mobile phones.

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