

HM THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Phuc and the friendly people of his country. - **ONA**



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HM CONDOLES PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan on victims of the explosion at an ammunition depot in Jambyl Province. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Tokayev, families of the victims and the friendly people of Kazakhstan. His Majesty prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the souls of the deceased in peace in paradise and grant their families patience, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. - **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 132 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Sultanate, Italy review bilateral relations

1 Dr Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp on Wednesday General Enzo Vecciarelli, Chief of the Defence of the Italian Republic and his accompanying delegation. **>A5**

WORLD

Afghanistan war 'over': Biden

2 After a messy withdrawal from Afghanistan and the exit from a failed 20-year war, US President Joe Biden said he would "go after terror wherever it is". **>A7**

MARKET

GCC index touches seven-year high

3 The MSCI GCC index closed at a 7-year high on August 17, 2021, but as investors booked profits, it fell towards the end of the month to close at 708.48 points. **>B1**

SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES KOREAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, received in his office Suh Wook, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Korea and his accompanying delegation. The guest is on an official several-day visit. They discussed areas of existing cooperation between the defence ministries of the two countries and ways to enhance them. The meeting exchanged views on matters of common interest for the benefit of the two friendly countries. It was attended by Dr Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), the Korean Ambassador to the Sultanate, the Military Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Muscat, and SAF senior officers. The guests arrived on Wednesday morning. **>A3**



AHLAN! OMAN NOW OPEN FOR ALL VACCINATED TRAVELLERS

It's time once again to discover the hidden gems of Oman, where 'beauty has an address'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: September 2021 has finally arrived for Oman, with the land of frankincense reopening to vaccinated tourists without quarantine restrictions. It's time once again to discover the hidden gems of Oman, where 'beauty has an address.'

Oman's airports have reopened their doors to welcome travellers coming to the Sultanate from all around the world, coinciding with the lifting of the quarantine requirement.



'I paid four times the price of regular fare for ticket to Oman' **>A3**

Passengers arriving need to either take a PCR test before or after arriving in the Sultanate, and must have been injected with two doses of COVID-19 vaccines approved in the country. The return of many regular operations began at midday on September 1, 2021, giving the green light to major international airlines to conduct their activities in operating domestic and international flights through the country. **>A5**

Thousands of stranded expats start returning

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Thousands of expatriates from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and 18 other countries have started returning to Oman, following the lifting of the entry ban that prevented them from coming back.

From September 1 onward, passengers are able to once again fly freely to Oman, provided they test negative for COVID-19 ahead of their flight.

The three nations were among those on Oman's red list on May 24 this year, as part of measures to stop the spread of the pandemic. This meant that people who had spent at least 14 days in these countries were not permitted to enter Oman.

Representatives of the three expat communities in Oman



This move will help the stranded Indians to return to Oman for work, and to reunite with their loved ones

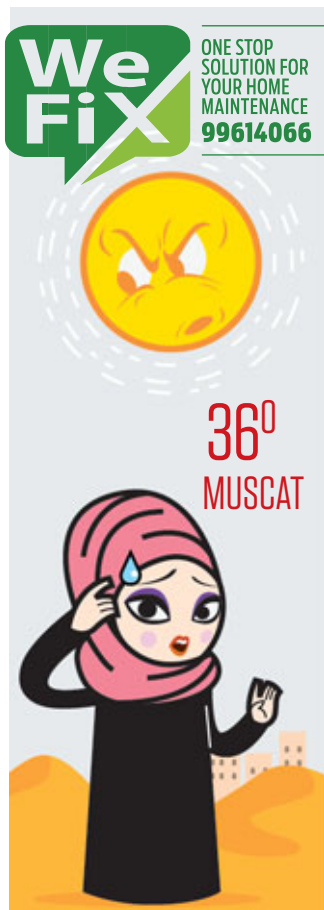
Munu Mahawar
Ambassador of India to Oman



I deeply appreciate the decisions taken, which will enable Pakistani nationals to return to Oman

KK Ahsan Wagan
Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman

are glad their countrymen can now return. About 10,500 Indians, and a further 500 teachers are waiting an early return to Oman. About 5,000 to 7,000 Pakistanis, and at least 12,000 Bangladeshis are also waiting. In this context, KK Ahsan Wagan, the envoy of Pakistan to Oman, said a large number of those looking to come back include spouses of expats in Oman, as well as Omani parents whose children still hold Pakistani nationality. "Every day, before the announcement on the lifting of travel restrictions, we used to receive 100 to 200 emails and messages from my community members who were stuck in Pakistan and wished to return back to Oman to resume their jobs or businesses," he said. **>A5**



FIGHTING PANDEMIC

Offices, public places begin to implement new entry rules

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People going to government offices and public places are required to flash their phones to show proof of vaccination before being allowed to enter.

With vaccine certificates uploaded to the Tarassud+ COVID-19 monitoring app, people accessing these areas had to take out their smartphones to show when they had been vaccinated, and how many doses they have been given.

Under decisions made by the Supreme Committee, from 1 September, only people who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be allowed to enter these areas, as well as access public transport.

Furthermore, those who do not get their second vaccine dose before October 15 will be refused entry into such facilities. Supermar-



kets, restaurants and companies have already begun asking people to produce their ID and proof of vaccination at the entrance.

Many Omanis and expatriates have shared their experiences over the new decisions, which have been drawn up to stop the spread

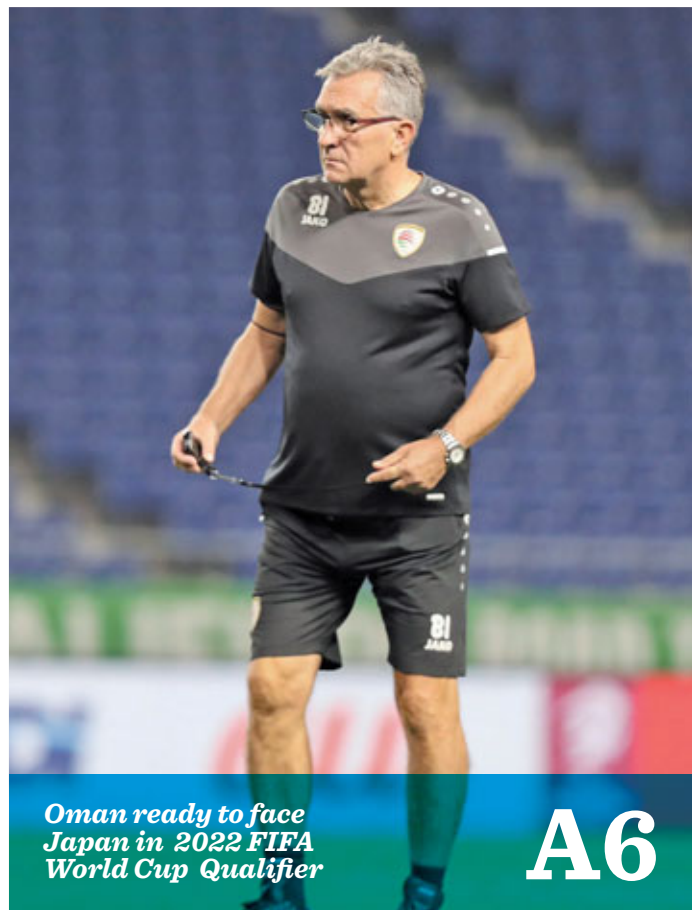
of COVID-19 in the country.

"I feel safer going back to school shopping with my kids," said Abigail, a British national employed as a teacher.

Zain Saleh, an interior designer, said her company had stationed staff near the door to check people's vaccination status, adding, "I felt like I was at the airport, because I had to go through so much security at my company."

Hamed Issa, an Omani national, said in this context, "My coach in the gym welcomes me with a water bottle every day, but yesterday, he asked me for a vaccine certificate."

"This morning, it took me longer to get a loaf of bread," recalled Amar Bajaj. "The queue to check the vaccination certificate was too long," while expat Mark White added: "There was a long queue I had to stand in before entering the mall." **>A5**





OMAN



PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:12pm
Asr.....	3:39pm
Maghrib.....	6:29pm
Isha.....	7:41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:33am

Times of Oman

VOL. 8, NO. 26 MUSCAT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1982 — DHUL QADA 14, 1402 PRICE BAIZAS 200

Arab summit starts on September 6

The Arab League will reconvene the twelfth summit meeting of Arab leaders in the Moroccan city of Fez on September 6.

This was agreed on Monday by league Foreign Ministers at the end of a two-day meeting at Mohammedia near Casablanca.

Yesterday Lebanon asked for the summit to be postponed

until President-elect Bashir Gemayyel has had more time to assume powers.

A draft agenda for the summit was adopted but delegation sources said this would not be published before the start of the three-day summit.

The twelfth summit last November was suspended soon after it began by the chairman,

King Hassan of Morocco.

He said then that the absence of some Arab leaders made it pointless to talk of Middle East peace moves.

President Assad of Syria had not appeared, thus showing his disapproval of a peace plan presented by Saudi Arabia.

This plan called the Fahd plan (it was presented by King Fahd who was then Crown

Prince) is to be put forward again in a revised version.

The plan's main point is for general Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories which include the West Bank, Gaza, the Arab sector of Jerusalem and Lebanon.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat is expected to attend the summit.

Also expected is the President elect of Lebanon, Bashir Gemayel.

The only country to boycott the Foreign Ministers' conference was Libya.

The League's Secretary General Shadli Khaib, criticised America's role in the Lebanon war and supported a call for Arab unity by King Hassan.

WORK SAFETY DRIVE BEGINS

The Directorate General of Labour has started a campaign to make workers and managements of firms aware of the importance of safety measures.

The campaign has been launched all over the Sultanate specially in industrial areas.

It affects about 165,000 workers, of whom 37 per cent are Omanis, and follows a Ministerial decree issued recently which called for all necessary safety measures to be adopted.

The Labour Welfare Department has distributed hundreds of posters which focus attention on hazards at work.

Emphasis is being made on the use of gloves, headgear, and close-fitting clothes by workers at machines.

The labour officials have visited some factories to see the safety arrangements. They have also given practical demonstrations to workers on the use of safety appliances.

The workers' safety campaign will be intensified shortly with the start of a publicity drive on radio and television.

The Labour Welfare Department plans to send mobile cinemas to the interior.

The Director of the Labour Welfare Department disclosed this week that more than 100 industrial accidents were reported in 1981 resulting in loss of life or disability.

by Muzaffar Mohammed

He said that although big companies were following international safety regulations there were many small and medium-size industrial and construction companies which do not.

Meanwhile the Directorate General of Labour has taken measures to prevent fire at labour camps. Managements of camps are being instructed to install fire-fighting equipment and take suitable measures to eliminate the risk of fire at workers' homes.

The authorities have also urged the managements of local companies to provide hygienic surroundings. They have been asked to adopt the internationally-accepted standards.



A poster to be used in the campaign.

Final plans for 19 new schools

The school programme for 1982 which envisages the construction of 19 primary and preparatory schools in various parts of the country is well under way with consultants completing final designs.

The total budget for the programme is RO 5.8 million.

The detailed designs which are being drawn by G. Allan Herbert consultants will be submitted to the Ministry of Education next month. Following Ministry approved bids will be invited from contractors.

It is expected that construction work on all the schools will start this year.

The programme envisages building of 14 large and small primary schools having six to twenty class-rooms. The five preparatory schools will comprise of six to sixteen class-rooms.

The programme also includes construction of three hostels—two for preparatory school students and one for secondary students.

The hostels to be built at Khaboura, Ibri and Salalah will have capacity for 250, 180 and 300 students respectively. Hostels at Ibri and Khaboura will be for girls

while the hostel at Salalah will be for boys.

The contract for designing and supervision of schools was awarded to G. Allan Herbert in May this year.

Hospital site

The Ministry of Land Affairs and Municipalities has approved the site for the new 500-bed general hospital to be built by the Ministry of Health.

It will be on a 26-hectare stretch of land in the new community area south Ghubra, close to the Azaiba roundabout.

Gulf trade role

Arab and Gulf states have been urged by the Arab Monetary Fund to play a more positive and dynamic role in promoting inter-Arab trade.

The AMF wants all member-states to waive customs duties, remove curbs on the quantities of goods imported into a country and a relaxation of general customs and administrative procedures.

Corn oil ban

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has banned some brands of corn oil imported into Oman from South East Asian countries.

The ban came after checking squads from the Ministry discovered a few brands of cooking oil in the local market which were not up to the specification written on the containers.

Sources at the Ministry disclosed on Monday that certain brands were given laboratory tests. These revealed that some had impurities and contents differed from what was stated on the containers.

In some of the brands palm oil was found to be mixed with corn oil.

The ban is in line with a Ministerial decree which forbids the import and sale of foodstuff whose contents do not correspond to the labelling.

The Ministry sources, however, made it clear that the banned brands of corn oil were not found to be harmful to health.

The sources recalled that Golden Drop corn oil was recently banned in the UAE after it was said to be harmful if used by humans.

Commerce and Health authorities in Oman immediately carried out laboratory tests on the same brand of oil. The tests did not point to anything in the content which was injurious to health and the brand was cleared for import and sale in Oman.

The sources maintain that with the worldwide use of corn oil for cooking producers in some countries especially in South East Asia have started manufacturing imitations of popular brands.

INSIDE

- Spotlight on searching for oil — pages 18, 19.
- Woman's World — pages 28, 29.
- Try our Quiz — page 24.

Your TV programmes are on page 26



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Mall of Oman set to open | Times of Oman

Mall of Oman is part of Majid Al Futtaim's strategy to increase its total...

A story on the Mall of Oman set to open

A story on the Mall of Oman set to open reached 29,419 people and had 5,114 engagements on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

15,400 VIEWS

Only vaccinated people to be allowed into Oman's airports

Morning Minute video on vaccination

The Morning Minute video on vaccination mandatory for entry to Oman airports had 15,400 views and reached 35,800 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

580 VIEWS

Oman Sail gears up for busy last quarter

Video story on Oman Sail

A video story on Oman Sail had 580 views and 40 likes on Instagram.

REOPENING

Paid four times price of regular ticket to come back to Oman: Indian expat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Indian national returning to Oman has said he had to pay about four times the price of a regular plane ticket to come back to the country.

Since September 1, 2021, the ban on passengers entering Oman from certain countries has been lifted, enabling people, some of whom have been away for months, to return, leading to a huge increase in demand, while there are still only a limited number of seats on flights.

As a consequence, passengers like Sanjay Shukla have to pay steep amounts to return to Oman. Shukla arrived on one of the first flights arriving in Muscat from Chennai on September 1, paying a total of more than OMR 260 for his journey.

"I am from Mumbai, but I could not get a flight out of there as all the planes were fully booked," he said. "After searching for a full three days, I decided to see what alternate routes were available, because I needed to come back to Oman urgently, and had no other options available to me.

"I therefore booked a connecting flight from Chennai," he added. "The leg from Chennai to Oman cost me more than OMR230, which is far more than what I would normally pay for, because a ticket from Mumbai to Muscat is ordinarily only about OMR55 on a budget airline, or about OMR100 on a regular flight."

Shukla went to India on 10 April to see his family, 16 days before the entry ban on passengers flying from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh came into effect.

PRICEY FLIGHT: Shukla went to India on 10 April to see his family, 16 days before the entry ban on passengers flying from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh came into effect.

In keeping with regulations issued by the Oman government, Shukla needed to take a PCR test at least three days prior to his departure and upload the results along with his vaccine certificates and flight details to the eMushrif app, all of which also needed to be shown to airport authorities in India before boarding his flight.

"The procedures are pretty straightforward if you know what documents you need," he said. "It is the same in Oman, where you are asked once again for your documents and then go through the e-gates. I am really glad to come back here, but to be honest, I already miss my family."

Shukla's company does provide him money to buy air tickets for his annual leave, but feels he might only be compensated a portion of what he shelled out to come back.

"My company was telling us they would provide us ticket money, but only after the 20th of September, because the prices right now are really high," he said. "Even when I booked my Chennai flight, there were only one or two vacant seats remaining so I chose to book them before they sold out, because it was very important that I return."

MEETING

FROM A1

Korean delegation

They were received upon their arrival at Muscat International Airport by Air Commodore Khalid Mohammed Al Abri, Director General of Operations at the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), the Ambassador of Korea to the Sultanate, and the Military Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Muscat. —ONA

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OMAN



MALL OF OMAN OPENS ITS DOORS

Majid Al Futtaim, the leading shopping mall, communities, retail, and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia has opened the doors of the eagerly awaited Mall of Oman in Muscat. The opening of the mall marks an important milestone for Majid Al Futtaim as it continues to play a significant role in supporting local communities by enhancing the Sultanate's retail and entertainment offerings for both residents and tourists.

A recipient of the LEED Platinum certificate for its commitment to sustainability, resource efficiency, health and wellbeing, the new super-regional mall combines a selection of curated stores that bring the very best in retail, leisure, entertainment, and dining, as well as experiential offerings for all ages. Those visiting the mall can now experience Oman's largest VOX Cinemas — complete with 15 screens — as well as the only IMAX experience in Oman, the first GOLD experience in Oman, and the largest Magic Planet in the country, which features award-winning rides, games and attractions. Plus, those looking for dining options can indulge at Kitchen 35, the VIP Lounge (GOLD) and Nutella.

Alongside this offering, customers can also enjoy a host of brands including a 9,000 square metre Carrefour Hypermarket as part of Majid Al Futtaim and several brands from the Landmark and Apparel groups. In addition, Mall of Oman offers famous outlets such as DKNY, Nespresso, G-SHOCK, Homes R Us, Tavola and Al Khalili Buildex, ensuring there is something for everyone.

Flagship destination

Husam Al Mandhari, Director of Shopping malls in Oman at Majid Al Futtaim Properties said: "We are pleased to welcome residents and tourists to the brand-new Mall of Oman — Sultanate's flagship destination for retail, leisure and entertainment. This is another achievement for us as we continue to position ourselves as a retail pioneer that offers unique experiences and unmatched value, whilst contributing to the local economy. Providing 3,500 new jobs in the region, Mall of Oman offers multiple first-of-its-kind experiences in the Sultanate, which allows us to continue to create memorable moments for our customers that they can cherish with their family. At Majid Al Futtaim, we are committed to place the people and communities we serve at the heart of everything we do, and this new opening demonstrates this."

This September, families at Mall of Oman can also embark on the ultimate adventure with Dino World, an interactive dinosaur experience. In collaboration with EventBox, the new family offering will have visitors travelling back in time for an exciting and educational journey showcasing the history and evolution of dinosaurs, life size dinosaur installations, a "roaming dino" interactive experience and augmented reality.

Regional presence

Plus, with 80 percent of Mall of Oman's gross leasable area leased, the mall is set to welcome over 300 additional retail outlets in the coming months. And for those looking to go on a culinary journey, Mall of Oman has unveiled a 1,000 plus seater food court which will offer a selection of global chains. Meanwhile, those looking for more indulgent cuisine options from across the globe, will soon be able to visit various cafés and restaurants at the mall including over 50 dining options. Mall of Oman is also pleased to announce that it will launch the largest indoor snow park in the Sultanate next year, spanning over 14,000 square meters.

Mall of Oman complements Majid Al Futtaim's strong regional presence that includes 29 existing malls across the GCC.



» MALL OF OMAN IS MAJID AL FUTTAIM'S FIFTH AND LARGEST SHOPPING DESTINATION IN THE SULTANATE

» THE MEGA SHOPPING MALL PROVIDES A SELECTION OF NEW TO MARKET FIRST TIME BRANDS

» VISITORS CAN ENJOY COMPELLING FAMILY LEISURE EXPERIENCES INCLUDING THE LARGEST VOX CINEMAS AND MAGIC PLANET IN OMAN

Nine global brands opened by Apparel Group in new Mall of Oman, more to follow



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Visitors to the new Mall of Oman can shop from among nine of the world's leading fashion brands, which have set up stores at the venue.

Aldo, Charles & Keith, Dune London, La Vie en Rose, R&B, Birkenstock, Skechers, Dollar Plus and Inglot, all of which are operated in the GCC by Apparel Group, opened their doors to customers on September 1, 2021, to coincide with the opening of the new mall. R&B's store at the Mall of Oman is their 11th in the country.

The opening of these stores also means that Apparel Group now has more than 100 outlets

in Oman. The company has also added more than 200 local staff, aiding the employment of the local workforce, with more recruitment planned in the coming months.

More brands under the Apparel Group umbrella are set to be opened soon, including LC Waikiki, the popular fashion destination, Rituals — a beloved Dutch brand known for home and body cosmetics — and the famous Tim Hortons coffee chain, amongst many more.

Apparel has a strong presence in the GCC, including Oman, and operates brands from around the world with more than 1,750 stores and 75 brands across all platforms.

Brands operated by Apparel Group have origins around the

world including the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and Asia, and include leading names in fashion, footwear and lifestyle, such as Tommy Hilfiger, Charles & Keith, Skechers, Aldo, Nine West, Aeropostale, and Jamie's Italian to name a few.

Other key brands handled by them include Tim Hortons, Cold Stone Creamery, Inglot, and Rituals. The Apparel Group owes its amazing growth to the vision and guidance of its dynamic founder and chairwoman, Sima Ved, who has taken the company from strength to strength in the last two decades since its inception.

For more information visit www.appareluae.com





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MEETINGS

Sultanate, Italy review bilateral relations in meetings

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Zaabi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp on Wednesday General Enzo Vecciarelli, Chief of the Defence of the Italian Republic and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and a number of matters of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al-Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Italian

Ambassador to the Sultanate and the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Muscat.

General Enzo Vecciarelli and his accompanying delegation left after an official several-day visit to the Sultanate.

The guest and his accompanying delegation were seen off at Seeb Air Base by Brigadier Hassan Ali Al-Mujaini, Head of Moral Guidance at the Command of the Sultan's Armed Forces (COSAF), Italian Ambassador to the Sultanate and the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Muscat. **-OMA**



OMAN AIRPORTS

<FROM A1> Safety measures in place to prevent spread of COVID-19

Previous restrictions were in place for nearly 18 months a year to limit the spread of the virus.

With operations likely to return to pre-pandemic levels, to achieve the highest standards of health and safety at Oman Airports, Muscat International Airport has implemented safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to ensure the safety and health of all passengers and airport workers.

Special pathways have been assigned for both passengers who are fully vaccinated and have PCR tests, while another is delegated for those who aren't vaccinated, or haven't taken their COVID tests before arriving in Oman.

New routes also include separate paths for first and business-class passengers, GCC citizens, and those with special needs.

Saud bin Nasser Al-Hubaishi, vice president of Muscat International Airport, said in this context: "We are pleased on this holy day and we are on the threshold of returning to our full operations, at



Muscat International Airport as well as the rest of the Sultanate's airports.

"We congratulate all of our airport families for this good return, which we all have been longing for, to continue our sincere national role in receiving and bidding farewell to all of Oman's visitors," he added.

He added, "Implementation of a set of strict precautionary protocols at Muscat International Airports and Salalah enabled us to obtain international recognition as the first airports in the Middle

East to apply health standards related to COVID 19,

"We are constantly updating these protocols and procedures in line with international standards adopted in this regard and aligning it with the national precautionary requirements approved by the Sultanate," he added.

"We would like to wholeheartedly thank the authorities for their continuous efforts in assessing the epidemiological situation worldwide and updating protocols aimed at ensuring the safety and health of travellers to and through the Sultanate's airports.

Oman Airports emphasised the importance of adhering to the precautionary measures and wearing a face mask at all times inside the terminals, and maintaining social distance of at least one and a half metres inside the airport premises.

All personnel entering the airport must show proof of vaccination. Travellers, however, can enter the premises even if they are unvaccinated.

STRANDED EXPATS

<FROM A1> Decision to ease travel curbs hailed

"I deeply appreciate the decisions taken, which will enable Pakistani nationals to return to Oman. I wish to thank the Oman government for lifting the ban and allowing entry of expatriates who were stuck in their respective countries," he added.

Mizanur Rehman, the ambassador of Bangladesh to Oman, said about 10,000 of his countrymen were also waiting for the entry ban to end so they can return.

Sirajul Hoque, chairman, Bangladesh Social Club Oman, was also looking forward to see his countrymen once again board flights for Oman.

"It is good they have been allowed to return," he said.

Adding to this, Munu Mahawar, the ambassador of India to Oman, said the entry ban had caused hardship to families who have become divided because their inability to travel.

"We welcome the decision to ease restrictions on entry of travellers from India which will enable the stranded Indian nationals

to return to Oman for work, and to reunite with their loved ones," he said. "The COVID situation in India has hugely improved with positivity rate remaining consistently below three per cent. The number of daily new cases has also drastically come down."

"India's COVID vaccination drive has recently crossed a significant milestone, as more than 50 per cent of the eligible population has been vaccinated with at least one dose. We are administering on an average six to seven million doses daily. A few days ago, more than 10 million doses were administered in a single day and the total number of doses administered has crossed 600 million."

The ambassador added, "While it is very difficult to give a definitive figure for the number of Indian nationals looking to return to Oman where they live and work, many residents had travelled to India over the last few months for different reasons and would like to return."

GOVT & PUBLIC PLACES

<FROM A1> New rules for entry

Some people faced teething troubles with getting through the new vaccination protocols.

Maitha Al Amri, explained that she had registered on the Tarassud+ app using her father's number, when she had been vaccinated under her own name. "I registered on the Tarassud+ application using my father's number, but I couldn't show my vaccination certificate because it was linked to my number," she revealed.

Mohammed Al Shukailli, however, said that the staff at the supermarket were a little bit confused over whether only fully vaccinated people were allowed in.

"Because of this, at the cash counters, it seemed like there wasn't a soul to be seen," he said.

As per the new regulations, each government or private organisation is required to set up a process through which they can regulate the entry of people onto their premises.

Those found guilty of not following these updated procedures will be dealt with accordingly.

TOP TRAIL RUNNERS

Hamdan completes 170km Ultra-Trail du Mont-BlancUTMB® race

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hamdan Al Khatri, Oman's top trail runner, has completed the arduous 170km UTMB® race in Chamonix, France.

He crossed the line in a time of 41 hours, 14 minutes and 41 seconds after recording an average speed of 4.17km per hour throughout the race.

Teammate Hamed Al Harthi had to withdraw after 127km and 32 hours of racing, just 45km from the finish.

Exhausted but proud as he reached the end, Hamdan unfurled the Omani flag in celebration. He said, "It is not easy, a very technical race. The terrain is very different to training in Oman, with a different climate to contend with but I finished and I'm delighted."

The Omani pair, 31-year-old Hamdan and 62-year-old Hamed, were due to compete in last year's race but were forced to postpone the attempt due to Covid-19 and travel restrictions. Both had committed to training to prepare for the race despite the lack of competition.

Focused around the foothills of Mont-Blanc, this year's 170km



race course challenged the athletes with undulating terrain leading to sharp uphill portions taking the athletes up to 2,500 metres with a total of 10,000 of elevation gain.

The event, described as 'a mythical race, a unique experience', featured nearly 10,000 runners and is considered the showpiece meet for trail-runners around the world.

The race distance that both Hamdan and Hamed took part in saw around 2,300 participants.

Both athletes have accumulated a wealth of experience in trail running marathons, competing in the inaugural OMAN by UTMB® in 2018 and at a variety of races around the world.

Hamdan has raced at UTMB® Mont Blanc in 2019, when

he was the first and only Omani in the 100km race.

Hamed reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro earlier this year and has also competed in OMAN by UTMB®, in 2019, as well as Ushuaia by UTMB® in Argentina in 2019.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sultanate of Oman had gained a solid reputation as one of



Hamdan Al Khatri, crossed the line in a time of 41 hours, 14 minutes and 41 seconds .



Hamed Al Harthi had to withdraw after 127km and 32 hours of racing, just 45km from the finish.

the world's newest and most exciting emerging sports and adventure destinations, with Oman by UTMB® attracting athletes from around the world and an impressive local contingent to test themselves on a brand-new course.

designed routes, which follow traditional trails between villages in the mountains, were popular with marathon runners in 2018 and 2019 with the and remained open for locals to use for training and tourism after the race as more Omani athletes look to discover their potential and explore the country by foot.

Rugged landscape
The rugged landscape and well-



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SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Ministry inks job-training pact with Opal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour signed on Wednesday a job-training pact with Oman Society for Petroleum Services (Opal).

Sayyid Salim bin Musallam Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Human Resources Development signed the agreement with Opal CEO Abdulrahman bin Humaid Al Yahyaie.

The agreement signing comes within the efforts of the Ministry

of Labour on training and qualifying national job-seekers through involvement of the various sectors and within its endeavours for encouragement of national jobseekers for joining the training and professional skills programmes for employment in the available job opportunities in the energy and minerals sector and other sectors in accordance with the requirements of the labour market.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Labour and Opal

would prepare and implement training strategies and plans to ensure national jobseekers are well prepared to join employment in the energy and minerals sector and other sectors. The professions and jobs to be assumed by national jobseekers and the skills and qualifications required for employment would be identified. There would also be contracting with the licensed training institutes to be provided with quality programmes (Opal Star) as per the policies and

terms of the Ministry of Labour in order to meet the requirements of the available professions / jobs.

Following the agreement signing, a joint committee would be formed to supervise on implementation of the clauses of the cooperation programme, to follow with training of the jobseekers, to consider and study the proposed professions and the related job-training programmes, to identify the appropriate mechanism for award of the training programmes.



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

Oman ready to face Japan in FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifier

Oman's football team coach Ivankovic

said that it would be a tough match as Japan's team is one of the best in Asia

OSAKA: During the press conference held on Wednesday, Branko Ivankovic, coach of the Oman's national football team, reaffirmed the team's readiness for its today's match against Japan.

The match is within the Asian qualifiers for Qatar's FIFA World Football Cup 2022. Coach Ivankovic said that it would be a tough match as Japan's team is one of the best Asian teams.

"We are proud of our participation and presence at this stage amidst a group with teams that have repeatedly participated in the world football cups", he said.

"The team is ready for the match against Japan", he said, adding that the training camp organised in Serbia helped us prepare for this match. National team goalkeeper, Faiz Al Rasheedi described the match as very important and that the team would fight all the 90 minutes of the match. He said that Japan's team has professional players who play in the European football leagues. — ONA



RETURN TO NORMAL

Schools' reopening signals return to normalcy in India

NEW DELHI: Many schools across India are opening this week for the first time in 18 months, as the worst of the coronavirus pandemic in the country seems to have subsided.

As part of nationwide lockdown measures, most schools were closed in March 2020, and classes went online. As doors are reopened, students will be required to follow strict COVID protocols.

"It is kind of strange going back to class after 18 months. Sure, the fear of COVID is there, but if everyone acts responsibly then we should be safe," Arya Jain, a grade 10 student in Delhi, told DW.

What guidelines are in place?

"Our staff is vaccinated, and all protocols are in place. More importantly, the measures outlined by the Delhi government will be implemented," said Abha Malik, a high school teacher.

The reopening guidelines include having no more than 50% of capacity in each classroom, mandatory thermal screening, staggered lunch breaks, wider seating arrangements, and avoiding guest visits.

Moreover, students, teachers, and non-teaching staff who reside in COVID containment zones will not be allowed to physically attend classes. Many schools have strengthened infrastructure and resources including ventilation, water supply and toilets. "Stay-at-home when sick" policies are also encouraged.

"Given that COVID cases have come down, we feel we can open



schools now. Almost 98% of staff in Delhi schools have had at least one dose of a vaccine," Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia told reporters.

Is it safe to reopen schools? According to UNICEF, the closure of 1.5 million schools in India during the pandemic has impacted 247 million children.

During a media briefing in July, Balam Bhargava, the director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), backed the reopening of Indian schools as soon as possible. And the president of the Indian Medical Association, J.A. Jayalal, recently said that now is the "right time" for governments to take a "calculated risk" and resume classes.

The confidence of policy planners has been bolstered by the latest serological survey for COVID conducted by the ICMR across 70 districts in 21 states.

Results of the survey published

in July showed 67.6% of subjects had antibodies associated with SARS-CoV-2.

The findings are significant for schools because children aged 6-17 years were included in the national survey for the first time. The presence of antibodies was 57.2% among 6-9-year-olds and 61.6% among 10-17-year-olds.

And last month, Gujarat-based Zydus Cadila's three-dose COVID vaccine was granted emergency use authorization for adults and children above 12 years old, making it potentially the first vaccine to be administered to the adolescent population in India.

Although the vaccine has been approved for use, the government has yet to roll out a vaccination drive for adolescents.

Do benefits outweigh risks?

"I believe with every passing day, schools are going to be safer than the previous day. It will happen only when schools are open.

Therefore, we need to start now and do everything to reduce the risk further," Chandrakant Lahariya, a public policy and health systems specialist, told DW.

Lahariya believes the benefits of education are now greater than the health risk, as COVID will likely remain present for many months, or even years.

"The risk of SARS CoV-2 is not going to be zero, but if we see it in perspective, the COVID risk to children is lower than risk of other diseases such as dengue, malaria and even tuberculosis," added Lahariya.

India on Tuesday reported 30,941 new coronavirus cases, and 350 deaths, taking the respective cumulative tally to over 32.7 million cases and 438,560 deaths, according to health ministry data.

Recent projections have shown that a third COVID wave could be less severe than what was seen in Spring 2021, and could peak anytime between October and November.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Poland seeks state of emergency along Belarus border crossings

WARSAW: The Polish government on Tuesday asked President Andrzej Duda to declare a state of emergency at the country's border with neighbouring Belarus.

The plan to impose a state of emergency along the border comes after some 3,000 migrants tried to enter the country from Belarus during August. Poland's government and the EU believes the unauthorized crossings and attempted crossings are being orchestrated by Alexander Lukashenko's regime in Minsk.

Once approved, the emergency rules would ban demonstrations in a thin strip along the border as well as obliging people to carry identity documentation. It would last for 30 days before requiring renewal.

EU blames Lukashenko

"The situation on the border with Belarus is a constant crisis," Poland's right-wing Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters. "That is why we have decided to propose this solution to the president."

Migrants have also entered Latvia and Lithuania, two other EU member states bordering Belarus. Most of the migrants are from the Middle East and Afghanistan. Belarusian authorities have been accused of flying people into the country in order to send them into neighboring EU states.

The EU blames Lukashenko's strongman regime is trying to use



immigration as a form of leverage against the bloc's stringent sanctions. Poland began the construction of a 2.5-meter-tall fence along its 418-kilometer (260-mile) border last week.

Poland divided

The Polish government has taken a hard line in a bid to prevent refugees and migrants from entering the country and beginning asylum claim processes.

The situation has, however, split the country with the liberal opposition, non-governmental organizations and the Catholic Church all criticizing the government's stance.

Poles have also been divided about the fate of a particular group of 30 migrants, suspected to have come from Afghanistan, who have been stranded at the border for over three weeks.

Polish authorities arrested 13 activists over the weekend who had been protesting what they called "inhuman" behavior on the part of the government by cutting a hole in the new fence.

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WORLD



War in Afghanistan is now over: Biden

The US president spoke glowingly about the evacuation, saying it was “one of the biggest airlifts in history. No nation has ever done anything like it.”

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden said he would “go after terror wherever it is” on Tuesday evening, following the messy withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and the US exit from a failed 20-year war.

The country’s swift fall into the hands of the Taliban took onlookers and Afghans by surprise and sent thousands fleeing. Following US withdrawal, the Taliban seized control of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, completing the takeover of much of the country.

What did Biden say on war? Joe Biden said that “the war in Afghanistan is now over” after making a commitment with the American people to end it.

He said \$300 million (€254 million) was spent every day in Afghanistan and it was time to leave.

“I refused to open another decade of war in Afghanistan,” he said, before adding that 800,000 Americans had served in the country and 2,461 had died, including 13 “heroes” last week.

“I was not going to extend this forever war, and I was not going to extend a forever exit,” Biden said, having faced criticism from allies abroad and rivals at home over the nature of the exit, as well as the Taliban’s rapid return to power.

Biden said the US had “succeeded in what we set out to do in Afghanistan over a decade ago. Then we stayed for another decade.

“It was time to end this war,” he reiterated.

What did he say on evacuation?

The US president spoke glowingly about the evacuation, saying it was “one of the biggest airlifts in history. No nation has ever done anything like it.”

He added that “the assumption that more than 300,000



WAR OVER: The country’s swift fall into the hands of the Taliban took onlookers and Afghans by surprise and sent thousands fleeing.

Afghan national security forces we had trained over the past two decades ... would be able to hold a period of time... turned out not to be accurate.”

But Biden said he had “instructed our national security team to prepare for any eventuality, even that one.”

In the end he said 90% of Americans who wanted to leave were airlifted, along with thousands of Afghan diplomats and support staff. More would be brought out as soon as the airport was opened once again by the Taliban.

He said that “with more than 120,000 people evacuated to safety, that number is more than double what most experts saw as possible.”

Biden answered critics who said that the evacuation could have been carried out earlier in a more orderly manner.

“Imagine if we’ve begun evacuations in June or July, bringing thousands of American troops and evacuating more than 120,000 people in the middle of a civil war,” he said. “There would have been a rush to the airport, a breakdown and confidence in control of the government and it still would have been a very difficult and dangerous mission.”

What lessons were learnt?

The US President hinted at a new direction in US foreign policy, indicating the country had learnt important lessons in Afghanistan.

“First, we must set missions with clear achievable goals, not ones will never reach,” he said. “And second, stay clearly focused on the fundamental national security interest of the United States of America.

“It’s about ending an era of major military operations to remake, other countries,” Biden added.

He said this meant “moving on from that mindset in those kinds of large scale troop deployments,” although he said “human rights would be at the center of our foreign policy.”

Looking to the future, Biden explained that “the terror threat has metastasized across the world well beyond Afghanistan.”

“The fundamental obligation of a president in my opinion, is to defend and protect America, not against the threats of 2001, but against the threats of 2021 and tomorrow,” he added. “That is the guiding principle behind my decisions about Afghanistan.”

“The world is changing,” he continued. “There’s nothing China or Russia would want more in

this competition than the United States to be bogged down for another decade in Afghanistan.”

Thousands killed, trillions spent

Meanwhile, leaders of European countries are also debating their next steps regarding how many asylum seekers to take in, and different methods of quickly absorbing a large number of people.

Getting out of Afghanistan was one of Biden’s top campaign promises upon coming into office. The war itself resulted in over 2,300 US military deaths, thousands wounded and around \$2.3 trillion (roughly €2 trillion) spent. However, the chaotic manner of the departure and the speed of the Taliban’s return to power has shocked many in the US, as well as some of Washington’s allies. More critical western voices have questioned how the Afghan departure and its aftermath squares with Biden’s repeated promise to allies that “America is back” in the aftermath of the “America First” mantra of his predecessor, Donald Trump.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that Afghans who were not able to get out of Kabul on evacuation flights would not be forgotten. **—DW**

NEW CHAPTER



New chapter of engagement with Afghanistan has begun: US

WASHINGTON DC: As foreign forces concluded their drawdown from Kabul, the United States said that they have entered a “new chapter” of engagement with Afghanistan.

The US completed the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan on August 30, ending one of its longest wars. In a matter of few weeks, US and Coalition forces evacuated more than 123,000 civilians out of Afghanistan and slightly more than 6,000 of them were US citizens.

“And our work continues, as you heard from the Secretary (Anthony Blinken). A new chapter of America’s engagement with Afghanistan has begun,” US Department of State spokesperson Ned Price said in a press briefing.

Price said that the US will continue to facilitate safe travel of people out of Afghanistan, including by doing everything they can to support the reopening of Kabul airport. “We are focused and clear-eyed as we enter this new chapter with Afghanistan,” he added.

Price said that the US will manage their diplomacy for the way ahead with Afghanistan via Doha.

As US and allied forces completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan, a resolution was passed by the UN Security Council on Monday, requiring the Taliban to honour their commitment to let people freely leave Afghanistan.

“And yesterday, the UNSC

Price said that the US will continue to facilitate safe travel of people out of Afghanistan, including by doing everything they can to support the reopening of Kabul airport

passed a resolution, a resolution that enshrines that responsibility, thereby laying the groundwork for another mechanism to hold the Taliban accountable if they do not follow through,” said State Department Spokesperson.

The US has been in contact with Americans who are still on the ground in Afghanistan and provided them with information on how to continue to stay in touch after the US troops’ withdrawal, he added.

“We have already been in touch with the American citizens in Afghanistan who either decided to remain there or who are unable to be evacuated,” Price said.

He said nearly 100 Americans remain in Afghanistan and Washington will continue to be in contact with them as it explores options for their evacuation. “We’re exploring every potential option to bring any American out of the country who wishes to depart,” Price said. **ANI**

GRAVE CONCERN

Humanitarian catastrophe looms in Afghanistan, warns UN chief Guterres

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday warned of a looming humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan as the last US troops left the country.

According to CNN, Guterres expressed grave concern at what he said was the “deepening humanitarian and economic crisis” in Afghanistan as the country entered what he called “a new phase.” “A humanitarian catastrophe looms” in Afghanistan, he said.

“Today, almost half of the population of Afghanistan - 18 million people - need humanitarian assistance to survive,” CNN quoted Guterres as saying.

“Next week, we will release details of the most immediate humanitarian needs and funding requirements over the next four months in a Flash Appeal for Afghanistan,” he said, adding that he urges member states to “dig deep” for the people of Afghanistan.

He said, “I urge them to provide timely, flexible and comprehensive funding.”

Earlier on Monday, a UN shipment carrying lifesaving medical supplies reached Afghanistan by air. It was the first UN shipment since the Taliban



takeover on August 15.

There are nearly 10 million children in Afghanistan “in desperate need of humanitarian aid,” said UNICEF Afghanistan Representative, Herve Ludovic De Lys, adding that these children are deprived of their right to a healthy and protected childhood.

He said that against a backdrop of conflict and insecurity,

children are living in communities that are running out of water because of drought.

“They’re missing life-saving vaccines, including against polio, a disease that can paralyze children for life. Many are so malnourished they lie in hospital beds too weak to grasp an outstretched finger,” he said. **ANI**

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Andreescu remains undefeated, top seed Barty in round two

Bianca Andreescu, remained undefeated at Flushing Meadows after surging past Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic



US OPEN: The big names played big across Ashe, Louis Armstrong Stadium, and the Grandstand

NEW YORK: Day 2 at the 2021 US Open saw absolute dominance from seeded players on the stadium courts as they successfully avoided any early exit from New York.

The big names played big across Ashe, Louis Armstrong Stadium, and the Grandstand. The first nine matches on those three stages finished in straight sets, all in favour of the favourites. On the women's side, Ashleigh Barty, Karolina Pliskova, Iga Swiatek, Petra Kvitova, Belinda Bencic and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova all sailed through, with only the

Aussie Barty pushed as far as a tiebreak.

The reigning Wimbledon champ prevented any further drama by sealing a 6-1, 7-6 win over Vera Zvonareva, taking the breaker, 9-7. Across two days of opening-round play, all of the women's Top 20 seeds advanced

to the next round.

The 2019 champion Bianca Andreescu, the No. 6 seed, remained undefeated at Flushing Meadows after surging past Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic, 7-5, 4-6, 7-5 in a late-night first-round win. She booked a second-round clash with American Lauren Davis.

The Canadian made history two years ago in New York when she became the first player to win a US Open title on her main draw debut, and on Tuesday in Arthur Ashe Stadium she produced a steady, determined performance to take down a crafty player in the midst of her best season. **ANI**

SHOT PUT



Oman's shot putter Al Mashaykhi bags medal at Paralympics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mohammed bin Jameel Al Mashaykhi won a bronze medal in the shot put competition for the F34 category at the Paralympic Games hosted by Tokyo.

"National team player Mohammed bin Jameel Al Mashaykhi won the bronze in the shot put competition at the Paralympic Games hosted by Tokyo from August 24 to September 5, while Iman Bint Tayseer Al Shamsi came in 10th in the shot put competitions for the F34 category in which 4,400 athletes from 160 countries and territories participated," Oman News Agency (ONA) said in a statement. Mohammad Al Mashaykhi set a new Omani record in shot put by achieving a distance



of 10.84 metres. China's Li Liu won the gold medal while Russian Alexei Churkin won the silver medal, and Algerian Lahwari Bahlaza came fourth.

NEW ZEALAND VS BANGLADESH

Mustafizur, Mushfiqur star as Bangladesh beat New Zealand

DHAKA: Mustafizur Rahman's three-wicket haul and Mushfiqur Rahim's unbeaten 16-run knock helped Bangladesh defeat New Zealand by seven wickets in the first T20I of the five-match series here at the Shere Bangla National Stadium on Wednesday.

With this win, Bangladesh has taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. The next match will be played on Friday. Chasing 61, Bangladesh got off to a bad start as openers Mohammad Naim (1) and Liton Das (1) were dismissed with the score being just 7. However, experienced campaigners Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim got together to put 30 runs on the board. However, in the 10th over, this stand came to an end as Rachin Ravindra dismissed Shakib (25), reducing Bangladesh to



37/3. In the end, Mushfiqur (16*) and Mahmudullah (14*) guided Bangladesh to a seven-wicket win with 30 balls to spare.

Earlier, a spirited bowling performance from Bangladesh bowlers helped the hosts bundle out

New Zealand for just 60 inside 17 overs.

Opting to bat first, New Zealand got off to a bad start as the side lost its first four wickets with just nine runs on the board. Rachin Ravindra (0), Will Young

(5), Colin de Grandhomme (1), and Tom Blundell (2) all failed to leave a mark with the bat and Bangladesh spinners came into their own pretty early on.

Tom Latham and Henry Nicholls put on 34 runs for the fifth wicket but Bangladesh stormed right back as Saifuddin and Shakib dismissed Latham (18) and Cole McConchie (0), reducing New Zealand to 45/6 in the 12th over.

No Kiwi batter was able to stay at the crease for a long haul and in the end, the visitors were bowled out for 60 inside 17 overs.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 60 all out (Tom Latham 18, Henry Nicholls 18, Mustafizur Rahman 3-13); Bangladesh 62/3 (Shakib Al Hasan 25, Mushfiqur Rahim 16*, Ajaz Patel 1-7). **ANI**

COMMENTARY

One-to-one with the Lord of Lord's, the Colonel Dilip Vengsarkar



Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

IT WAS GREAT catching up with Dilip Vengsarkar, one of India's greatest cricketers, who spoke his heart out on a one-to-one Zoom Chat.

My first question to him was how he conquered Lord's by being the only overseas batsman to score three triple hundreds at the Home of Cricket.

He started on by saying that his first innings at Lord's was duck and when he went on to bat in the second innings he was very nervous as he did not want to get a pair. He scored a marvellous hundred in the second innings and helped India save that test match.

In India's 1982 tour of England Dilip Vengsarkar scored another hundred but could not help India save the game but the third hundred at Lord's was special as it helped India to win its first test match at Lord's which was a record in itself and also made him the only overseas batsman to score three consecutive hundreds in three series, 1978, 1982 and 1986.

He added that the hundred at Leeds was more special as India went to win the series 2-0 and he was the deservedly named Man of the Series for scoring 360 in the three test match series.

My next question was obviously about how he felt being a member of the World Cup winning squad of 1983 which changed the face of Indian cricket and he said nothing can beat this feeling even though he did not play the finals which helped India being recognised in the one-day format.

Vengsarkar also has six centuries against the fearsome West Indies whom he rates as the best bowling attack of the world which had

a battery of five fast bowlers playing and six sitting in the dugout. And every hundred he scored was special as it came against the best bowling attack.

Dilip Vengsarkar also had a successful stint as Chairman of selector when India recorded its last test series win in England in 2006 under Rahul Dravid's captaincy. And also India winning the T20 World Cup in 2007 which was another feather in his cap.

When I asked him about one special knock of unbeaten 139 against Haryana, he says he still feels sad about the loss to Haryana by just two runs but he is proud of Mumbai winning 41 times the Ranjhi Trophy finals.

When I asked him about India's current series in England and what went wrong at Leeds for team India, he said the batsman were not applying themselves and gave credit to England bowlers for coming back to win that test match.

When I asked him about one advice for Virat Kohli who is going through a lean patch in the series, he replied Virat will have to be patient and spend time at the crease and not push for balls which are outside the off stump. He believes a big score is around the corner for Virat and Oval is one ground Virat can get it.

My last question was will India win the series and he said Indian team has the potential and if the batsman put on runs they should win the series.

Vengsarkar believes India should play an extra batsman in Suryakumar Yadav and should definitely include Ravichandran Ashwin ahead of Ravindra Jadeja.

No doubt he is deservedly called the Colonel as bowlers feared him when he came on to bat and playing 116 Test matches was no mean feat in the highest form of cricket.

FOOTBALL



Griezmann makes shock return to Atletico Madrid from Barcelona

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann has made a shock return to Atletico de Madrid after Rojiblancos and FC Barcelona reached an agreement on Wednesday over a one-year loan with an option to extend for a further year, renewable by either party.

The Frenchman first joined Atleti ahead of the 2014/15 season and made his debut on August 10, 2014 during the Spanish Super Cup, which the club won. The Frenchman's first goal came just over a month later, in a Champions League clash against Olympiakos.

Griezmann is Atletico's club's all-time fifth top scorer with 133 goals in 257 matches. He also provided 50 assists. During his 257 Atleti matches, Griezmann won one Spanish Super Cup, one Europa League and one UEFA Super Cup.

BACK TO SCHOOL

With the reopening of schools for students in the Sultanate scheduled in September, Muscat Media Group would be offering special, discounted advertising packages for schools and educational institutions across its print, digital, radio and social media platforms of Times of Oman & Al Shabiba to showcase their establishment and invite enrolments.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2021 reaching \$70.47, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 77 cents. - ONA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,974.35 points, up 0.19 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 586.97 points. OIFC, up 8.27 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 4.95 per cent, was the top loser.

GCC stock market index touches seven-year high

The index closed at a 7-year high level on August 17, 2021, but as investors booked profits, the index receded towards the end of the month to close at 708.48 points, registering a monthly gain of 4.3 per cent



DUBAI FINANCIAL MARKET: The DFM index bounced back after declining in July 2021 to show a gain of 5.0 per cent during August-2021 sharing the top spot with ADX in terms of index performance in the GCC during August 21. - File picture

mixed returns during the month but highlighted gains for key large-cap sectors.

It also highlighted the effects of waning COVID-19 cases in the region as investors booked profits on sectors that were resilient during the pandemic resulting in a decline in these sectoral indices during August-2021.

Pharma and Biotech witnessed the biggest decline of 12.6 per cent during the month followed by a second consecutive month of declines for the Food & Beverage and Consumer Durable & Apparel sectors at 3.5 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively. Gainers, on the other hand, saw Insurance and Banks at the top with returns of 7.1 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively.

Omani stock market

The Omani stock market declined for the second consecutive month and was the only market in the GCC to close in the red during August 2021. The index showed a declining trend since the start of the month only to show partial recovery during the last week. The index traded below the critical support level of 4,000 points during the month and closed at 3,966.7 points with a monthly decline of 1.6 per cent. With a decline during August-2021, the MSX 30 index now shows the second-smallest gain in the GCC at 8.4 per cent.

Sector performance remained mixed during the month with gains of 2.0 per cent recorded by the Industrial index whereas the Services and Financial Indices reported declines of 0.5 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively.

The monthly gains further pushed the growth for the Industrial index 38.8 per cent, the high-

est in the market, followed by Financial and Services indices with returns of 11.9 per cent and 7.1 per cent, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange showed mixed trends during August 2021. The total volume of shares traded during the month declined for the second consecutive month by 17.7 per cent to the lowest in six months at 281.6 million shares as compared to 342.1 million shares during July-2021.

On the other hand, monthly value traded witnessed a gain of 6.0 per cent to reach OMR56.2 million as compared to OMR93.0 million during July-2021, the Kamco Invest report said.

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

Saudi Stock Exchange reported its eighth consecutive month of gains during August 2021 amid sector performance during the month.

The index traded above the 11,000 points mark to close the month at 11,319.2 points, registering a monthly gain of 2.8 per cent. The benchmark started the month on a positive note with consistent gains but showed weakness during the mid-month only to recover towards the end of the month.

The monthly stock performance was topped by recently listed Tanmiah Food with a gain of 67.2 per cent followed by Leejam Sports and Bupa Arabia with gains of 26.6 per cent and 21.0 per cent, respectively. On the decliners chart, Gulf General Coop Insurance topped with a decline of 14.9 per cent.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The performance of the Abu Dhabi Exchange (ADX) continued to re-

main positive during August-2021 recording gains for the eleventh consecutive month. The index gained 5.0 per cent during the month, the biggest monthly gain in the GCC during August 2021, to close at 7,684.61 points.

With consecutive positive performance since the start of the year, the ADX index showed one of the highest returns globally at 52.3 per cent. Gains during the month was led by positive performance across all sectors on the exchange.

This included double-digit gains for the Industrial index which recorded monthly returns of 17.5 per cent that was mainly led by a 46.7 per cent gain in shares of Arkan Building Materials further supported by gains of 27.1 per cent and 22.7 per cent in shares of RAK Ceramics and Gulf Pharmaceuticals, respectively.

DFM

The Dubai Financial Market (DFM) index bounced back after declining in July 2021 to show a gain of 5.0 per cent during August 2021 sharing the top spot with ADX in terms of index performance in the GCC during August 21.

The DFMGI benchmark closed the month at 2,902.97 points after declining only on six trading sessions during the month. In terms of performance, the index showed gains of 16.5 per cent at the end of August 2021, the fourth highest in the GCC.

The sector performance chart also reflected the solid gains in the aggregate benchmark with all the sectors, barring the Telecom index that showed a marginal decline of 0.3 per cent, showing gains during the month.

MADAYN



DIGITISE: The platform shall present an advanced educational environment, which will digitise all procedures associated with training. - Supplied picture

Pact inked to develop e-Learning platform

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn signed an agreement with Reem Al Bawadi Company (RAB HR) to develop an e-Learning platform to provide education and training programmes to Madayn's employees as well as the employees of companies and factories based in the various industrial cities.

Zuhair Al Zadjali, Director General of Admin and HR at Madayn, emphasised the significance of the e-Learning Platform to equip and empower the employees with various relevant skills in line with the emerging training and development trends and to keep pace with the latest training curriculum and methods.

Al Zadjali added that the platform shall present an advanced

educational environment, which will digitise all procedures associated with training, save and archive data electronically, reduce training-related expenses, provide training opportunities to a large number of trainees, and ensure the continuity of Madayn's training efforts in light of the disruption caused by COVID-19.

Madayn's e-Learning platform reflects the continuity of the efforts made to achieve sustainable and comprehensive economic and social development based on the capabilities and talents of the national cadres. By organising a series of training programmes in various fields, Madayn aims at enhancing the productivity of the national cadres and equipping them with essential competencies as per the needs and requirements of factories and companies based in industrial cities.

IATA REPORT

Middle East's July air cargo volumes rise 11.3%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern carriers posted an 11.3 per cent rise in international cargo volumes in July 2021 versus July 2019, according to the latest report by IATA. "This was a decrease compared to the previous month (15.8 per cent). Some routes, however, are still posting strong performance, for example on the large Middle East-Asia trade lanes," the International Air Transport Association (IATA) released July 2021 data for global air cargo markets shows.

This shows that demand continued its strong growth trend, IATA further said in its latest report. As comparisons between 2021 and 2020 monthly results are distorted by the extraordinary impact of COVID-19, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons to

follow are to June 2019 which followed a normal demand pattern. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), was up 8.6 per cent compared to July 2019. Overall growth remains strong compared to the long-term average growth trend of around 4.7 per cent.

The pace of growth slowed slightly compared to June which saw demand increase 9.2 per cent (against pre-COVID-19 levels). Capacity continues to recover but is still 10.3 per cent down compared to July 2019.

The IATA report further said that economic conditions continue to support air cargo growth. The July export orders component of the manufacturing Purchasing Managers Indices (PMIs) was 52.7 per cent, indicating a short-term boost to demand if those orders are shipped by air.



New retail openings at Al Mouj Muscat signals continuous growth

B8



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MARKET

MSM index ends higher

OIFC, up 8.27 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 4.95 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,974.35 points, up 0.19 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 586.97 points. OIFC, up 8.27 per cent, was the top gainer while Takaful Oman, down 4.95 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded and the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 872 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.99 million, with more than 23.07 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 10 advanced, 7 declined and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR223,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR121,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR102,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,332.3 points, up 0.17 per cent.

Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Bank Muscat, and Al Anwar Investment were up by 1.96 per cent, 1.71 per cent, 0.91 per cent, and 0.85 per cent respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, and National Finance were down by 4.95 per cent and 1.85 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,961.21 points, down 0.01 per cent. The price of National Aluminium Products was up by 2.69 per cent. Prices of Oman Flour Mills was down by 0.50 per cent.

Services Index was up by 0.88 per cent before closing at 1,719.34 points. Prices of OIFC, National Gas Company, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, and Muscat Desalination were up by 8.27 per cent, 4.05 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 1.96 per cent, and 1.21 per cent respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services, and Oman National Engineering were down by 1.35 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	3,975.41	3,966.97	3,974.35	3,966.75	7.61	0.19
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,333.90	6,322.72	6,332.29	6,321.78	10.52	0.17
Industry Index	5,965.50	5,961.20	5,961.20	5,961.66	-0.45	-0.01
Services Index	1,719.34	1,705.55	1,719.34	1,704.36	14.98	0.88
MSX Shariah Index	588.29	586.97	586.97	588.29	-1.32	-0.22
MSX TR INDEX	4,871.63	4,861.28	4,870.33	4,861.00	9.32	0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
23,076,689	2,985,033	872	21,933,127,041	10	7	26	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	9,841,740	1,421,463	199	0.134	0.146	0.134	0.144	0.133	0.011	8.271	0.146	0.140	0.146	0.100	34,128,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	303,450	46,716	51	0.150	0.157	0.150	0.154	0.148	0.006	4.054	0.154	0.150	0.154	0.100	13,090,000
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIA INV.	1,582,428	184,886	76	0.103	0.105	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.002	1.961	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	9,860,000
OM0000000277	AL OMANIYA FIN.	21,000	2,590	2	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.002	1.709	0.119	0.118	0.120	0.100	34,740,285
OM0000000296	BANK MUSCAT	314,643	139,705	13	0.444	0.446	0.444	0.444	0.440	0.004	0.909	0.446	0.444	0.470	0.100	1,587,066,808
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,020,283	360,782	125	0.120	0.121	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.001	0.847	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.100	23,800,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	5,000	1,330	1	0.266	0.266	0.266	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.266	0.266	0.271	0.100	54,000,000
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,810,700	114,389	52	0.062	0.064	0.062	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.062	0.064	0.100	15,350,218
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	9,500	9,310	8	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.000	0.000	0.980	0.980	1.000	0.100	87,906,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	17,220	3,932	5	0.228	0.230	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.228	0.226	0.230	0.100	75,438,978
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	3,000	324	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.100	210,563,006
OM00000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	31,250	12,375	4	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.000	0.000	0.396	0.394	0.396	0.100	24,236,892
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	23,050	17,514	9	0.760	0.760	0.756	0.760	0.760	0.000	0.000	0.756	0.756	0.760	0.100	570,000,000
OM00000003396	SOHAR INT BANK	3,258	303	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.091	0.093	0.100	278,073,793
OM00000003968	OOREDOO	100	39	1	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.384	0.384	0.000	0.000	0.388	0.382	0.408	0.100	249,962,584
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	155,000	72,540	9	0.468	0.468	0.468	0.468	0.468	0.000	0.000	0.468	0.468	0.470	0.100	25,740,000
OM00000006920	VISION INSURANCE	155,000	12,595	7	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	8,100,000
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	5,000	7,164	4	0.796	0.796	0.796	0.796	0.800	-0.004	-0.500	0.796	0.788	0.880	0.100	125,370,000
OM00000000224	RENAISSANCE SER.	105,000	46,200	3	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.446	-0.006	-1.345	0.440	0.434	0.450	0.100	104,020,400
Total		19	17,420,622	2,434,180	572											

Parallel Market

OM00000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD	1489975	227798	131	0.156	0.156	0.150	0.153	0.149	0.004	2.685	0.150	0.151	0.151	0.100	5136432
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	26098	1201	5	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.001	2.222	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	67279667
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	50589	2631	5	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	37149130
OM00000007084	MCT DESALINATE	15500	1302	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.100	13066234
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	30305	5667	2	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.183	0.187	0.100	304051969
OM00000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	102000	9542	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	156029089
OM00000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	622506	46455	17	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	9140625
OM00000001982	AL MADINA INV.	16000	976	1	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.060	0.062	0.100	4270000
OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1206880	72413	26	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	20948665
OM00000002949	BANK DHOFAR	149821	17679	5	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.116	0.118	0.100	353569469
OM00000003125	GLOBAL INV H.	627882	43324	16	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.067	0.070	0.100	13800000
OM00000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	116700	9567	17	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	20794380
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	865800	69064	34	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	16238916
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	300	30	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.095	0.106	0.100	222078947
OM00000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	2000	162	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.088	0.100	76365756
OM00000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	256155	26878	19	0.105	0.106	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	18375000
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1427	73	2	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.053	0.100	34419259
OM00000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1499	135	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.082	0.099	0.100	18000000
OM00000001132	OMAN NAT ENG.	10000	350	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.064	0.083	0.083	0.093	0.100	12090000
OM00000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	27400	2904	1	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	-0.002	-1.852	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	57370423
OM00000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	21000	1832	6	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.089	-0.002	-2.247	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	56964028
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	5330	513	2	0.102	0.102	0.096	0.096	0.101	-0.005	-4.950	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	9600000
Total		5645767	541074	298												

OVERSEAS INVESTORS

Foreign holdings of Chinese bonds rise

BEIJING: Overseas investors raised their holdings of Chinese bonds for the 32nd month in a row in July as the yield of Chinese government bonds remained attractive. Overseas investors held a total of 3.38 trillion yuan of Chinese bonds by the end of July, rising 75.4 billion yuan from a month earlier. -Xinhua

ABU DHABI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

ADX waives minimum commission fee on trading on all listed securities

ABU DHABI: The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) has announced it waived its minimum commission fee on trades in all listed securities starting from August 31 to further encourage market participation among individual investors on one of the best-performing markets in the world this year.

The decision follows the announcement on Saturday of a 50 per cent reduction in trading commissions along with an extension of market opening hours by one hour to 3 pm. These initiatives are part of the "ADX One" strategy announced at the beginning of this year, which aims to bolster activity and deepen liquidity on the exchange.

The removal of the minimum commission fee will facilitate higher volumes of small trades, typically undertaken by individual investors. The idea has been met with positive feedback in

The removal of the minimum commission fee will facilitate higher volumes of small trades

informal soundings among key stakeholders, including investors, brokers and listed companies.

Saeed Hamad Al Dhaheri, Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, said, "ADX is an increasingly vibrant market that provides global and local investors with high-quality access to the strong economic fundamentals in the region, and Abu Dhabi in particular. By waiving the minimum fee and reducing commission rates on all listed securities, we are providing more cost-effective trading for indi-

vidual investors, ensuring that they benefit from the investment opportunities available to institutional investors. By increasing liquidity as well as broadening our offering of products and services, ADX will become an even more attractive market."

The reduction in trading fees to 0.025 per cent from 0.05 per cent, which will take effect on September 1, is the exchange's second commission cut in 2021, and the third in three years. Meanwhile, the decision to extend trading hours will be implemented from October 3.

The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange General Index has recently reached 7700 points for the first time, supported by a series of listings and increased participation by international investors. In addition, the index has gained 52 per cent year to date, making it one of the best performing equity indexes in the world. -WAM

FINANCIAL YEAR 2022

Morgan Stanley maintains India GDP growth estimate of 10.5%

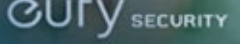
MUMBAI: Morgan Stanley on Wednesday maintained its estimate of India GDP growth at 10.5 per cent for FY2022 versus the general consensus of 9.2 per cent.

"We expect economic activity to start normalising from the quarter ending September, supported by pent-up demand, the ramp-up of the vaccination drive (which is picking up pace and tracking at an average of 7 million per day), favourable policy mix and robust global growth," it said in a research report.

GDP growth is expected to move into positive territory on a two-year CAGR basis from QE September. However, said Morgan Stanley, key risks to watch are the pace of vaccination (any slowdown could increase risks) and the trend in Covid-19 cases - potential re-acceleration, threat from new variants and restrictions on activity.

GDP grew 20.1 per cent year-on-year in the quarter ending June. On a two-year CAGR basis, real GDP contracted 4.7 per cent in QE June versus plus 2.3 per cent in QE March.

On a seasonally adjusted sequential basis, GDP declined 6.3 per cent, reflecting the impact of restrictions on the activity as the second wave surged during April and May. -ANI



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Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning - Offices, Villas & Flats. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289 Email: sales@oceancentre.co

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Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

ENGINEER

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A leading company **requires Executive office Assistant (Female-only Omani)** with experience in related field. Well versed with English, basic communication skills, computer knowledge. Send the resume at: hr.mus18@gmail.com

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Need Nurse for Dental Clinic, Al Khuwair. Whatsapp 95961234, Email: sundentalghubra@hotmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Requires Marketing person - Wood products Factory looking for Marketing person. Min 6-7 years experience in Oman market. Valid GCC Driving license. Contact 96652000

Sales Executives Required with Oman D/L & minimum 3 years experience in field Sales and marketing, Building Material experience preferred. Contact 98264277, hrinfoafg@gmail.com

Leading wholesale furniture company requires to recruit a **Salesperson with 3 years experience**, preferably in furniture, holds Omani driving license and has a knowledge of Arabic and English. Kindly forward CV to: organization.oman.furniture@gmail.com

Urgently required young & energetic **Sales Executive** with Omani DL for a reputed MNC. Location - Muscat, Contact 96545020

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Contact Number # 78556829

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Indian Male, having 12 years of Experience in Oman, presently working as Projects Manager, NOC available.

Contact 92636569
Email: nisarg_shah35@yahoo.com

SR CIVIL ENGINEER / PROJECT MANAGER

Graduate male over 23yrs exp in Oman & India Handled Ministry & Pvt Projects looking for suitable job. DL & NOC available.

Mob: +919150861939
email: sanja_bala@yahoo.co.in

Business Management

Syrian Female seeking suitable placement with Bachelor in Business Management, 6 years experience in Accounting, Finance, Administration, Office Coordinator with excellent communication skills in Arabic & English. Family Visa with valid D/L.

Pls contact 91917771

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

Smart Indian, Masters, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp in Airport Projects, Hospital. Media in Project Coordination, Corporate & Mktg. Communication, CEO & Chairman Office Mngmt, Operations, Marketing. NOC, Immediate.

CONTACT 99283938

HSE/ PRO/ADMIN/DRIVER/DEBT Collection

Omani 37 yrs, second secondary, 6 courses in health and safety, public relation and debt collection, Driving license for 19 yrs. Languages known Arabic, English. Resident in al Khuwair.

Contact 99340475
Email: saidzadjali@gmail.com

Senior Management

Indian Male, 45 Yrs, MBA Marketing, having 20+ years experience (7 yrs Gulf) looking for suitable Senior Management position in Purchase, Contracts, Supply Chain Management. Oman DL & NOC available.

Contact No. 97228393

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OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

Finance & Accounts Manager

With 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for full time employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023
rajugetime10@yahoo.com

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Contact +96895070748
Email: Siyabi1430@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available. Can join immediately.

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

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Contact 94948676

FINANCE

Chief Accountant/Finance Manager. Indian Male with more than 16 years experience in Oman. Can handle accounts of Trading, Manufacturing, Real Estate up to finalization.

Contact 78040335
Email: kramct2021@gmail.com

Purchasing and Marketing

Indian Male, 26 Years old, B Com Graduate having 4+ years of Oman experience in Purchasing and Sales role in an excellent grade Construction and Trading Company with fine market knowledge is looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L, NOC available.

Contact: 90158051
junaidsalaahi@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Female, CA, with 3 Years experience in Audit & Taxation (PwC India) seeking suitable placement. Contact 92304530. Email abhisheksebastian@icloud.com

Senior Accountant, B.Com with MBA Finance, with 16 years experience in Construction accounts (13 years in Oman & 3 years in India) seek immediate placement. NOC available. Contact 78581435 or email: career.4727@gmail.com

Indian male B.Com with 12+ yrs of experience in Accounts upto finalisation, is looking for a suitable placement. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 95089869. Email annchanda@gmail.com

Senior Accountant with 12 years' experience in Oman seeking for suitable change. NOC available. Contact 96793565

Indian Male, eight years of experience in finance, Looking for suitable job. Contact 90471280

Indian nationality having 11 years experience including 6 years experience in Oman in Accountant searching for job. Contact 96318665 Email: ahmedzulphikar@gmail.com

Indian male. B. COM with M. Com & PGDCA, tally (advanced level) & ERP, +visual basic programming with over 12 years working in Oman looking for Senior Accountant position. Contact +968 71551938

Looking for Senior Accountant job. Having driving license also. Contact 79202007

Accountant having 15 years experience in Accounts and can handle up to finalization seeking suitable placement. Contact 99262495

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

ENGINEER

Indian Female currently in Muscat having experience in office administration, Logistics management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs Contact 79639093. Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

Indian Male 30 years old, having 9 years' experience in CNC Machine Programmer, setter & supervising looking for a suitable opportunity. Contact +96893381943, whatsapp +9170494824599.

Indian male, looking job for Project Coordinator/tender coordinator 16 years in Oman & having secretarial, business development, projects operation/office coordination experiences. Contact 78107206. Email: dasabhaycharannityananda@gmail.com

Indian, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years professional Oman experience in EPC, Media, Healthcare, Aviation. # 99283938

B.E Civil Engineer having 13 yrs of Oman experience in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact 72132426

B.Tech Civil Engineer 25 yrs+ exp (18 yrs Oman) seeking suitable placement-exp Buildings (Commercial/Residential multi-storeyed) infrastructure waterline, Oil/ Gas, plant infra. Available to join immediately, valid Omani D/L, NOC is available. Contact 92671539. Email: pvmmani_2006@yahoo.com

Electrical Engineer, 8 years experience in projects, O&G, O&M, Management, valid Visa and D/L. Contact 9778314

HSE adviser iosh certified with 4 years experience. Contact 94070019. Email: mubashirosmann89@gmail.com

MEP Mechanical Engineer with 2 years exp. Contact 79027224

B.E Civil Engineer having 14 yrs Experience in construction of building & Roads with Consultants and Contractor. NOC available immediate joining. Contact 94011294. Email: adnanluky@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driving job with NOC. Contact 97095200

Looking light driver job. Contact 95936003

Experienced L/Driver, Speaks English/Arabic. Contact 79250786

Looking for light driver job. Contact 96586445

MEDICAL

A Senior general physician with valid MOH licence, data flow, prometric, ACLS BLS certificates looking for a suitable placement in Muscat area. NOC available from current employer. Contact Whatsapp 91465358

Female, Btech in computer science and engineering, worked as Software Developer, adequate knowledge in Angular, HTML, MS SQL, MS EXCEL, ASP.NET, seeking suitable job. On residence visa. Contact 94002988

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Inventory, Purchase, Sales: Indian male 30, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B operations, Accounting and various other skills, NOC available. Contact 96219904 Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

BE Civil engineer, 12 years gulf experience with valid visa 2 years. Seeking consultant & contracting job. Contact 92351318

Electrical Engineer with 10 years experience in UG cables, overhead lines, and primary substations. Valid D/L & NOC available. # 98223842

Indian male MSC Computer science. 27 years old, 3 year experience in Procurement. Employment visa, valid Oman D/L, NOC available. Contact 92676197

Indian male B. Tech Civil Engineer with one year experience and holding Oman D/L is looking for a suitable opening. Contact 78066342

EDUCATION

Indian male, over 15 years of experience in GFP teaching (IT and basic Math) and Administration, seeking placement. NOC available. Contact 93309085

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SALES/MARKETING

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

REDUCE YOUR RISK



OF FALLING

by taking these simple steps

A fall can result in unwanted outcomes, including injury, loss of independence, and a decreased ability to do the things that are most important to you or a loved one. Each year, 3 million older adults are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries. Even falls that don't lead to injury can provoke a fear of falling that causes you to avoid the activities that keep you healthy, strong, and ultimately less likely to fall. While falls are dangerous,

the good news is that experts say they're largely preventable. "While many factors can contribute to our chances of falling as we get older, falling is not a normal part of aging," says physical therapist and American Physical Therapy Association spokesperson Greg Hartley, PT, DPT. "Working with a physical therapist can empower you or a loved one to regain balance and strength." The American Physical Therapy Association offers the following tips to help you reduce your risk of falling:



1

GET MOVING

For older adults, physical activity reduces the risk of falling and fall-related injuries. Stay active to maintain the strength, flexibility, coordination, and balance needed to prevent falls. From swimming to yoga to walking, take part in a variety of physical activities that you enjoy. Talk to your physical therapist to determine which activities are safe for you.

2

KNOW YOUR RISKS

A physical therapist can help you assess your risk factors and develop a plan to address them so you can remain independent. Tell your doctor or physical therapist if you have any dizziness, loss of balance, or trouble seeing. Be sure to tell them whether you fell in the last year.

3

CHECK YOUR MEDICATIONS

Many drugs can cause dizziness, loss of balance, blurry vision, and more. If you have any of these symptoms, review your medications with your pharmacist or doctor.

4

ASSESS YOUR HOME'S SAFETY

Assess your home to fix or remove anything that could cause trips or slips, such as throw rugs, clutter, poor lighting, and wobbly furniture or handrails. It's also a good idea to install a secure grab bar in the shower and next to the toilet for sturdy support on slippery floors. If you can't make these safety improvements yourself, ask a friend or family member to help. Check with your doctor, physical therapist, or area agency on aging for local programmes that offer home safety assessments.

5

WORK WITH A PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Physical therapy (with exercise) focused on balance, stability, and the ability to perform common tasks is recommended and can prevent falls, according to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Physical therapists are able to help you avoid a fall in the first place, as they are movement experts who can work with you to assess your fall risk factors and develop a plan to address them. They will advise you on making your home safer, educate you about medical risk factors linked to falls, and design a safe balance training programmes specific to you.

With the right resources and support, you can reduce your risk of a fall and maintain your quality of life. — Statepoint

FEATURE



You can find small, self-made solar power panels on walls and balconies, roofs and terraces all over the world. Here's a look at what kinds of systems are out there — and how to build them, keeping in mind costs.

HOW TO GENERATE YOUR OWN



SOLAR ENERGY

1. Plugged into the grid: Mini systems for your home

Ever more people are meeting their electricity needs by purchasing mini solar panel systems, known as plug-in solar devices. The small photovoltaic systems come with one or two modules and have a power capacity of up to 600 watts each. That's enough to meet up to 30 per cent of the energy needs of one household, for example providing electricity for the fridge, washing machine, dishwasher or computer.

What is unique about small panel systems is that they can be plugged into any normal household outlet, which is how they feed the solar power into the grid. Installation is easy — it's literally "plug and play" — while the devices have been deemed safe. Another benefit is that you don't need an electrician to install them. They can go on your balcony, your roof or in your garden or yard.

"There are already several hundreds of thousands of these types of systems in use in Germany and its neighbouring countries. The devices are basically very safe, so far they're not known to have caused any kind of damage," says Thomas Seltmann, a photovoltaic expert at the Consumer Association for the western German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

And there is a lot of interest. "We are at the beginning for a boom of plug-in solar devices," says Seltmann.

2. 'Island' solar systems

In 2010, around 2 billion people lacked electricity in many regions of the world because they didn't have access to an electricity grid. Today, that number has dropped by 1.3 billion. The reason: It's easy to generate electricity anywhere these days thanks to what are known as island solar systems. Equipped with a solar module and a battery, it's an easy and very affordable solution.

These small solar home systems include a tiny 4-watt module with a battery and an efficient LED lamp generating enough light to do homework at night.

A slightly bigger island solar system that comes with a 50-watt module could power and additional several lights along with a television. And one that comes with a 250-watt module could even keep a refrigerator running.

Powering something bigger, such as an electric car, would require a 2,000-watt system, or roughly 10 square metres of modules. With that amount of electricity, a car could drive up to 16,000 kilometres (9,941 miles).

3. Solar power to go

Solar motion detectors for lights, solar lamps and solar plant-watering systems are becoming increasingly popular in people's homes; while campers have discovered mobile mini solar panel systems.

Such systems are comprised of a solar module that can be easily folded up, as well as an inverter with a battery. These mobile power systems come in all different shapes and sizes for different needs, from tiny panels the size of a wallet that let you charge your cell phone, to very powerful systems with a capacity of 160 watts that let you charge your bike batteries, as well as power your laptop and fridge inside of a camper van. Many people buy them from specialised online retailers.

After your trip, you can still use them at home. The solar module can be easily placed on a window sill, where it could charge a phone. Or a bigger system could even serve as a backup power source for the fridge if the power goes out.

4. How much does solar power cost?

The price of mini solar panel systems depends on the performance of the module and battery. Other cost-decisive factors are quality, appearance and functionality.

Prices for good quality, mini solar home systems with a small battery and an economical lamp start at around €30 (\$35), while island solar systems that can power a TV and fridge would cost several hundred euros. Mobile solar power systems for camping, which come with special panels that can be folded to fit into your backpack, have the same functionality but cost a bit more.

Plug-in solar devices generally don't have a battery and can be directly integrated into the grid. They cost from €350 to €900 in Europe. According to the Consumer Association, plug-in devices in Germany pay for themselves after roughly six to nine years.

In low-sunlight countries like Germany, electricity produced by solar power costs on average between 7 and 10 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). In more sunny regions, such as southern Europe, Africa, Latin America, California and many parts of Asia, this is less than 5 cents. Electricity from the grid is two to five times more expensive.

5. Are mini solar power plants good for the environment?

Mini solar panel power systems lower electricity costs and help protect the climate. In fact, according to the German Association for Solar Energy, an additional 1,000 to 2,000 megawatts of electricity could be generated by mini solar power modules in Germany alone. That's how much electricity a coal power plant produces, which is much more harmful for the environment.

Experts say they also have another advantage for the climate.

"Many people so far don't really have any inkling of how much electricity they use, and don't have any experience with solar energy and battery storage," says Krisztina Andre, who works at Bündnis Bürgerenergie, a German association that promotes renewable energy.

According to Andre, people who have their own solar power modules are able to monitor their own energy use, learning how to save energy costs and doing something good for the planet at the same time.

"It's also fun," says David Breuer from Yuma, an online shop that sells plug-in solar devices.

Andre is convinced that another boost for home solar modules could come from the rise of e-cars, as their batteries can be used more generally as energy storage.

"Electric cars have large batteries, and their electricity could easily be put to good use elsewhere: for meeting your own energy needs at home, as well as in the neighbourhood through the public grid." **bw**

ROUND-UP

Sohar International all set to hold 12th session of Chairman’s Forum

Virtual edition of Sohar International - Viewpoints will host George de Lama - prominent international journalist and president, Eisenhower Fellowships



MUSCAT: A much-anticipated event that has witnessed the participation of key industry leaders in the past years, Sohar International is all set to conduct the 12th session of Viewpoints – Sohar International Chairman’s Forum, on September 15. Slated to be live-streamed via the Zoom app, the event will start at 7:30 pm encompassing an in-

sightful knowledge sharing session with a speaker of international acclaim. The upcoming event will host George de Lama, who is a prominent international journalist and the President of Eisenhower Fellowships, and will deliver inspirational messages using his vast experience and extensive subject know-how. “Viewpoints is an industry first and one-of-its-kind initiative, seeking to provide a unique

opportunity for the youth to gain insights and engage in dialogue with inspirational personalities in key sectors. This is an event that I take pride to host as it aims at bringing the best global learning to the local population of Oman and build leaders of tomorrow,” said Mohammed Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Sohar International. Viewpoints - Sohar International Chairman’s Forum, is a dedicated platform where inspira-

tional global leaders from different industries and sectors share their experiences, knowledge and ideas with a cross-section of Omani society. With a special focus on youth, the platform aims to connect global leaders to inspire and motivate collaboration. Anyone interested can register for the upcoming virtual session free of cost simply by visiting Sohar International’s website (www.soharinternational.com)

or the bank’s official social media pages and follow the registration post/link. The session will provide an opportunity for participants to engage with the guest speaker with their valuable inputs and questions. “We are indeed delighted to have George De Lama as our distinguished speaker in the upcoming session of viewpoints. Drawn from personal experiences, the guest speaker will highlight important life lessons as a prominent American journalist, an international civil servant and a creative entrepreneur and he holds prestigious titles with a distinguished career as at the Chicago Tribune,” said Mohammed Al Ardhi. As an editor, De Lama has overseen foreign and national reporting that won journalism’s top honours, including two Pulitzer Prizes. After making his mark as a journalist, De Lama headed the Office of External Relations at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington as he led the multilateral organisation’s strategic communications in support of development operations and strategic initiatives across Latin America and the Caribbean. Dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the people, De

Lama assumed the role of president at Global Development for Answers Media in Chicago and launched a startup firm, Answers Learning, to produce education solutions for parents, students, educators and public and private organisations. Today, he is also a proud member of the Advisory Board of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University and was twice elected to the Board of Governors of the Overseas Press Club of America. Ever since the event took a virtual form, a few of its recent distinguished guests included public figures such as Mina Al-Oraibi, Editor-in-Chief of The National newspaper, Dr Reinhard Christian Zinkann, a fourth-generation Executive Director and Co-proprietor at the 121-years old Miele Group and Sir Ranulph Fiennes, explorer and motivational speaker. Through various leadership initiatives like these, Sohar International has not only been encouraging the community to enhance their professional skills but has instilled a positive mindset that revolves around sustainable growth and pioneering change while encouraging them to become key representatives of the country on international platforms.

ISLAMIC BANKING SERVICES

Maisarah offers discounted profit rates on housing, personal finance



MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services – BankDhofar’s Islamic banking window –revealed new discounted profit rates on housing finance and personal finance facilities. The new rates come as part of a 4-month campaign that kicked off recently until the end of the year, aiming to provide customized offers that are tailored to meet customers’ needs and fulfil their financial requirements.

With fast approvals and easy documentation on the selected types of finance, the offer covers personal finance (goods, education, automobiles, travel, commercial and personal finance), as well as housing finance (home finance and property finance). The preferential rates during this promotion are 4.5 per cent for personal finance and 4.9 per cent for housing finance. Encouraging customers to take advantage of the newly announced

rates, Mohammed Ahmed Al Maashani, Head of Distribution Network at Maisarah, stated, “These rates will be fixed until the 31st of December 2021, and they apply to new and additional finance facilities, as well as buy-out finance from other banks and financial institutions. Our objective is to make it easier and more convenient for customers to finance their basic goods and home appliances, pay for their children’s

education, own the car of their dream, buy a house and invest in properties, pay for the expenses of their travels, or get personal and commercial finance to meet their various needs. We expect to see a rising demand on these finances that come with competitive rates, simple steps, fast approval and easy documentation.” Customers can avail of these exclusive offers at any of Maisarah’s branches in Azaiba, Al Hail, Sala-

lah, Sohar, Birkat Al Mouz, Greater Muttrah, Al Khuwair, Sur, New Salalah and Araqi. To learn more, visit the nearest Maisarah Islamic Banking Services branch, check out the official page www.maisarah-oman.com or call 24775777 for further inquiries. Showing impressive growth since the launch of its operations in 2013, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services has demonstrated a high degree of product innovation.



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ROUND-UP

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Omani customers with salaries more than OMR250 and expatriates with salaries more than OMR500 can apply for personal finance at any branch of the bank across the Sultanate by providing their salary assignment letter and ID card

MUSCAT: In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and aligned to the goal of supporting national development goals, Bank Muscat continues to innovate to offer new products and services. The bank is steadfastly working towards improving the quality of life and financial inclusion of various segments of society in Oman.

Having expanded its range of products and services over the years, the bank currently offers a number of financing facilities including Personal Finance, Sayyarti Auto Finance, Green Finance, Education Finance and the Woqar banking package for pensioners.

The bank’s Personal Financing options are very popular among Omani nationals and residents for its highly competitive rates, fast processing and prompt disbursements. Omani customers with salaries more than OMR250 and expatriates with salaries more than OMR500 can apply for personal finance at any branch of the bank across the Sultanate by



providing their salary assignment letter and ID card. Financing up to OMR200,000 is available based on the eligibility of the customer.

Speaking about the Bank Muscat’s wide range of financing options, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, Deputy General Manager – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat, said, “Bank Muscat endeavours to provide the best banking and financing products and services in Oman in line with the needs of different customer segments.

“The bank’s financing is offered at highly competitive interest rates in keeping with the needs of its customers and aligned to its role of facilitating a high standard of living for the people of Oman. We thank all our customers for their strong confidence in the bank’s products and services as well their excellent feedback which helps Bank Muscat to continue innovat-

ing and offering new products.”

Bank Muscat’s wide range of products includes Baituna home finance, which makes the dream of owning one’s home come true, Zaf-fa marriage financing and Sayyarti Auto Finance, which enables customers to own the vehicle of their choice. The Terhal travel finance helps customers to realise their holiday plans while the health and beauty finance will enable you to access the best healthcare options for your well-being.

Bank Muscat’s Green Finance aims to promote environment-friendly homes in the Sultanate and was the first financing scheme that facilitates environmental-friendly initiatives. In addition to financing facilities, the bank also provides opportunities to its customers to win attractive cash prizes for a good savings habit through its OMR11 million Al Mazyona Savings Scheme 2021.



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Bank Muscat endeavours to provide the best banking and financing products and services in Oman in line with the needs of different customer segment. The bank’s financing is offered at highly competitive interest rates in keeping with the needs of its customers and aligned to its role of facilitating a high standard of living for the people of Oman

Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani
Deputy General Manager – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat

PREMIER LIFESTYLE DESTINATION

New retail openings at Al Mouj Muscat signals continuous growth

MUSCAT: With a diverse range of retail outlets that have opened this year at Al Mouj Muscat, Oman’s premier lifestyle destination’s commitment to supporting small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) is complementing the promise to residents, the community, and the economy.

Local and international venues have continued to choose the award-winning oceanfront community as the best location to begin trading. The 17 new outlets that have opened this year now brings the total number of retailers to 86. In turn, the huge diversity in outlets, from cafés and spas to fine dining and wellness, has encouraged more people than ever to call Al Mouj Muscat home, with resident numbers now reaching over 7,000.

“Our vision for Al Mouj Muscat is to create a vibrant and ever-evolving destination where residents and visitors can enjoy great moments, every day. It is why we focus on creating a hub for well-established local and international brand names,” says Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat.

The vibrant Community Hub recently opened Handicrafts House, Junoon Kanga, Saaf and Azura to provide the perfect location for a touch of the traditional with a modern twist. Delectable treats await all residents and visitors at the Mall

with an array of restaurants and cafes showcasing the best of international cuisine. The Walk added to its already impressive selection of food trucks by welcoming Owl Café, Mango Talaat and 101 Café. Residents and visitors can stroll along the Marsa 3 promenade’s casual walking trails and enjoy a meal at two of the newest additions to the oceanfront dining experiences, Eydaam and Sweet Saray.

“By designing a destination where a wide range of commercial enterprises grow, we are not only enriching experiences for visitors and residents, but we contribute towards the economic growth and diversification goals set out in Oman Vision 2040. Our SMEs base is a key component of that diversification strategy,” says Al Sheibani.

Al Mouj Muscat is attracting over 3 million visitors each year, with the mix of retail, cafés and restaurants at Al Mouj Muscat’s The Walk enjoying 10,131 guests per day. With footfall essential to the success of any retail venture, the huge appeal of Al Mouj Muscat provides SMEs with the confidence that the location is one where they can succeed. Flourishing independent businesses further benefit from their proximity to Al Mouj Golf, Al Mouj Marina, and the destination’s four and five-star hotels, which further drive visitor numbers.



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