



HM SENDS CONDOLENCES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the death of Princess Noura Fahd Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Saud. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to King Salman, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant her family patience. **-ONA**



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INSURANCE PROTECTION

His Majesty issues a Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Monday issued a Royal Decree reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 15/2021 on implementing the "Unified System of Extending Insurance Protection to GCC Military Personnel Operating in GCC Member States Other Than Their Own".

Article (1) states that the provisions of the "Unified System of Extending Insurance Protection to GCC Military Personnel Operating in GCC Member States Other Than Their Own", shall be

applied in accordance with the version attached to this decree, bearing in mind the following:

1. The provisions of the "Law of Post-Service Pensions and Gratuities for Personnel of the Defence Ministry and the Sultan's Armed Forces", issued under Royal Decree 3/2002, shall apply to Defence Ministry and Sultan's Armed Forces' Omani military personnel operating in GCC military units governed by GCC military retirement systems, from among those who do not get pension from the Sultanate. **>A5**

PANEL HOPES NOT TO GO FOR LOCKDOWN AMID COVID SURGE

Oman has devised a special protocol to detect mutated variants of COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Complete lockdown will be the last resort for the Supreme Committee.

"Potential lockdown steps will be the last treatment of the pandemic situation and that the panel hopes not to go that far," said Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Health, member of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is our duty to protect ourselves and society through strict adherence to precautionary measures," he added.

The minister made the statement during the 22nd press conference held by COVID-19 Supreme Committee since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The press conference, he explained, was prompted by the recent surge in the number of infected persons admitted at intensive care units (ICU) and hospital wards. The numbers doubled in less than two weeks. "This is a highly alarming and disillusioning indicator," he observed.

He added that the closure of the Sultanate's airports is "under study and deliberation" by the Supreme Committee, which, he hoped, would not be compelled to re-lock Omani airports before international flights "because that will cause immense social and economic losses".

So far, the Sultanate registered six confirmed cases of the new COVID-19 variant, notorious for their swift propagation, said Dr. Ahmed, noting that the most globally common among the new variants is the British strain, but, he affirmed, the Sultanate has advanced facilities to detect it,



DR AHMED MOHAMMED AL SA'EEDI, Minister of Health, Member of the Supreme Committee.



QAIS MOHAMMED AL YOUSEF, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

through all labs — whether at the Ministry of Health or Sultan Qaboos University or private sector universities.

Patients in ICU

The minister explained that, recently, the number of ICU and hospital inpatients soared to 102 from its record-low level of 51 by 21 January 2021. The number of tests conducted in the Sultanate till yesterday stood at 1.550 million, said the minister, who pointed out that the number of Pfizer BionNTech vaccination doses that were distributed stood at 39,772—given to 27,400 people as a first shot and to 12,272 people as a second dose.

Meanwhile, Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Pro-



DR ABDULLAH KHAMIS AMBOUSAI, Education Under-Secretary

motion, member of the Supreme Committee, affirmed that most business activities will remain open as of now. He pointed out that the Sultanate proved its ability to address such crises.

Startups

Al Yousef spoke of a package to be offered by the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises in coordination with the Council of Ministers with a view to encouraging the establishment of startups in target production sectors.

In other comments, Dr Abdullah Khamis Ambousaidi, Education Under-Secretary said that the assessment of students depends on the medium of learning. He explained that online students will be assessed in accordance

with online study modes and, if proved unachievable, their respective parents may approach the school to find an alternative method of assessment.

As for Class 12 students, their assessment will be direct (through physical presence), said Ambousaidi, noting that a comeback to online education is possible if deemed necessary by the Supreme Committee, depending on the pandemic situation.

PCR test

Dr Amal Al Ma'ani, Director of Contagion Control Department at the Ministry of Health, said that the two vaccines available in the Sultanate will cover the new variants of virus and that the PCR test will show 'positive' results within not more than three months. Any positive result afterwards, will be an indicator that the tested person is indeed infected with the virus, either in its old or new variant, she added.

Dr Amal pointed out that the Sultanate devised a special protocol to detect mutated variants of COVID-19.

She said that as many as 96 people are feared infected with the new variants, but confirmation is yet to be made through epidemiological surveys on the source of the infections. The mechanisms of treatment remain the same, even for the new strains of the virus, she added.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Salalah Beach in world's best list

1 Salalah Beach has been named one of 30 best in world by *Condé Nast Traveller* magazine, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism said. "There's something Mad Max-esque about Al Mughsayl, with its white sand, parched frankincense trees and cinematic blow holes," it said. **>A2**

WORLD Aung San Suu Kyi detained by military

2 Myanmar's military has detained the country's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the ruling National League for Democracy said. Other senior leaders have also been "taken" in an apparent coup. "I want to tell our people not to respond rashly and I want them to act according to the law," said a spokesman. **>A7**

MARKET BP to sell 20% stake in Oman's Block 61

3 BP company has agreed to sell a 20% stake in Oman's Block 61 to Thailand's PTTEP. A BP statement said: "We've agreed to sell a 20% participating interest in Oman's Block 61 to Thailand's PTTEP. With a 40% interest, BP will remain operator of this world-class gas development." **>B1**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

'Presence of third mobile operator to boost business'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The presence of a third operator will make the three companies compete to attract users, the Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology stated to Oman TV.

"In the field of communications and information technology, quality and price are important, and the presence of a third operator will make the three companies compete to attract users, and we hope that there is a third operator so that benefits will spread to users and companies, as they know their income comes from subscribers, said Eng. Saeed Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. "The ministry will launch the Sultanate's space policy in the current year, and it is hoped that the Omani satellite will be launched in 2024 to serve the public and private sectors, and it will be used in the telecommunications, cybersecurity and other fields to be researched and studied."

More than 80 per cent of the Sultanate's digital economy is based on the telecommunications sector. The vision of the ministry is to create an integrated system for transportation, communication, information technology and social welfare.

"There are a number of small and medium companies operating in the field of space in the Sultan-



ENG SAEED BIN HAMOUD AL MAAWALI, Minister of Transport, Communications and IT

“

More than 80 per cent of the Sultanate's digital economy is based on the telecommunications sector

ate, and we are working to establish a space club to increase the culture of society in this field and to define ways to benefit from it," the minister added that, the ministry has embraced emerging technology companies whose revenues have reached OMR7 million."

According to the Minister, the

Sultanate is ranked 24th globally, the second in the Arab world in the e-services development index, "We thank the ministry's employees and our colleagues in other government units, and what has been achieved in digital transformation is very good, as Oman is ranked 50th globally in the e-government development index."

Adding that: "More than 80 per cent of the Sultanate's digital economy is based on the telecommunications sector. The vision of the ministry is to create an integrated system for transportation, communication, information technology to achieve social welfare."

The Ministry seeks to create a suitable number of jobs every five years and to score 65 points in network readiness, which makes the Sultanate among the best forty countries around the world.

The Sultanate has made remarkable progress in the field of cybersecurity, as it is ranked second in the Arab world and 16 globally. He explained: "When cyber attacks occur, we are compelled to preserve the information, unless the source of attacks is identified."

"If the information is published, it may be used for future attacks. Information is published only after our investigations are complete, so that the international community can benefit from what we've published, in keeping with global agreements."



Oman Sail opens registration for youth sailing event in Mussanah

A4

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12.26pm
Asr.....3:36pm
Maghrib.....5:59pm
Isha.....7:11pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:30am

CONDÉ NEST TRAVELLER



PICTURESQUE: Stretching for four unbroken miles and fringed with sheer limestone cliffs, the beach is lapped by gleaming turquoise water which can get a little choppy at times.

Salalah Beach named among 30 best beaches in the world

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Condé Nest Traveller magazine has selected Salalah Beach in Dhofar Governorate among the 30 best beaches in the world, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism said.

The magazine stated: “There’s something Mad Max-esque about Al Mughsayl, with its unflinchingly white sand, parched frankincense trees and cinematic blow holes (especially impressive during monsoon season) which erupt every couple of minutes, shaking the earth and spewing out seawater with a deafening sound. Stretching for four unbroken miles and fringed with sheer limestone cliffs, the beach is lapped by gleaming turquoise water which can get a little choppy at times.

“That said, it’s a wonderful spot from which to watch fishermen pilot traditional dhows just offshore; catch them at dusk for the most dramatic photographs, when they are silhouetted against the treacly Omani sunset,” the magazine added.

Oman’s southernmost region is host to many unique attractions including the blowholes of Mughsayl and the Land of Frankincense – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Deep sea diving and snorkel-



ling off the coast of the Hallaniyat Islands are just some of the more adventurous activities available through local tour operators, according to the ministry.

“In the summer months, when most of the Arabian Peninsula experiences soaring temperatures, Dhofar ushers in the monsoon season, bringing with it lush greenery, cooling rains and pleasant temperatures. Locally known as Khareef, this special season starts from late June to early September,” the ministry further added.

The blowholes are a particularly iconic attraction at the beach, drawing tourists from Oman and beyond.

A popular picnic spot located near the Marneef Cave, the blowholes make anyone’s visit to the beach worthwhile.

There are plenty of tourist amenities for those who want to spend a day at the beach, or just sit on the soft, fine sand and enjoy the calm and relaxation nature brings with it.

Other places definitely worth a visit while in Oman’s southern governorate are Khor Taqah, Wadi Darbat, Ain Razat, the Hallaniyat Islands, Thumrait, Jebel Samhan, the cliffs of Hasik, and the town of Mirbat, which is also home to an anti-gravity point that brings forth the curiosity of all those who hear of it.

CULTURAL-LINGUISTIC EXCHANGE

Indonesian embassy calls for stronger Oman-Jakarta ties

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Indonesian Ambassador to the Sultanate, Mohammad Irzan Djohan, has called for encouraging stronger strategic partnership between the two countries.

This follows the recent partnership agreement between Omani tech company ETCO with Indonesian Awadah Group, which promotes cultural-linguistic exchange between the two countries with the help of technology. This partnership also involves Indonesia’s WIR Group as the technology enabler and developer in the digital field.

Ambassador Irzan Djohan hopes that more Omani companies, especially from the private sector will develop close contacts with Indonesian companies.

Indonesian Embassy in Muscat will help connect Omani companies and investors with Indonesian digital players.

The ambassador is optimistic that Omani companies and investors will be interested in strategic partnership with Indonesian companies because both nations and their people share similar values.



MEETING: Ambassador Irzan Djohan hopes that more Omani companies will develop close contacts with Indonesian companies.

“Aside from the economic benefits of having a strategic partnership, I believe that our people could work together, which is important for partnership. Both are peace-loving people with passion for humanity as well as new technology”, said the ambassador.

First secretary of economic section of the Indonesian Embassy in Muscat, Ahmad Ma’rufi, added that Indonesia has undergone more than a decade of digital transformation which has improved human interactions, learnings, and transactions.

This also has created many In-

donesian companies specialising in new technology, such as WIR Group which specialises in augmented reality, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence.

“We call on Omani companies and investors to get acquainted with Indonesian future technology companies as we have the best companies in the region, and also a very high population to apply the tech”.

Indonesian Embassy in Muscat has a list of companies ready to partner with Omani counterparts and is available to set up virtual matchmaking sessions.



Tyre Select - Oman’s first online tyre shop opened

Oman’s first online tyre shop “Tyre Select” has now been launched—www.tyre-select.com.

Tyre-select.com is an easy-to-use online tyre-buying solution for a generation of shoppers who prefer purchasing their essentials on the internet.

Tyre select consumers can view and buy products online, as well as choose from one of our 12 locations across the country for tyre installation. The website has almost 17 brands listed, including household names such as Pirelli, Yokohama, Bridgestone, Michelin and Apollo.

“Tyre Select is a new concept for the Oman market and we feel this will make the industry more transparent and convenient to the end user,” said Salim Al Mashari, deputy manager for Tyre Select. “Our website provides accurate details of tyres such as load rating, pattern details, make, and DOT, so that customers get what they see”.

“This is the first time such an initiative has been launched in Oman,” he added. “We pride ourselves on being the first online tyre shop in the country. We have listed several products on our website with excellent deals available to customers. The pricing is also very competitive, considering the current market situation, and we aim to be the one stop solution for all tyre requirements in Oman.”

Al Mashari went on to say: “We will also be coming up with more products, offers and installation partners in the future. Our prices are updated monthly to keep up with current market trends. We only sell genuine tyres with the manufacturer’s warranty.”

Tyre Select is managed by Rimal Al Sarooj Al Motahida LLC, which was established in 2010. We have been able to make ourselves one of the major tyre distributors in Oman, as an agency for some of the most reputed brands worldwide, such as Apollo, Roadx, Long March, Galaxy (Yokahamma Off-Highway Tyres), Jinyu, Wellplus and Aeolus. We also do foam filling for industrial tyres using a well-known brand from USA called Carpenter Rely tyre fill.



Rimal Al Sarooj imports a wide variety of tyres suitable for trucks, cars, SUVs and other types of vehicles operating in the country.

What is Tyre Select?

Tyre Select is an online website on which you can purchase tyres. We are Oman’s first online tyre store.

How can customers purchase tyres from our website?

The procedure to purchase the tyres are very simple and can be completed in just four steps.

1. Select your tyre size: in case you’re not sure about this, you can find it out by selecting the brand of your vehicle and the year of the model. Select your preferred tyre brand from a wide variety we have listed on our website
2. Choose the quantity required, customers have the option to choose up to 12 tyres at a time. If you experience any difficulty, you can either give us a call or send us a WhatsApp message and we’ll be happy to help.
3. Choose the required fitment centre: We have 11 shops in Oman at the moment. Eight in Muscat and three outside Muscat in Sohar, Salalah and Duqm respectively. We are soon opening our 12th shop in Nizwa.
4. Choose your preferred installation date and time (Installation dates for shops outside Muscat can be chosen only two days after from the date of purchase, if the stock is not available at the respective shop)
5. Enter customer information and proceed to checkout.

Why you should purchase from Tyre Select?

The whole idea behind creating this website is to provide people in Oman with a very fast and convenient way of purchasing tyres for their vehicle.

Customers no longer have to go from shop to shop looking for the right type and the right brand of tyres for their cars, at affordable prices. All this can be now done with just a few clicks of a button, through our website, saving customers a lot of time.

What are the advantages of Tyre Select?

The advantages of purchasing from our website are that the customers can enter the tyre sizes they’re looking for and view multiple brand options, alongside the costs of all the tyres we have available.

This helps them save a lot of time, helping them avoid going from store to store looking for the right brand at the right price. We have priced our tyres at the cheapest rates possible and finding the same tyres for the same price elsewhere is going to be difficult.

In case the customer does not find the tyres they’re looking for, they can always give us a call or drop a text on WhatsApp and we’ll source it for the customer from either within or outside the country, with the manufacturer’s warranty.

What are the strengths of Tyre Select?

The strengths of our company are

- 1 We have shops in multiple locations, which helps us cater to customers throughout Oman.

- 2 Pricing of tyres is reasonable and affordable

- 3 Ability to source tyres from almost any part of the world.

- 4 Customer service – which makes our customer portfolio range from retail customers to ministries, clients at Muscat International Airport, construction companies, car rentals, transport services and many others.

For all your tyre requirements please visit our website:www.tyre-select.com or WhatsApp: 94103593.

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NRIs will be allowed to set up one-man companies back home

The incorporation of one person companies in India will help the NRIs to enter the domestic market, and will also provide them a livelihood once they return home

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Non-resident Indians (NRIs) will be able to set up one-person companies back home soon, following the proposal by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman to incentivise their incorporation into the Indian economy. Sitharaman was speaking while presenting the Union Budget 2021 on Monday.



Nirmala Sitharaman. — ANI

The incorporation of OPCs in India will help the NRIs to enter the domestic market, and will also provide them a livelihood once they return home. Announcing the scheme, the finance minister said, "Incorporation of OPCs will be incentivised by allowing such companies to grow without restriction on paid-up capital and turnover, allowing conversion into any other type of company at any time, reducing the residency limit for an Indian citizen to set up an OPC from 182 days to 120 days, and allow also non-resident Indians to incorporate OPCs in India." The proposal was welcomed by

Sarveshwar Biyani, the vice president of finance and accounts at SV Pittie Sohar Textiles, who said a number of concessions and legal frameworks had been designed for people looking to found one person companies in India. "If people here have any ideas for products they think will do well in Oman, or want to get them into the Indian market, then this will be a good way to do that," he said. "The advantage of a one-person company is that your initial costs will not be so high, as you are the sole employee, whereas a regular company will have a lot of other costs and requirements, such as hiring a certain number of people,

and more than one founder, which is compulsory in India," he added. "All the decisions made by this company will be yours to make, so you will not need to always consult with other co-founders, and can operate independently," said Biyani. "The financial decisions, manpower decisions, concerns regarding expansions, you can take them all on your own, so if you have good ideas about how to proceed, then you can move ahead with them quickly," he explained. "This is a laudable step and I appreciate the government's effort to integrate NRIs," said Dr Anchan CK, a trade advisor in Muwscat. "India's biggest asset has always been our human resources and the measures taken in these fields will surely go a long way in boosting start-ups in various fields and across all economic segments," he further said. Ramanuj Venkatesh, a financial analyst added, "This will bring in sustained expertise and renewed confidence among NRIs who wish to invest their hard earned money in their own country. It's quite an important step to take, given the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the economies of India and other countries."

"Once you have set up this company in this manner for a couple of years, then you can expand this into a regular company and take it forward, probably once you return to India," Biyani went on to say. "A company of this stature will also be accredited by the Indian government, so it will be easier to approach banks to get work done for it." Biyani added that companies of this nature were also less likely to engage in fraud, and a number of legal measures have been enacted in this context, which makes it very difficult for company owners to abscond with money. "When you are the founder of an OPC, you are likely to be the only investor, otherwise you will need to provide decision-making and managerial power to anyone investing in your company," he explained. "Your autonomy is then lost. On the other hand, if you put your own money into the company, you will not abscond, because no one will want to lose their own earnings." "When you form this kind of company, you have to follow all of the laws under the Companies Act of 2013, so the government does have many legal provisions to stop you from doing this," added Biyani.



Tax Authority announces start of VAT registration

MUSCAT: Tax Authority (TA) announced the start of VAT registration as of Monday (February 1, 2021) until March 15, 2021 for taxable persons with annual supplies exceeding or expected to exceed OMR1 million. The voluntary registration will also be available for taxable persons with annual supplies or expenses exceeding or expected to exceed (OMR19,250). The registration must be made through TA's Online Portal <https://www.taxoman.gov.om>. In addition, TA advises taxable persons to register within the preset deadlines to avoid any penalties levied on late registration. Furthermore, taxable persons may find more information around registration, registration procedures and other VAT details on the guides published on TA's website. - ONA



ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

63,899 REACH

23h · Oman

WHO team tracing the origins of COVID-19 on Sunday visited a food market virus was initially detected.

Read full report here: <https://bit.ly/3r7LbfH>





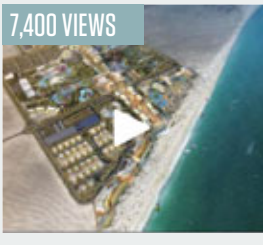
WHO team tracing the origins of COVID-19 on Sunday visited a food market in Wuhan

A story on WHO team tracing the origin of Coronavirus had 494 engagements and reached 63,899 people on Facebook.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

7,400 VIEWS





Watch the Maghrib Minute news video in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute news video in Hindi got 7,400 views and reached 28,200 people on Facebook.



MOST POPULAR POST ON INSTAGRAM

806 LIKES





We do not want to re-close Oman's airports: MOH

A photo story on Oman Airports had 806 likes on Instagram

NCSI DATA

Oman's electricity generation fell by 2.6% until end of November 2020

MUSCAT: Oman's total electricity production until the end of November 2020 fell by 2.6 per cent to reach 35,540.9GW per hour compared to the same month in 2019, when the total production was 36,506.5GW per hour. Meanwhile, water production until the end of October 2020 increased by 6.5 per cent to reach 396.83 million cubic metres compared to 372.57 million cubic metres in the same period in 2019, according to statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The total electricity production in the governorates of Al Batinah and Al Dhahirah reached 22,251.1GW per hour until the end of November 2020, recording an average increase of 1.1 per cent over the same period in 2019, when the production was 21,998.2 GW per hour. The total electricity production in Al Sharqiyah reached 7,854.0GW per hour compared to an output of 7,787GW last year, recording a decline of 0.9 per cent.

Total electricity production in the Governorate of Dhofar also decreased by 4.6 per cent by the end of the 11-month period of 2019, reaching 3,506.5GW per hour compared to 2019, when it amounted to 3,674.4GW per hour.

The net figures are inclusive of purchases by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP) and the Rural Areas Electricity Company (RAEC) from local power generating entities, as well as output from auto-generators and diesel rental units.

The Sultanate's net electricity production until the end of November 2020 witnessed a drop of 2.1 per cent to touch 34,677.2GW per hour compared to 35,410.7GW per hour achieved during the prior year period.

As per the NCSI data, the governorates of Al Batinah and Al Dhahirah topped the list of governorates with the highest net electricity production, reaching 21,666.9GW per hour from 21,270.9GW per hour in 2019. Al Sharqiyah ranked



POWER PLANT: The net figures are inclusive of purchases by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (DPWP) and the Rural Areas Electricity Company (RAEC) from local power generating entities, as well as output from auto-generators and diesel rental units. — File picture

second, reaching 7,664.3GW per hour by end of November 2020 compared to 7,608.9GW in 2019. A decrease also in electricity production was recorded in Dhofar by 4.2 per cent.

On the other hand, the water production of the Sultanate reached 396.830 million cubic metres until the end of October 2020, an increase of 6.5 per cent from the end of October 2019, when it was 372.575 million cubic metres, the data revealed.

In Muscat, the water production rose by 4.4 per cent to reach 171.803 million cubic metres in the 10-month period of 2020 compared to 164.486 million cubic metres in 2019. Water production also rose in the Governorate of Dhofar by 5.5 per cent to reach 52.86 million cubic metres at the end of October 2020 compared to at the end of October 2019, when the production was 50.119 million cubic metres.

The total water production of other governorates at the end of October 2020 was 172.163 million cubic metres, a rise of 9 per cent from the end of October 2019, when the production reached 157.969 million cubic metres. - ONA



STRONG DEMAND: The production of water until the end of October 2020 increased by 6.5 per cent to reach 396.83 million cubic metres compared to 372.57 million cubic metres in the same period in 2019. - File picture



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OMAN SAIL OPENS REGISTRATION FOR YOUTH SAILING EVENT IN MUSSANAH



RASHID AL KINDI



FERAS ASQUL

MUSCAT: Registration for the annual youth sailing event Mussanah Race Week is now open with young sailors from around the world are welcome to train and compete in Oman.

Set to take place in Al Mussanah Sports City from 26-31 October 2021, the event has traditionally brought world and continental youth champions to the Sultanate's shores to sail against the best young sailors. This year, for the first time in the event's history, Oman Sail will mark the 11th edition by introducing a boat class for young persons with disabilities known as 'RS Venture', alongside the Optimist and Laser 4.7 classes.

Rashid Al Kindi, Oman Sail Director of Sailing, said, "Mussanah Race Week has been an exciting fixture in our sailing calendars for a decade now, bringing the best and brightest young sailing talent to Oman. We have seen the benefits of testing our home-grown sailors against the best in the world and providing the platform for young people from different cultures to learn from each other. We are proud to introduce the RS Venture class for the first time to welcome persons with disabilities to the event."

He added, "It is a great opportunity to include the RS Venture class to let young sailors join those sailing aboard the Optimist and Laser 4.7 classes. It is our hope that the professional and competitive environment at Mussanah Race Week will help to hone their skills and provide useful insight into the possibilities a career in sailing can offer."

Following four days of racing, participating sailors and coaches will be able to take part in three



days of classroom-based training and practice races with coaching in each of the classes provided by world-class professional sailors.

Feras Asqul, Oman Sail's Mussanah Race Week Project Manager, said: "Taking part in Mussanah Race Week is the ideal preparation for international regattas, both now as a sailing prospect and providing valuable lessons and experience to benefit the competitors in the future. We are looking forward to welcoming sailors from around the world to Mussanah once again and to continue expanding the event with the introduction of the RS Venture class in order to become one of the most important events for local and international sailors to compete and gain experience in an ideal learning environment."

Al Mussanah Sports City, located 85km north of Muscat, was purpose-built to host Olympic-standard international sporting events with facilities to accommodate thousands of guests, global media and up to 400 boats at its onsite marina. The venue has become synonymous with sailing, successfully hosting high profile events including the 2013 Laser World Championship and 2015 Laser Radial World Championship, among others and is also home to Oman Sail's sailing school.

ROYAL DECREE

<FROM
A1

HM issues Royal Decree on insurance to GCC military personnel operating in states other than their own

2. The ceiling of a salary subject to subscription, as per the start of the salary band of a corresponding rank, shall be in line with the system enforced at the Defence Ministry in the Sultanate. The entitlement of personnel governed by the system attached shall be restricted to the pension. The pension shall be calculated at a rate of 2.5 per-

cent of the monthly average of the subscribable salary received during the last five years of service, multiplied by the number of service years, to a maximum of 80% of the average of the subscribable salary.

3. The family of the deceased retiree, as per the system attached, shall be entitled to a grant of OMR1,000.

Article (2) stipulates that the Ministry of Finance shall pay the subscription difference between the contribution of the country stated in the "Law on Post-Service Pensions and Gratuities for Personnel of the Defence Ministry and the Sultan's Armed Forces" (on one hand)

and the laws and military retirement systems in the country where the military person works (on the other hand).

Article (3) instructs all military and security departments that apply to their respective personnel the "Law on Post-Service Pensions and Gratuities for Personnel of the Defence Ministry

and the Sultan's Armed Forces" or any other military retirement law to register their GCC employees and to pay the prescribed subscriptions in accordance with the system attached to this decree.

Article (4) states that the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs shall issue the regulations and decisions necessary

for the implementation of the system attached to this decree.

Article (5) cancels all that contradicts this decree or its attached system or contravenes their provisions.

Article (6) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced with effect from 1 June 2011. -**ONA**

MEETING

Minister of Health, UNICEF official review cooperation



MUSCAT: Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Health received in his office here today Ted Chaiban, Regional Director of the UNICEF in the Middle East and North Africa Region, who is currently visiting the Sultanate. The two sides reviewed aspects of the joint cooperation between the Sultanate and the UNICEF in the health field. The UNICEF Regional Director praised the Sultanate's efforts made in international cooperation. The Minister of Health lauded the efforts of the UNICEF in the Sultanate and in the region as well. The meeting was attended by Lana Al Wreikat, UNICEF Representative to the Sultanate and some Ministry's officials. -**ONA**

VIRTUAL MEETING



Oman-Turkmenistan ties reviewed

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkmenistan discussed the existing relations between the two friendly countries.

Affirmed
During the meeting held via video-conferencing yesterday, the two sides affirmed their keenness to continue developing the relations in various spheres. They also exchanged views and consultations on regional and international issues of common concern. -**ONA**

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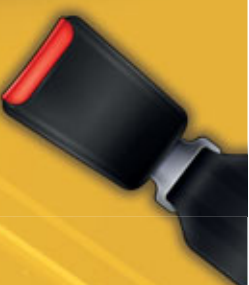
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India's Union Budget introduces Rs 64,180 cr scheme for healthcare

Sitharaman said the Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasthya Bharat Yojana will develop the capacity for primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced a new Centre-sponsored scheme with an outlay of Rs 64,180 crore to boost healthcare infrastructure across the country amid ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Tabling the Union Budget 2021-22, she said the Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasthya Bharat Yojana will develop the capacity for primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems in the country. Sitharaman said that the main interventions under the scheme will support over 17,000 rural and 11,000 urban wellness centres.

"Even at the outset investment in health infrastructure in this budget increased substantially progressively as institutions observe more. Taking a holistic approach, we focus on strengthening three areas- preventing, curative and well being. Health system a new Centrally sponsored scheme PM Atmanirbhar Swasthya Bharat Yojana will be launched with an



UNION BUDGET: Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman shows the Made-in-India tab through which budget was presented.

outlay of Rs 64,180 crore," she said.

"Over six years, this will develop the capacity for primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems and strengthen national institutions and create new institutions to cater and cure new and emerging diseases. This will be in addition to the National Health Mission," she added.

The Finance Minister said that the Budget proposals for 2021-22 rest on six pillars --health and well-being, physical and financial capital and infrastructure, inclusive development for aspirational India, reinvigorating human capital, innovation and R&D, minimum government, and maximum governance.

Sitharaman said that the total

financial impact of all AtmaNirbharBharat packages, including measures taken by RBI, was estimated to be about Rs 27.1 lakh crore, with an amount of more than 13 per cent of GDP.

"When I presented the budget 2020-21, we could not have imagined that the global economy already.. in slowdown would be pushed into an unprecedented contraction. We could not have imagined then that our people as those in other countries would have to endure the loss of near and dear and suffer hardships due to health crisis. The risk of not having a lockdown was far more and far too high," she said.

The Minister pointed out that within 48 hours of declaring a

three-week lockdown, the Prime Minister announced PM Garib Kalyan Yojana valued at Rs 2.76 lakh crore that provided free food, free food grain to 800 million people, free cooking gas for 80 million families for months, and cash directly to over 400 million farmers, women, elderly, poor and needy.

"In May 2020, the government announced the AatmaNirbharBharat package to sustain the recovery further into the year. We also rolled out two AatmaNirbharBharat packages. The total financial impact of all AatmaNirbharBharat packages, including measures taken by RBI, was estimated to be about Rs 27.1 lakh crore, with amount more than 13 per cent of GDP," the Minister said. **ANI**

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EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
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CYCLONE ANA

Deadly cyclone batters Fiji, sparks massive flooding

SUVA: A 49-year-old man drowned and five are missing after Cyclone Ana struck Fiji, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) said Monday. Authorities said more than 10,000 people were sheltering at 300 evacuation centers.

The cyclone, a Category 2 storm, made landfall on the Pacific archipelago on Sunday with wind speeds of up to 140 kilometers an hour (87 miles per hour) and heavy rain. It caused floods, including on the main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu and in the capital city, Suva. The NDMO identified the missing as four fishermen and a toddler.

Local media reports said a 3-year-old boy went missing when he accompanied his grandfather to check their boat, which was stuck in mangrove plants.

River bursts its banks

Office Director Vasiti Soko said a river near Suva unexpectedly burst its banks and crews needed to rescue villagers from their homes.

She said there was severe flooding on the other main island of Vanua Levu and it was getting more rain as another storm passed through.

"But in Suva, the sun is out



again, the water is going down and the evacuees are returning," she said. On Monday, schools remained closed but other civil servants were told to head to work unless they had been directly affected by the cyclone.

Is climate change to blame?

Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama pointed to climate change as a cause of recent deadly storms.

"Today, my priority is on Fiji's safety — but the rest of the world needs to wake up and reckon with why this is happening," Bainimarama wrote on Twitter.

It is the second storm to hit Fiji within two months. In December, the more powerful Cyclone Yasa struck, killing four people, with a fifth person listed as missing. **bw**

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WORLD



Military seizes power in Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi detained

The army declared a state of emergency for one year, accusing authorities of failing to resolve allegations of fraud in November's election.

NAYPYITAW: Myanmar's military seized control of the country on Monday and detained leading politicians, including Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

The army declared a state of emergency for one year, accusing authorities of failing to resolve allegations of fraud in November's election.

Commander-in-chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said new elections would be held, but he gave no time frame.

He pledged to practice "the genuine discipline-flourishing multi-party democratic system" in a fair manner.

World powers, including the United States, condemned the coup and called for elected leaders to be released.

Soldiers have been deployed in the capital, Yangon, and other other major cities.

Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, which won 83% of the vote two months ago,



released a statement in her name.

"The actions of the military are actions to put the country back under a dictatorship," the statement quoted her as saying.

"I urge people not to accept this, to respond and wholeheartedly to protest against the coup by the military."

Party chairman Win Htein said it was authentic and reflected Suu Kyi's wishes.

Tensions high since disputed vote

Tensions have been running high between the civilian government and army officials since November.

Military-backed opposition parties had demanded a rerun of the election.

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, was ruled by the military for almost five decades until demo-

cratic reforms began in 2011.

The Reuters news agency reported that mobile internet data connections and some phone services have been disrupted.

State broadcaster MRTV said its radio and television operations were off air due to technical problems.

"Due to current communication difficulties we'd like to respectfully inform you that the regular programmes of MRTV and Myanmar Radio cannot be broadcast," the company said on Facebook.

Since gaining independence from Britain in 1948, Myanmar has seen two previous coups — in 1962 and 1988.

Romain Caillaud, an associate fellow with the Myanmar Studies Program at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, told DW that the military's actions

overnight marked "a huge setback" 10 years after the start of the transition to democracy.

"The consequences will be dire," he said. "This is a different world from 1988, with globalization, social media, COVID-19, a new US administration, and China's infrastructure ambition. Backlash against the Tatmadaw will be intense," he added, referring to the army by its Burmese name.

US, UN hit out at military coup
The White House said Washington "opposes any attempt to alter the outcome of recent elections or impede Myanmar's democratic transition."

The US is "alarmed by reports that the Burmese military has taken steps to undermine the country's democratic transition," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said, using the country's former name.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on the army to "reverse these actions immediately."

A spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the developments "a serious to democratic reforms in Myanmar."

Australia urged Myanmar's military to release all the detained leaders, adding that the army was "once again seeking to seize control."

Human Rights Watch said the coup was "a real disaster for human rights and democracy in Myanmar."

"What we've seen is an election ... essentially torn up over electoral fraud allegations that have not been proved," the NGO's deputy Asia director Phil Robertson told DW.

"People are not prepared to go back to military rule. And I think that there's going to be a strong reaction from the international community to really put Myanmar back into pariah status, including facing economic sanctions." **bw**

HEAVY EXCHANGES OF GUNFIRE



Several dead as Mogadishu hotel siege ends

MOGADISHU: Somali police said the attack on Mogadishu's Hotel Afrik was brought to an end on Monday after heavy exchanges of gunfire with security forces and an initial car-bombing.

Islamist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the assault through their radio station.

Among those killed at the popular hotel was the well-known retired General Mohamed Nur Galal, said Somalia's Information Ministry.

Police officers gave varying death tolls, ranging from at least nine to 17, with four attackers included among those killed. Up to 30 people were injured.

"The operation is over now," said police spokesman Sadik Ali.

"I have never witnessed such a level of devastation," said bystander Ali Ato, who said he went to the hotel to recover the body of a colleague.

The attack began Sunday evening with a suicide car bombing at the hotel's entrance followed by a shootout between al-Shabab militants and security forces.

The hotel is located at a busy junction near the Somali capital's airport.

Somali Prime Minister Hussein Roble condemned "the barbaric attack" and acknowledged the general for his "50 year role in defending the country." **bw**

Since 2008, al-Shabab has sought to overthrow Somalia's internationally backed central government. Stationed in Somalia is an African Union peace-keeping force, which since 2017 has clawed back control of areas from the extremist group.

Somalia's federal government and regional states have, however, quarreled over power and resources.

Electoral uncertainties

On February 8, Somalia is scheduled to hold indirect parliamentary and presidential elections, but two regional states, Jubbaland and Puntland, have objected to how delegates were selected and electoral management bodies appointed.

A news agency quoted United Nations special representative James Swan last week as warning officeholders that their use of a resolution to stay on would bring "an unpredictable political situation in a country where we certainly don't need any more of that."

A future Somali government faces a number of urgent challenges, including locust swarms that have devastated crops, the COVID-19 pandemic and hundreds of thousands of Somalis still displaced by drought exacerbated by climate change. **bw**

INOCULATION TARGETS

EU still aims to vaccinate 70% of adults by late summer



VACCINATION RECORD: So far, 18 million vaccine doses have been delivered to the EU and 12 million people out of the bloc's 446 million population have gotten at least a first dose.

BERLIN: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen defended the EU's vaccination record on Sunday and doubled down on ambitious inoculation targets.

"We want to have vaccinated 70% of adults in Europe by the end of summer. That would be the approximate time period that we would need to reach such a vaccination rate," she said in an interview with German public broadcaster ZDF.

Her remarks echo a pledge she made earlier this month, with her second-in-command, EU Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas, clarifying that "summer" was to mean the time between June and the end of August.

Talking to ZDF on Tuesday, Von der Leyen sidestepped a question comparing the EU's somewhat sluggish vaccination rates to those in the United States and the United Kingdom.

"I think the only race we are in is with the virus and against time," she said.

So far, 18 million vaccine doses have been delivered to the EU and 12 million people out of the bloc's 446 million population have gotten at least a first dose.

"That is an impressive figure compared to the size of the European Union. We've made good progress," she added.

Von der Leyen admitted that February and March will be "difficult" months, but said that the vaccine delivery problems should be largely lifted after those points.

The bloc's vaccination targets have been put in jeopardy by delays in delivery of the AstraZeneca/Oxford and BioNTech-Pfizer vaccines.

More AstraZeneca doses secured

Von der Leyen's remarks came following talks on Sunday between the EU Commission chief and seven pharma executives from companies that have vaccine contracts with the EU.

During the talks AstraZeneca extended an olive branch to the bloc. The company agreed to sup-

ply an additional 9 million doses of its vaccine during the first quarter.

Von der Leyen praised the move as a "step forward" on Twitter, adding that the company "will also expand its manufacturing capacity in Europe."

However, even the new delivery target of 40 million doses by the end of March is still only half of the company's original pledge.

The curbs announced last week sparked a tense spat between the company and the EU, which accused AstraZeneca of not upholding its contractual obligations.

AstraZeneca blamed production issues at a production site in Belgium, initially saying it would need to curb 60% of its promised deliveries to the EU in the first three months of 2021.

The EU voiced concerns that AstraZeneca was treating the EU unfairly compared to other customers, including Britain.

On Friday, the EU moved to tighten rules on vaccine exports, sparking a complaint from the United Kingdom. **bw**

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Mohamed Salah stars as Liverpool defeat West Ham to move at third spot

With this win, Liverpool moved to the third spot with 40 points from 21 matches

LONDON: Mohamed Salah scored twice as Liverpool defeated West Ham United 3-1 on Sunday in the Premier League 2020-21 season here at the London Stadium.

With this win, Liverpool moved to the third spot with 40 points from 21 matches and the side is now just four points behind table-toppers Manchester City. On the other hand, West Ham is placed at the fifth spot with 35 points from 21 matches.

The first half did not saw any

goals being scored and as a result, the scoreline remained 0-0 at half-time. In the match between Liverpool and West Ham, the first goal was registered by Salah in the 57th minute of the match. Salah then doubled Liverpool's lead in the 68th minute of the match.

The second goal was one for the ages as Xherdan Shaqiri and Salah put on a passing spectacle to give Liverpool their second goal.

Georginio Wijnaldum scored the third goal for the Reds in the 84th minute, giving Liverpool a 3-0 lead with six minutes left. West Ham got one goal back in the 87th minute through Craig Dawson, but Liverpool managed to maintain their composure to win the match.

Liverpool maintained 68 per cent ball possession in the match, and the side reaped rewards for keeping the ball for most of the time.

Jürgen Klopp's side will next take on Brighton on Wednesday in the Premier League 2020-21 season. **ANI**



LIVERPOOL VS WEST HAM: In the match between Liverpool and West Ham, the first goal was registered by Salah in the 57th minute of the match.

We don't lose because of one player: Mourinho

BRIGHTON: After suffering a 1-0 shock defeat against Brighton on Monday, Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho said that the side did not lose because of any individual player.

When asked about striker Gareth Bale's performance, Mourinho refused to answer the question, stating that "I do not think it is fair to answer". Bale has been unable to rediscover his best form in familiar surroundings, scoring just four goals in 15 appearances across all competitions.

"We lost a match and when we lose a match, we lose a match, we lose altogether. We do not lose because of one player, or one bad performance. We lose together," Goal.com quoted Mourinho as saying.

"So I do not think it is fair, especially for myself, in representation of my team, I do not think it is fair to answer to you to that question, especially now. If that question comes in a great moment for the team, and after a victory, and when Gareth like the team plays a good game, it is easier for me to answer to you. I do not want to do



that. We lost, and we all lost," he added. Before the clash, Mourinho had said that Bale has to step up for his side in the absence of injured Harry Kane.

Kane had suffered injuries to both ankles during the club's match against Liverpool. Liverpool registered a 3-1 win over Tottenham in the Premier League on Friday.

Kane was forced to withdraw at the half-time interval after suffering multiple knocks and Mourinho is expecting the player to be out for "a few weeks". **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Easy wins for Al Waad, Ideal, Vanderlande, Spanio

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Anumodh Narayanan's superb 53 helped Al Waad Trading and Contracting Enterprises to a 62-run win over OCT Al Amerat in a C Division T20 league game at Muscat Municipality ground 2 in Amerat on Friday.

Al Waad posted 193 for 8 on the board, thanks to valuable knocks by Anumodh, Pradeesh Kumar (40) and Parthipan Krishnan (40). Khalid Pir and Said Haider took two wickets each.

Facing a big target, OCT Amerat failed to keep up with the mounting run rate and could manage to score only 131 for 5 in 20 overs. Ejaz Mohamed (36) and Sulaiman Haider (35) were its main scorers. Mohamed Malick bagged two wickets.

Brief Scores (C Division): Al Waad Trad & Contracting Enterprises 193 for 8 in 20 overs (Anumodh Narayanan 53 - 8x4, Pradeesh Kumar 40 - 2x4, 1x6, Parthipan Krishnan 40 - 8x4, Khalid Pir 2-23, Said Haider 2-32) beat Oct Al Amerat 131 for 5 in 20 overs (Ejaz Mohamed 36 - 2x4, Sulaiman Haider 35 - 3x4, 1x6, Mohamed Malick 2-14) by 62 runs.

Salman bats Ideal to victory In another C Division match, Salman Khan struck a splendid 83 off 37 to power Ideal International to a comfortable 6-wicket victory against Khalsa United at Muscat Municipality ground 1.

Chasing Khalsa's 158 for 6, Ideal raced to the target in the 17



Sebastian Ciril and Aasim Mohammed of Vanderlande.

th over, scoring 162 for 4 thanks to brilliant batting by Salman and Tosim Khan (93).

Brief Scores (C Division): Khalsa United CT 158 for 6 in 20 overs (Sushil Kadam 53 - 6x4, Jaspreet Singh 26 - 4x4, Sameer Sheik 2-17) lost to Ideal International 162 for 4 in 16.2 overs (Salman Khan 83 - 11x4, 3x6, Tosim Khan

39 - 3x4, 1x6) by 6 wickets.

Ciril, Aasim star in Vanderlande's win

Sebastian Ciril's superb 61 not out and Aasim Mohammed's excellent all-round show steered Vanderlande to a 6-wicket victory against Al Rehwan in a D Division T20 clash at Muscat

Municipality ground 4.

Jibin Kunnumpurath's strokeful 70 was the highlight of Al Rehwan's 162 all in 19.3 overs as Irtaza Ahmed and Aasim claimed three wickets each. Vanderlande recovered from 55 for 4 to reach 163 without further loss in 18 overs thanks to a 108-run fifth wicket partnership between

Aasim (40 off 26) and Ciril (61 off 44). Raniz Mohammed took two wickets.

Brief Scores (D Division): Al Rehwan 162 all out in 19.3 overs (Jibin Kunnumpurath 70 - 11x4, 1x6, Thyseer Hyderali 35 - 2x4, 1x6, Irtaza 3-19, Aasim Mohammed 3- 29, Muhammed Muzaiyen 2-31) lost to Vanderlande 163 for 4 in 18 overs (Sebastian Ciril 61 - 7x4, Aasim Mohammed 40 - 5x4, Raniz Muhammed 2-29) by 6 wickets.

Santhosh hero of Spanio's win

In another D Division game, Santhosh Varikkath's magnificent 80 off 42 steered Spanio & VDD to a 54-run victory against OCT Mabela at Muscat Municipality ground 3.

Santhosh's batting was the salient feature of Spanio's 194 all out in 19.3 overs while Warith Al Balushi and Muhammed Nadim picked up four and three wickets respectively.

OCT Mabela failed to match Spanio's flourish with the bat, scoring only 140 for 5, Warith and Nadim topscoring with 45 and 37 respectively. Santhosh Varikkath bowled well, taking 2 for 15.

Brief Scores (D Division): Spanio & VDD 194 for 9 in 19.3 overs (Santhosh Varikkath 80 - 13x4, 1x6, Warith Al Balushi 4-36, Muhammed Nadim 3-33) beat Oct Al Mabela 140 for 5 in 20 overs (Warith Al Balushi 45 - 4x4, Muhammed Nadim 37 - 5x4, Santhosh Varikkath 2-15) by 54 runs.

LA LIGA

Messi registers his 650th goal for Barcelona



BARCELONA: Argentine striker Lionel Messi on Sunday registered his 650th goal for Barcelona during the 2-1 win over Athletic Club in La Liga.

Messi's 650th goal came through a free-kick and he successfully registered a strike in the 20th minute of the match against Athletic Club. Athletic Club then got the equaliser in the 49th minute as Jordi Alba scored an own goal, bringing the scoreline to 1-1.

However, Barcelona was able to win the match as Antoine Griezmann managed to score a goal in the 74th minute, handing Messi's side a 2-1 win.

Barcelona has now moved to the second spot in La Liga standings with 40 points from 20 matches.

Out of the 650 goals for Barcelona, Messi has registered 456 in La Liga and 49 of those have been direct free-kick goals.

Earlier on Sunday, Barcelona threatened to take legal action against Spanish news outlet El Mundo after the newspaper published the details of Messi's contract with the club. **ANI**

ENGLAND VS INDIA

England players clear third COVID-19 test, squad to begin training from today

CHENNAI: The Joe Root led England squad will begin training on Tuesday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium for the upcoming first Test against India slated to be played from February 5.

England's touring contingent arrived in Chennai on January 27 after wrapping up the 2-0 Test series win against Sri Lanka and was undergoing quarantine. The visiting party has returned negative results in their third coronavirus test done on Sunday and is now out of quarantine. The England squad will practice for the first time as a full group for three hours on Tuesday to get into the groove ahead of the four-match Test series.

"England PCR Test Results - 1 February 2021. All PCR tests from yesterday's test have returned negative results. The England party are now out of quarantine and will train for the first time as a full group at the stadium tomorrow afternoon 2pm-5pm (IST)," said England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) media team on Monday.

Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, and Rory Burns began their training



for the first Test against India on Saturday as the trio had arrived earlier after being rested for the Sri Lanka tour

India and England are set to

lock horns in four Tests, three ODIs, and five T20Is. The first two games of the Test series will be played in Chennai before the cricketers move to Ahmedabad for

the third and fourth Test.

Meanwhile, the second Test between India and England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, slated to begin from February 13 will have 50 per cent crowd in attendance, Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) secretary RS Ramasaamy confirmed on Monday.

"We have spoken to the BCCI, we will get official approval for 50 per cent fans by today evening," Ramasaamy told ANI.

Earlier in the day, a BCCI official confirmed that fans would be allowed inside the Motera Stadium for the third and fourth Test between India and England.

Speaking to ANI, a BCCI official on Monday confirmed that fans will be allowed to come in for the Test matches in Motera.

"Yes, in what comes as a welcome sign for hundreds of our cricket loving fans, they will be allowed to come into the stadium for the Motera Tests," the official said. The first Test will be played on February 5, while the second is slated to begin on February 13. **ANI**



ARCHITECTS OF WIN: Top performers of Orient Travels.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Adil's ton and Umar's 5 for 41 powered Orient Travels to a big victory in a B Division match played on Friday.

Batting first, Orient Travels amassed 264 due to a sizzling show by opener Adil Khan's 111 laced with 13 boundaries and three sixes.

An opening partnership of 98 set the tone for others to capital-

ise on and were helped by the opposition giving away 20 extras in the allotted 30 overs.

Umar Rahman of Orient Travels took five for 41 in his six overs to help rout OCT Ruwi for 173 in 29 overs. Adil Khan took 2 wickets to top up a great day for the team and himself. This was the 6th consecutive win for Orient Travels and with 1 match remaining, they are expected champions of the B Division.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2021 reaching \$55.10, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 57 cents. - **OMA**

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BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSM index closed at 3,650.193 points, down 0.08 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.17 per cent at 530.45 points. Phoenix Power, up 6.0 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle, down 5.10 per cent, was the top loser.

BP to sell 20% stake in Oman's Block 61

BP has agreed to sell the interest to PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited for \$2.6 billion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: BP has agreed to sell a 20 per cent participating interest in Oman's Block 61 to PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) of Thailand for a total consideration of \$2.6 billion. Following the completion of the sale, BP will remain operator of the block, holding a 40 per cent interest.

Subject to approval from the Sultanate of Oman and partners, the deal is expected to complete during 2021. The agreed total consideration of \$2.590 billion comprises \$2.450 billion payable on completion (subject to final adjustments) and \$140 million payable contingents on pre-agreed future conditions.

Following completion, participating interests in Block 61 will be BP, 40 per cent; OQ, 30 per cent; PTTEP, 20 per cent; and Petronas, 10 per cent.

PTTEP is Thailand's national petroleum exploration and production company, with interests in 15 countries, including Oman.



AGREEMENT: The agreed total consideration of \$2.590 billion comprises \$2.450 billion payable on completion (subject to final adjustments) and \$140 million payable contingents on pre-agreed future conditions. - **Supplied picture**

Block 61, covering around 3,950km² in central Oman, contains the largest tight gas development in the Middle East. The block has already had two phases of development - Khazzan, which began production in 2017, followed by Ghazeer in October 2020.

These two developments, targeted at developing a total of 10.5 trillion cubic feet of gas resources, have a combined daily production capacity of 1.5 billion cubic feet of gas and more than 65,000 barrels of condensate. Gas from Block 61 is exported for domestic consumption into Oman's national gas grid, while also boosting the availability of feedstock supply for Oman LNG.

bp chief executive officer Bernard Looney said, "We are pleased to welcome PTTEP to the successful Block 61 partnership. Block 61

is a pioneering development that has applied leading techniques and technologies to maximise efficiency and minimise emissions.

"We are committed to BP's business in Oman - this agreement allows us to remain at the heart of this world-class development while also making important progress in our global divestment programme."

BP is targeting divestment proceeds of \$25 billion by 2025. Most recently, the \$5 billion sales of BP's petrochemicals business to INEOS completed at the end of 2020.

BP has had an upstream presence in Oman since 2007 when the original production sharing agreement (PSA) for Block 61 was signed.

Beyond Block 61, BP and Eni signed a PSA for Block 77 in 2019. BP Trading & Shipping also purchase LNG from Oman LNG under a seven-year

deal that started in 2018.

BP Oman vice president Yousuf Al Ojaili commented, "We look forward to working with PTTEP, our other partners, and the Government of Oman on the continued success of Khazzan and Ghazeer, and to explore further opportunities in Block 61."

"We remain very much committed to our strategic partnership with Oman. We will continue to support critical national energy infrastructure for the Sultanate through Block 61, invest significantly in local companies and Omani talent, and deliver an ambitious social investment programme."

In 2020, Omanisation in BP Oman reached around 85 per cent and Block 61 spend with Omani-registered companies exceeded \$610 million.

INVESTMENT AWARENESS



PROGRAMME: The move comes as part of the investment awareness programme "Mulim" which is a joint programme of the GCC securities regulators targeting participants of the stock markets in various sectors. - **Supplied picture**

Campaign aims to increase awareness level of GCC investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: GCC Securities regulators will continue the joint awareness campaign under the title 'Protect Your Investments by knowing your Rights'.

The campaign will commence in February and will continue until the end of March and aims to increase the level of awareness of investors in GCC member states on the basics of investing in stock markets and the methods of fraud, risks and how to adopt risk mitigating strategies in stock markets for increased efficiency and soundness.

The move comes as part of the investment awareness programme "Mulim" (aware of) which is a joint programme of the GCC securities regulators commenced in November 2020 targeting the participants of the stock markets in the

various sectors.

Under the programme each GCC regulator sponsors specific period of the programme through disseminating diversified awareness messages including press statements, awareness messages in radio, television and social media of participating entities as well as various media.

The campaigns started in November and December 2020 under the title 'Basics of Investment' then 'Think before Investing' in January 2021.

GCC securities regulators attach great importance to awareness in stock markets to promote the levels of skills and knowledge of investors to protect them and make a sound investment decision to encourage investment in the safe and attractive market to support the growth and diversity of the national economy.

Akeed: Going Local Thinking Global



A LOT HAS CHANGED for Ahmed Al Balushi, a 23-year-old Omani student in the last six months. From just being a college student shuttling between assignments and classes, his hectic schedule now also involves around a part-time job with akeed delivery: Oman's first food delivery app.

Speak to him and you will get an insight into his journey, "Times are changing. The country is rapidly advancing to a more global and open market. I am happy to play a part in shaping my country's future by contributing and helping young Omani start-ups of today

carve their presence in the market."

His day at akeed begins right after he finishes college. Logging into the akeed captains app, he starts off his journey in his white Toyota with the red akeed bag as his companion.

"It's a fun way to acquire experience while studying. I love to drive and meet new people. This job allows me to do that, and moreover, the joy of working in a company that is made in Oman is different," says Al Balushi.

Established in 2018, akeed delivery boasts of 84 such Omani youngsters working as captains in the company.

An initiative started with the effective partnership of Europcar Oman, the company has hired 108 Omani captains out of 3000+ applications received over a month.

The idea is to hire Omani talent as much as possible to reach a point wherein the delivery sector is 100% Omanised.

"We worked very closely with Europcar Oman in the last one year. Our main objective was to filter out the right talent that is actively looking for gaining on-job experience while we give our customers top-notch service"

said Moosa Al Lawati, co-founder and director akeed delivery.

Needless to say, the service and experience of customers with Omani captains has been ranked the best. "The feedback from customers has been always positive whenever an Omani captain has embarked on any deliveries. The right training and selection have allowed us to provide this experience to our customers," said Moosa Al Lawati.

Kickstarted with barely a 5 member team in 2018, akeed delivery now has over 300 employees, out of which operations and logistics hold a major

chunk. "The company has expanded significantly, and it is a matter of pride for me when I see young Omani's like Ahmed playing a crucial part of this success story," said Moosa Al Lawati.

He adds, "We want to hire several talented and hard-working people like Ahmed. Every young Omani should be a proud brand ambassador of akeed delivery. That will be our ideal definition of made in Oman."

Also marked as an essential service by the government during the peak of COVID-19, akeed delivery initiated several free delivery campaigns, to support and help the restaurants while bringing convenience to the customers.

Collaboration with Rahma association to distribute free meals for those in need along with the contactless delivery feature were some of the projects initiated by akeed delivery in the last six months.

"Our focus has always been to understand what the local market wants. Our customers and vendors are our brand ambassadors and we want them to help us make such crucial decisions," said Moosa Al Lawati.

Geared up to soon launch akeed 2.0, the superior, revamped version of the app, Moosa added, "We are very excited to unveil our new app, which will match the global standards and features offered by international brands. It will be our first step to make Oman's first delivery app beat the global international brands at home and abroad."

advertorial



MARKET

MSM index ends lower

Phoenix Power, up 6.0 per cent, was the top gainer, while Dhofar Cattle, down 5.10 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,650.193 points, down 0.08 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.17 per cent at 530.45 points. Phoenix Power, up 6.0 per cent, was the top gainer, while Dhofar Cattle, down 5.10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Madina Takaful was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded and also was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 317 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR0.583 million, with more than 4.82 million shares changing hands. Out of 37 traded stocks, 6 advanced, 12 declined and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, local Investors were net sellers for OMR48,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for

OMR38,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR10,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,483.85 points, down by 0.16 per cent. National Bank of Oman was up by 3.73 per cent. Vision Insurance, Oman Emirates Holding, Bank Nizwa, Madina Takaful, and Bank Muscat were down by 3.61 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.10 per cent and 0.99 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,593.80 points, down 0.39 per cent. Al Maha Ceramics and Voltamp Energy were up by 2.01 per cent and 0.95 per cent respectively. Dhofar Cattle, Jazeera Steel, and Galfar Engineering were down by 5.10 per cent, 2.33 per cent, and 1.96 per cent respectively.

Services index was up by 0.63 per cent before closing at 1,605.01 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,666.68	3,650.19	3,650.19	3,653.22	-3.03	-0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,515.98	5,480.33	5,483.86	5,492.61	-8.75	-0.16
Services Index	1,606.45	1,603.79	1,605.01	1,594.91	10.10	0.63
Industry Index	4,603.72	4,592.81	4,592.81	4,610.70	-17.89	-0.39
MSM Shariah Index	531.49	529.97	530.45	531.33	-0.88	-0.17
MSM TR INDEX	4,184.51	4,165.69	4,165.69	4,169.15	-3.46	-0.08

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
4,828,606	583,831	317	20,284,502,845	6	12	19	37

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	215,620	54,728	21	0.249	0.262	0.249	0.254	0.249	0.005	2.008	0.262	0.256	0.273	0.100	13,970,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	19,404	14,835	11	0.780	0.780	0.760	0.764	0.760	0.004	0.526	0.776	0.760	0.776	0.100	573,000,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,000	300	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.304	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	129,000	8,863	11	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.065	0.067	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000000077	AL OMANTA FINIS	27,910	1,986	7	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.065	0.070	0.100	19,851,500
OM0000000440	AL SHARGIA INV	211,188	15,438	18	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.071	0.075	0.100	6,570,000
OM0000000324	RENAISSANCE SER.	62,450	21,858	5	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.346	0.354	0.100	82,743,500
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	6,260	1,991	1	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.320	-0.002	-0.625	0.318	0.312	0.350	0.100	256,871,601
OM0000000796	BANK MUSCAT	47,025	18,811	11	0.400	0.402	0.400	0.400	0.404	-0.004	-0.990	0.400	0.400	0.404	0.100	1,299,809,016
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	7,000	616	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.088	0.093	0.100	17,600,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	14,200	3,863	6	0.278	0.278	0.270	0.272	0.277	-0.005	-1.805	0.272	0.272	0.278	0.100	89,997,377
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	601,474	126,675	61	0.210	0.214	0.206	0.211	0.215	-0.004	-1.860	0.212	0.210	0.212	0.100	28,353,470
Total	12	1,342,537	289,674	155												

Parallel Market

OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	20,952	1,110	3	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.050	0.003	6.000	0.053	0.049	0.053	0.100	77,517,877
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	578,320	80,055	26	0.140	0.140	0.135	0.138	0.134	0.004	2.985	0.137	0.137	0.147	0.100	224,380,597
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	13,500	892	4	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.001	2.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	27,335	2,897	4	0.104	0.106	0.104	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.952	0.106	0.104	0.107	0.100	16,628,692
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	4,314	707	1	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.164	0.170	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	4,980	463	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	11,040,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	2,100	420	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.190	0.200	0.100	5,000,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,000	84	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	164,025,649
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	26,000	2,236	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.094	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR.	3,370	1,377	3	0.408	0.410	0.408	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.410	0.436	0.100	40,365,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	4,844	1,356	2	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.265	0.290	0.100	83,939,831
OM0000002200	AHEL BANK	3,000	26	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.120	0.100	189,719,699
OM0000002226	JAZEERA SERVICES	1,021	256	1	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.251	0.251	0.254	0.100	15,077,090
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	565	554	2	0.980	0.980	0.980	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.980	0.000	0.980	0.100	95,000,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	12,595	529	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.041	0.043	0.100	14,664,065
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	35,000	3,395	2	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.092	0.097	0.100	92,593,479
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	500	26	1	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.046	0.051	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	658	112	2	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.170	0.155	0.169	0.100	37,780,800
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	8,163	918	3	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.149	0.150	-0.001	-0.667	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	248,742,090
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,500,611	135,390	42	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.094	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	606,800	30,440	32	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.051	-0.001	-1.961	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	14,499,032
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	63,632	6,109	9	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	-0.002	-2.041	0.096	0.096	0.102	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	19,366	813	2	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.043	0.043	-0.001	-2.326	0.042	0.041	0.043	0.100	5,118,750
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	540,847	43,268	15	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.083	-0.003	-3.614	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	8,000,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	6,596	613	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.098	-0.005	-5.102	0.093	0.093	0.099	0.100	7,519,050
Total	25	3,486,069	314,157	162												

MERGER AND ACQUISITION

Merger deals accelerated in second half of 2020 to reach nearly \$1 trillion in value

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Merger and acquisition (M&A) activity in the tech, media, and telecom (TMT) market bounced back from the impact of COVID-19 in 2020 to achieve nearly \$1 trillion in transaction value. Q2 2020 saw just 103 M&A deals in the sector - the lowest

quarterly deal count in the last five years - but volume rebounded to 230 in Q3 and 222 in Q4, making the second half of the year the highest in terms of both deal count and deal value in the last five years.

Leading data and analytics company GlobalData expects M&A activity to continue at such a high level throughout 2021 as compa-

nies focus on their key technologies and adjust to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company's latest report, 'M&A in TMT - 2020 Themes', notes that there were a total 702 M&A deals announced with a transaction value greater than or equal to \$50m in the global TMT sector in 2020.

LATEST REPORT

Manufacturing industry in India starts 2021 with strong growth

NEW DELHI: The Indian manufacturing industry enjoyed a strong start to 2021 with companies scaling up production at the quickest pace in three months, according to the latest IHS Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released on Monday.

Firms were successful in their stock-building initiatives with a sharper upturn in the quantity of purchases underpinning the strongest rise in input inventories in over a decade.

While employment fell further, job shedding moderated. Price pressures meanwhile intensified, driven by capacity constraints in supply chains.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 56.4 in December to 57.7 in January to signal the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in three months. Sustained sales growth supported a further upturn in production in January. The rise in production was the sixth in successive months and the quickest since last October.

Firms noted a faster expansion in new business inflows at the start of the year, the quickest in three months. - ANI



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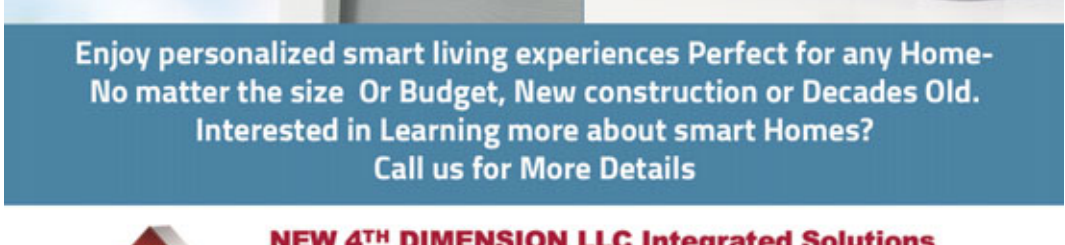
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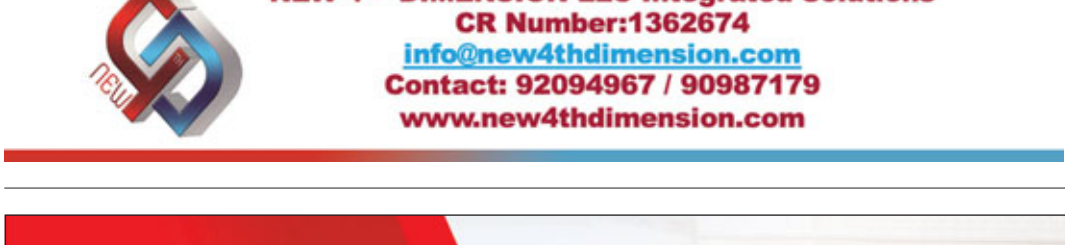
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Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
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 Email: career.hrdinfo@gmail.com

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Required Indian national houseboy with speaking knowledge of English & Arabic for Omani House. Contact 99420752

Looking for experienced Srilankan housekeeper for a English family. Contact 99888143

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 Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

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HSE Officer, diploma in HSE, IOSH Management safely, NEBOSH or OSHA minimum 3 yrs'experience in HSE. Email: imad.sadia@aljoood-oman.com
 Contact 95337785

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male 18 yrs Oman accounting exp SAP, tally, excel upto finalisation seeks suitable placement, NOC, D/L available. Contact 97887472, 71206125

MBA, 29 Indian, 7 yrs experience in Accounts & procurement with tally, peachtree, SAP FICO & MM software certificates with DL. Contact 968-71220318, 71331413. rizwanthayyalashraf@gmail.com

Indian Female 21 years, BA (Hons) Finance, 2 yrs exp in Accounts/Admin. Looking for suitable opportunities. Oman D/L Available.# 99862550 najlanishad1999@gmail.com

Young Indian Male with D/L, having 18 years Oman experience in Accounts/ Sales / Marketing, ready to join immediately - release letter available. Contact 95167629 / 99073704

Indian with 5 yrs experience in Acc & sale with valid DL,looking for suitable job. Contact 92531339

Indian male 30, B.Com,6 yrs experience in Accounts,sales & medical insurance sector in Oman.NOC available. Contact 98908761. Email ajmalhamza90@gmail.com

Indian male 26 yrs old,5 yrs experience in Accounts,looking for job.NOC available. Contact 79081319. email remeshmattakkara@gmail.com

Sudanese Accountant 3 years experience MBA holder 94706138

Indian male, MPA with +15 years of experience in accounts and finance (Oman, UAE & India) as Accounts Manager / chief & senior accountant on visit with NOC. Contact 79007124 / 78039524
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CATERING

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ADMIN/HR

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Hr & admin seek placement for Hr/admin executive/assistant - Contact 95425764

Indian male 23 yrs old, Bachelor of Business Administration(BBA) seeking a suitable placement. Contact 79752885

Indian Male 40 yrs old 16 yrs Exp in Business Dev. & Customer Service looking for a job Mob: 96072016

Filipino, female with 7 years experience in airline industry as cabin crew. Looking for admin, office, Hr job. With Oman DL. Contact 79470206

Indian male professional with experience in Secretarial and administration seeking job. Mob 99341481, mhd82ajaz@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA (HR) & B.E graduate,12 yrs experience in HR Admin & Logistics (incl. 3 yrs of Oman exp.) can join immediately - 79857135 / kvaradhan@hotmail.com

Indian Female 7 years experience Exe. Secretary, Admin Asst, Project Asst, Collection Followup. # 92243552

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JOB WANTED

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2 years experience as a quality control officer seeking a suitable opportunity in any chemical industry/food industry /lab assistant.
Contact +968 71548622 cleetadsu7259@gmail.com

Indian male chief accountant 21yrs experience in financial accounting, budgeting and finalisation. Oman D/L familiar with Sap, customised ERP and Tally. On visit
Contact 78073734 Email sajeevsmi2005@gmail.com

Sales Manager
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GSM: 71744819 Email: mehdkassen@yahoo.com

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator
Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
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Indian male B.Com. ICWA intermediate with 20 years of Oman middle management experience in handling MIS, project finance management, managing banks, budgeting, forecasting, finalization of accounts and year end audits, seeks proper placement. NOC / DL available.
Please contact 94839479, sureshswaminathan2311@gmail.com

FINANCE
Male with 7 years experience in accounts & admin looking for a suitable post.
Telephone: 97711584

Senior MEP Manager
Indian Male: Btech, having 23 years GCC experience with valid Oman driving licence seeks suitable placement.
Contact GSM: 79880377 Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

Architect/ Interior Designer
36 yrs old, 12 yrs working in Design, Consultancy & project execution. Experience working in commercial, Institutional/Educational, residential construction, Hospitality, Interior design/ fit-out work. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/ Tendering/ Estimation & execution. Ready to join immediately with D/L and NOC available
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Senior Civil Engineer
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Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

Structural/Civil Engineer
with 14 years of experience (8 years in USA and 4 years in Oman) in PEB, RCC, Pipeline, Offshore, and Marine structures and have Master degree from USA. Seeking for placement as Project Engineer or Manager.
Please contact me on +968-93368626 irfan.sanjari.syed@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer
Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.
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9539 1786

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE
Indian Male, 41 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (13 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager, Internal Auditor and statutory auditor, currently working as Accounts Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.
Contact: 99169501

ADMINISTRATION
More than 22 years of experience, Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree seeking suitable placement, having experience in Administration/ Document Control/IT, HR, and Finance Support, with valid Oman Driving Licence. NOC available.
Contact No. 99757759 Email: bijuchchacko85@gmail.com

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER
11+-Yrs of experience (10 Yrs Oman experience)
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• Experience in Building and Factory projects with Ministry & Private Clients.
Looking for fulltime/part time job. Having Omani DL.
GSM: 94125368 ; premjithpremanathan@gmail.com

Omani Mechanical Engineer
Omani, looking for a job, Bachelor in Mechanical Engg from the United States of America, +2 yrs of experience in Oil & Gas. + NEBOSH certification Holder.
Contact: 95070748 Email: siyabi430@gmail.com

Project Engineer
32 yrs old - Having 10 years of experience (6 yrs in Oman) in oil & gas field - Intense work experience in fabrication of Pressure Vessels, Structural Steel fabrication & erection, Manufacturing of Skid Packages, Piping Spools & supports, Storage Tanks, Stack & Ducts, Pig Traps. EPC & Turnaround projects.
Having DL & Current Visa expires in Feb/2021.
Contact # boopathiraja88@gmail.com / 97412105

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.
Mob: 95073054 Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.
Contact: 92999419 d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.
Contact whatsapp: 99477009 Email: abualmutsom@gmail.com

Junior Architect with 3-years Oman experience in designing, proficiency in AutoCAD, Sketchup, Lumion Vray & Photoshop. Has worked in quantity estimations. Looking for suitable placement in Muscat.
Contact 95972625

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
Srilankan Senior Accountant looking for a suitable opportunity. 7 years experience in Oman & capable of handling accounts up to finalization. On hand experience in Tally, Spur, QB etc. Having D/L
CONTACT: 92821932

PLANNING ENGINEER/MANAGER
Planning Engineer/manager 20 yrs experience in Mechanical, civil, pipeline 7 MEP projects using Primavera with NOC & D/L seeks suitable position.
Contact 92651105 Email rejil_mathai@hotmail.com

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
Indian male (MBA Fin) with 20 yrs working exp as Accounts & Finance Manager (Strategic planning, Procurement, Finance, Accounting, HR Admin, Audit, Tax, VAT) seeking suitable post. Valid Oman DL. NOC available.
Contact No.99705790 email: thoms_mat@yahoo.com

Senior Software Test Engineer
Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+- years experience in Vipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.
Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com

Bsc In Civil Engineering, MBA in Project Management, PMP certified, having 14 yrs experience(12yrs in Oman) with experience of construction of 4 star hotel, Airports, commercial & residential buildings, factories, Oil stations, is looking for a suitable placement. Having Oman Driving licence with NOC.
Contact: 99721926, tanvircivil@gmail.com

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Contact 94634053

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GSM: 78259755

Graduate Civil Engineer
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Email: contactsyedshams@gmail.com; GSM: +968 98500235

Finance Manager / CFO
Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.
Contact: 99884291 / 99741875 VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM



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

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

Sales Executive, 14 yrs experience in FMCG/IT/Oilfield supplies with DL, looking for suitable placement. Contact 90174597

6 years experienced Sales officer looking for the suitable job. Valid, Omani driving license available.
Contact 98424254

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

23 Years Graduate in Marketing looking for job in Sales or Marketing having 03 years sales experience. Contact: 9427 1666.

MBA Marketing/HR, 5 years working experience in India. Experience in Sales, Marketing and operations. Contact +96896652549

Sales/office driver, 15 yrs experience with DL & NOC.Muscat Area. Contact 79758863

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JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

Indian 28/Male Diploma Electrical Engineer, 4.5 yrs. Exp. (2 yrs. (Exp.) in Dubai) as an Electrician. Seek job
Contact no 79572738.

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

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

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

B.E Mechanical with 16 years of experience in building, Industrial and Infrastructure Projects in Oman, looking for suitable Job Opportunities. Contact: 92330065

QA/QC Civil Engineer, Total 9.7 year experience/Oman & Gcc, on site, O&M, NOC available. Contact no 96421733

BE Civil Engineer 8 to 9yrs experience. Contact 93850875. Email abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com

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

Indian Female Structural/Civil Engineer having 25 years of experience including 18 Years Gulf Experience, on employment visa is seeking for suitable placement. Ready to join immediately with necessary documents. **Contact: 92731684/79858363**

Arabic/English speaking Civil engineer, 5 yrs experience in Projects coordination, preparing submittals & engineering software, resident & have valid DL. **Contact 95432250**

BE Civil engineer having 13 years oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact no: 72132426

Landscaping and Irrigation Engineer with 9+yrs total exp, 6 yrs in oman, looking for suitable job. Contact no. 72100025

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

A Civil engineer with a valid D/L, 9 years experience in Oman seeks job. Contact 97646908

30 Yrs Male, Steel Fabrication Engineer, 6Yrs in Oman, Mechanical CAD, Shop Drawing, Ph: 97097688.

Looking for a job for the post of Electrical Engineer with Btech and 14 yrs exp in Oman. NOC and Release available Contact 92254336. Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer having over all 14 yrs Experience in building & Roads with consultant and contractor. NOC available immediate joining. Contact 94011294. Email: adnanluky@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

IT

CRM, ERP & MIS analyst, experience 5 yrs. Contact 71561266

Indian male, B.Sc (Computer science) 6 yrs of Project management (IT) with FMCG domain across global markets, experience in managing end to end project activities. Contact 98781017

MEDICAL

Lady G P. With M O H licence. Full or part-time, for Capital area only. Contact 99470508

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing, painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837, 98937266

Driver plumber Electrician, looking for job. Contact 96750080

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE Professional, Indian national, Graduate with 23+ years of experience having GradIOSH and IDipNEBOSH certifications seeking suitable placements. Working in Oman since 2012. Ready to join at short notice. Contact: 92604510, hseoman101@gmail.com

MANAGER

Planning Manager (B.Tech-Civil) 17+yrs Exp (Oman-8 yrs) Planning, QS , Budgeting , Costing, Tendering, Claims, ERP NOC Immediate join. Contact : +96891170802. Email: roven.aravind@yahoo.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Sri Lanka male in Oman seeking a job as procurement, store manager & operation. Degree SCM -ERP, with NOC, Tele 98878815

Sri Lanka male in Oman seeking a job as, procurement, store manager, operation & Administration, Degree, fluent in Supply Chain Management-Oracle ERP. Contact 98878815

Indian Female worked with Oil and Gas Operator in Oman for 12 years is seeking for a suitable job. Can join immediately. Contact 99841165.

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Celebrate Valentine's Day with Joyalukkas

The limited-edition collection features an exciting range of heart-themed jewellery including pendants, rings, earrings and bracelets in diamonds and gold

MUSCAT: This Valentine's Day, open up your heart and express your love with a gift as unique as her with Joyalukkas 'Be Mine' heart to heart collection.

The limited-edition collection features an exciting range of intimate heart-themed jewellery including pendants, rings, earrings



and bracelets in diamonds and gold.

The 2021 collection is modelled on the latest design trends and is a fine blend of creativity and craftsmanship. The elegant collection is young, stylish and perfect for every occasion. To make it all the more special, Joyalukkas has announced exciting offers on every purchase including free gold coins and exchange offers.

John Paul Alukkas, MD, Joyalukkas International operations, launched the collection and quoted during the occasion, "Last year, we all learned the need for loved ones more than ever. It was love that

saw us sail through the difficult period. It's time to return the love with a gift that her heart desires. I invite everyone to explore our all-

new Be Mine Heart to Heart 2021 collection and express your love with all your heart. I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day."

During the promotion period, customers will be rewarded with a free 1 gram gold coin on purchase of Diamond, Polki and Pearl Jewellery worth OMR300.

Customers can also sell or exchange their old gold jewellery purchased from any jeweller for cash or brand new jewellery by Joyalukkas.

The offers are valid from February 3 to February 15 across all Joyalukkas showrooms.

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB reveals its new edition of Hasaad Savings Scheme for 2021

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently announced the details of its new Hasaad Savings Scheme for 2021. The new edition has been enhanced to include even more prizes, to encourage the bank's customers to continue saving and enhance their financial stability.

Commenting on the launch of the new scheme, Rashad Al Shaikh, Acting Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "Despite all the challenges that were faced by everyone last year, the Hasaad Savings Scheme has been successful in promoting a savings culture across the community, which we believe is core objective of this scheme. Today, we are delighted to launch the latest edition of the Hasaad Savings Scheme for 2021, which has several great prizes in store for our valued customers across the Sultanate. I am confident that the new scheme will see a great turnout from our customers who have been the cornerstone of our success over the past four decades."

The Hasaad Savings Scheme 2021 will see 101 lucky winners

each month from the 54 branches winning OMR 500 each, as well as 5 monthly winners of OMR 1,000 each, from those who transfer their salaries to Oman Arab Bank in the Platinum segment. This is in addition to a Big Prize draw which will see two winners of OMR 10,000 each, every quarter.

The Elite Draws will see two winners every month of OMR 10,000 each. This is replaced by an Elite grand prize draw conducted every three months with one lucky winner of OMR 25,000.

"At the end of the year, we look forward to seeing 1,300 loyal customers of the Bank win these amazing prizes. The Hasaad Scheme is a way for us to showcase our appreciation to them, for placing their trust in us as a financial institution and reinforces our efforts to be their "Partner for Life". We look forward to conducting the first draw of the new scheme for January during the upcoming days and announcing the first batch of winners. We wish each and every one of our customers the best of luck," he added.

AL BUSTAN PALACE, A RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL

Soulful nights await at Al Maha Jazz Lounge

MUSCAT: Soulful nights await at Al Maha Jazz Lounge, the newest venue at Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Located adjacent to the hotel's lobby, the suave lounge will transport guests instantly to the '20s and '30s with the smooth sounds of its resident musician, renowned pianist Abraham Kenner III. At the only venue of its kind in Oman, guests can settle down to a nightly repertoire of jazz, soul and blues, from Billy Holiday to BB King, Ella Fitzgerald and more. Comfortable furnishings and cosy corners are made for feeling at ease, while the



art pieces provide a great conversation starter, offering a nostalgic glimpse into the jazz age. Topped off by premium drinks and the ex-

ceptional Ritz-Carlton service, Al Maha Jazz Lounge is the perfect sojourn for a leisurely evening.

Nabil bin Abdul Wahab Al Zad-

jali, General Manager of Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, said, "At Al Bustan, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel we aim to introduce the newest and most exclusive luxury experiences. We are thrilled to be reintroducing our piano lounge after a number of years, which has been reimagined for our modern guests. We are proud to be featuring the immense talent of Abraham Kenner and are confident that Al Maha Jazz Lounge is going to become a favourite among our discerning guests. A place where they can leave the world outside and get lost in the moment."

NEW MODEL

Mercedes-Benz Oman announces arrival of all-new Zetros, the extreme off-road trucks

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman has announced the arrival of the all-new Zetros. The new vehicle has been completely re-worked all around. From a technical standpoint, the new Zetros remains available in Euro III emission norms and comes equipped with a more powerful 12.8-litre engine, capable of delivering up to 476 hp.

All vehicles are also equipped with a 16-speed manual gearbox with a striking 2400 Nm of torque at the highest engine output.

On the outside, the new model generation is distinctive in its striking, restyled radiator grille, which, thanks to optimised airflow guidance, ensures even more



effective cooling. The new Zetros keeps its signature characteristics with a low silhouette and the cab behind the engine concept, in addition to an optional fording ability of up to 800 mm.

The new Zetros will be avail-

able as a specialist truck with extreme off-roading capabilities, a product of its permanent all-wheel-drive system with 4x4 or 6x6 configurations. The product portfolio will expand to include a 6x4 configuration. The portfolio

will be complete from Q1/2021 with the introduction of the 4x2. All vehicles are available in three different wheelbases as well as different weight variants.

The Mercedes-Benz Zetros is a heavy-duty truck, which has been developed for demanding transport tasks involving high payloads. That is why it is often used for delivering supplies to remote regions, as well as in energy exploration and forestry operations. The new Zetros can be used all over the world across all extreme climates - from hot desert regions right up to the Arctic. Just as before, the new Zetros remains available in Euro III variant for markets with poor fuel quality.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Get quick cash through NBO's cardless ATM service

MUSCAT: Continuing to pioneer digital innovation in the Sultanate, National Bank of Oman (NBO) has made banking easier than ever with its cardless cash service. Customers can now withdraw funds from any NBO ATM, conveniently located across the Sultanate, using only their mobile phones, by simply logging into the NBO mobile app and going to the cardless cash feature.

They will then enter the re-

quired amount and the One Time Number Passcode which will be sent via SMS into the ATM screen. This is just one of the many ways that NBO is supporting the Sultanate's digital transformation and meeting the evolving needs of its customers.

"As part of our leading position in the market, we are constantly building on our portfolio of digital and customer-friendly solutions. Cardless withdrawals on ATMs

join a long list of mobile payment options that have already taken the banking industry by storm, catering to the growing demand for smartphone technologies and digital services. Integrating cash withdrawals into the cardless-payment ecosystem is a logical next step and because it's safe and convenient, it comes in particularly handy when you've left your card at home," said Abdul Karim Al Hinai, Chief Transformation

Officer at NBO.

Keen to adopt the latest technologies and stay ahead of the curve, NBO is constantly enhancing its digital channels to enable customers to manage their money in a way that is tailored to their specific and changing needs. Its easy-to-use digital banking services - online banking and the mobile app - are available around the clock, facilitating a range of everyday tasks to be completed.

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