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#### HM SENDS GREETINGS

**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Macky Sall of Senegal on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the president and his country's people further progress and prosperity. —**ONA**



#### HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONDOLENCES

**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait on the death of Sheikhha Munira Saud Al Jabir Al Fadhel Al Sabah. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sympathy and condolences, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace and grant her family patience to bear the loss. —**ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 29 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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# OMAN JOINS GLOBAL EFFORT TO COMBAT TROPICAL DISEASES

These tropical diseases affect over 1.7 billion people across some of the most vulnerable regions of the world

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** Oman and two other countries have joined hands to request the United Nations to do more to combat a group of more than 20 tropical diseases that affect 1.7 billion people across some of the most vulnerable regions of the world.

These afflictions are commonly called neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and severely affect the health of people in poor communities. They include conditions such as dengue, snakebites, sleeping sickness, trachoma, and leprosy. If not treated in time, these ailments can be fatal to those who suffer from them.

As part of their efforts to call for increased awareness, the three countries – Oman, Brazil, and the United Arab Emirates – put forth



a request in front of the World Health Organization to create an official day each year to mark these tropical diseases.

The WHO Executive Board, in a statement, said it welcomed “initiatives that celebrate the date of 30 January as a day dedicated to neglected tropical diseases, and invites member states and relevant stakeholders to consider taking appropriate measures to continue celebrating that day.”

The request by the three countries will be discussed in May

2021 at the World Health Assembly, added Ashok Moloo, an information officer for the WHO's Department of Control of NTDs.

World NTD Day was celebrated for the second time this year, and a positive vote at the assembly will make it an official health day in the WHO calendar.

“Despite their diversity, NTDs share a common geographical and social context: their burden is predominantly located in tropical areas across the globe, and they mainly affect resource-poor com-

munities – their correlation with poverty is so close that they are some-times referred to as diseases of neglected populations,” he said. “Such entrenchment among disadvantaged population groups with little public voice contributes to their neglect.”

#### NTD roadmap

Some efforts have already been taken to combat these diseases: Under the first NTD roadmap from 2012 to 2020, progress was made by assessing the healthcare

needs of poor and marginalised populations and increasing facilities across five areas of public health: largescale treatment programmes, managing diseases that need special focus, vector and ecology management, control of neglected diseases, and improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene.

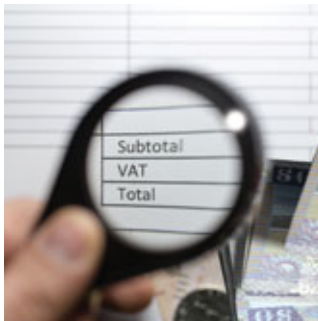
The NTDs include Buruli ulcers, Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis), dengue, chikungunya, Guinea-worm disease, echinococcosis, foodborne trematode infections, sleeping sickness, leishmaniasis, leprosy, elephantiasis, mycetoma, river blindness, rabies, scabies, schistosomiasis, helminthiasis, snakebites, trachoma, yaws, taeniasis, and cysticercosis.

In 2012, Oman became the first country in the world to be validated for trachoma elimination, paving the way for nine other countries to do so.

“Overall and since 2015, we have managed to treat a billion people for at least one NTD and this continued every year including 2020, when we delivered treatment to more than a billion people,” said Moloo. “Also, the number of people requiring NTD interventions has decreased by 600 million between 2010 and 2020.”

“But despite such progress, many of the targets set for 2020 in the earlier road map were not achieved,” he added. **>A3**

#### TAX AUTHORITY



Traders told not to raise prices on VAT pretext

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** Shopkeepers and businesses in Oman have been told to not increase their prices on the pretext of Value Added Tax (VAT) being introduced into the country.

With VAT expected to be rolled out on April 16, 2021, businesses that do attempt to increase their prices before this date can expect to meet strict punishment.

“Based on the warning issued by the Tax Authority regarding the imposition of value-added tax on April 16, 2021, the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) calls on all suppliers not to raise the prices of goods under the pretext of applying VAT before the specified date set on April 16, 2021,” the government body said in a statement.

“The authority will take necessary legal measures against those who violate this,” added the CPA. “It also appeals to consumers to immediately report any violations.”

**>A3**

#### COVID-19 MEASURES

## 50 percent occupancy in govt offices from today

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** Starting from Sunday, government offices will function at only 50 percent employee capacity, with the rest of the staff working remotely, as part of the measures taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

These steps will be in effect until further notice, according to a statement released by the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19.

“Employees who do not attend their workplaces must perform the work assigned to them remotely, effective Sunday, April 4, 2021, until further notice,” said the statement.

Furthermore, as part of the latest raft of efforts taken, all students in private and international schools will need to attend school remotely. This is with the exception of grade 12 students,



who will receive the same treatment as those attending government schools.

“The Supreme Committee has looked over the reports of epidemiological investigation in schools, which have shown an increase in the numbers of cases registered among the administrative and educational staff and students in private and international schools,” said the statement.

This is due to “transmission of the pandemic among community members, and the failure of some schools to take the necessary preventive measures, prominently, the failure to disclose COVID-19 symptoms, or incidents of coming in contact with positive cases,” it added.

Since April 1, all official and community-level sports activities have also been suspended until further notice. **>A3**

#### TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

### OMAN Fak Kurba campaign

**1** Fak Kurba has launched its 2021 campaign to help raise funds to secure the release of prisoners who have been jailed in Oman. **>A2**

#### WORLD

### US Capitol curbs end

**2** The lockdown at the US Capitol was lifted after a person rammed a car into barriers surrounding the complex, killing a cop. **>A6**

#### SPORTS

### Fastest 13 ODI tons

**3** Pakistan skipper Babar Azam became the fastest men's cricketer to score 13th centuries in ODIs. **>A8**



Practise yoga for a goodnight's sleep

**A4**

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# Fak Kurba launches drive for release of prisoners

Organised by the Omani Lawyer's Association, the initiative saw more than 800 prisoners released last year

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Fak Kurba has launched its 2021 campaign to help raise funds to secure the release of prisoners who have been jailed in Oman for non-criminal offences.

**Financially weak**  
Organised by the Omani Lawyer's Association, the initiative, which saw more than 800 prisoners released last year, helps secure legal representation for people who are financially weak, and in jail for crimes relating to civil, commercial, legal and labour-based issues. "Believing in social solidarity,



**GREAT SERVICE:** Laila Al Najjar, the Minister of Social Development, launched the eighth edition of the humanitarian initiative, Fak Kurba. - File photo

and in order to consolidate community cohesion, and deepening human, Islamic and patriotic values of cooperation and solidar-

ity for the public interest, we are pleased to launch the eighth edition of the humanitarian initiative, Fak Kurba, for 2021," said

Laila Al Najjar, the Minister of Social Development.

"We call on everyone to lend a hand to your struggling brothers and help them overcome their difficulties," she added. "Let us help them. We believe that everyone deserves a second chance."

People in the country, as well as organisations, are invited to donate money towards aiding these prisoners.

**Charities and corporations**  
In previous years, a number of charities and corporations, including Dar Al Atta'a, Omantel, Bank Muscat, Petroleum Development Oman, and ahli bank, have extended support towards Fak Kurba.

Many individuals also donate funds that go towards releasing them. In 2019, as a gesture of benevolence, an Omani man paid the debts of 24 prisoners in the Dhahirah Governorate so that they could be released.

**Good gesture**  
Keen to avoid publicity despite his good gesture, the man did not want his name published. Another man contributed towards freeing 30 people in the same governorate in May 2018.

## TREATMENT

# Embassy in Cairo aids COVID positive Omanis

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Sultanate's Embassy in Egypt has confirmed that the Sultanate's government will guarantee treatment for two citizens who contracted COVID-19 while they were in Egypt.

The Sultanate's Embassy in Cairo, issued a statement regarding the audio clip about an Omani citizen in Egypt: "With reference to the audio clip circulating on social media, the Embassy would like to inform you that the citizen arrived two months ago to Cairo with his son for the purpose of medical treatment, and he recovered, but he preferred to stay."

In March, the embassy interviewed the citizen's son and helped him in facilitating his father's admission to one of the specialised isolation hospitals, and he was asked to provide the embassy with some documents explaining his father's health status, and immediately after he left the embassy's headquarters, a phone call came from the citizen stating that his son was also infected with coronavirus.

On Thursday, April 1, 2021, his son provided the embassy with the required documents, in which he stated that he had conducted an

examination confirming that he had pneumonia due to the coronavirus on March 20, 2021, and he was referred directly to the esteemed ministry (the consular department) to take the necessary action.

"The diplomat at the embassy, after receiving the reports, contacted the citizen to check on him and took his residence address in Egypt, provided him with the phone number of one of the diplomats to communicate in case of any emergency. The ambassador also reassured the citizen to that the necessary treatment would be made available for him," the embassy added.

The Sultanate's Foreign Ministry was contacted for the speedy admission of the citizen to the hospital for treatment of symptoms of coronavirus. The Minister of Health in the Sultanate coordinated with the ambassador, who responded for his treating in the Egyptian hospital at the expense of the Sultanate.

"Coordination was made directly with a specialised hospital, sending all reports, and providing an ambulance to transport him to the hospital for treatment until he recovered from symptoms," the statement added.

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# More than 100 people died from COVID-19 in March

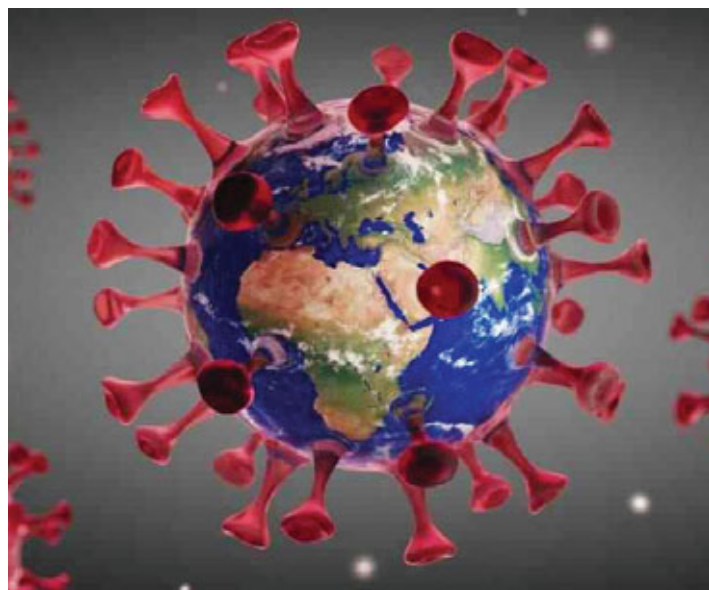
104 COVID deaths took place in March, with a daily death rate of more than 3 people, according to Oman TV

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** More than 100 people in Oman died from COVID-19 during the month of March, a significant increase over the numbers of people who lost their lives to the disease in February.

A report on Oman TV said 104 COVID deaths took place in March, with a daily death rate of 3.5 people.

Comparatively, the death rate in February was 1.6 persons a day. In January, it stood at one death a day, down from Decem-



**AVERAGE TOLL:** The highest average daily death rate in the Sultanate since the start of the pandemic was seen in October 2020 (9.7 deaths), while the lowest was in January 2021.

ber, when the daily death rate was 2.3 persons.

The highest average daily death rate in the Sultanate since the start of the pandemic was seen in October 2020 (9.7 deaths), while the lowest was in January 2021.

The report added that the death rate in the country is alarming.

The Ministry of Health has also reaffirmed that everyone who lives on the soil of the Sultanate must responsibly follow the precautionary measures so that we

remain safe while more vaccinations for COVID-19 arrive.

More than two million additional doses have been booked and are expected to soon reach the Sultanate.

"The country is witnessing economic and health issues that call for the solidarity of everyone in the country, from the government to its people, to get through this," said Dr Mohammed Al Wardi, an economic analyst in the country.

"People should be patient, unite, and understand that measures taken by the government are taken to avoid worsening the current situation."

He also asked people to not needlessly criticise organisations that were working to alleviate the effects of the pandemic.

"Criticism is healthy, but unnecessarily criticising someone is cruel and indignant – doing so will not solve our problems," added Al Wardi.

"Instead, it will only increase our gloom and create more sadness among people. Let us have compassion for ourselves and each other."

The Majlis Al Shura also released a statement expressing

concern over the recent increase in the numbers of hospitalisations and coronavirus-related deaths.

"The Health and Environmental Affairs Committee in the Shura Council has followed up on the statistics related to cases of infection and deaths from the coronavirus in the Sultanate, and affirms the need for everyone to adhere to the precautionary measures," said the body.

"It recommends that efforts should be strengthened to provide a greater number of vaccines and to expand the target groups for immunisation to include all segments of society."

The Shura Council also recently hosted many representatives of the Omani Medical Association and Muscat Private Hospital to seek advice on the articles of the proposed draft laws covering patient rights and safety.

As of April 1, a total of 160,018 cases of COVID-19 had been recorded in the country, while 144,639 people had recovered from the disease, at a recovery rate of 90.3 percent. 1,681 people, have died from the virus. ICU admissions stand at 160, while 515 have so far been admitted to hospital.

## ROYAL DECREE

**< FROM A1** Introduction of VAT

The Tax Authority said in an announcement that VAT will be levied to customers at five percent of the value of the goods or services provided to them, from April 16 onwards, in keeping with Royal Decree No. 121/2020.

People who have queries about VAT and other tax-based issues can contact the Tax Authority on 2474-6996, or email them at info@taxoman.com. Alternatively, they can visit www.taxoman.gov.om.

## SUPREME COMMITTEE

**< FROM A1** Sports activities

This includes the suspension of all activities on sports grounds, including artificial turf pitches, and the temporary stoppage of recreational activities in indoor sports facilities and gymnasiums.

A manager of a gym in Muscat confirmed the new regulations brought out by the Supreme Committee.

"We have a tennis court and a badminton court that is always fully booked because it is very popular, but we have closed it for the time being, and put up a notice informing people of the same," he said.

## Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### BOOK MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

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Times of Oman

Oman Air has asked travellers to carry a copy of their ticket head to the airport during the night lockdown.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM



Passengers advised to carry ticket copy to airport during night lockdown in Oman

A story on passengers advised to carry ticket copy during lockdown reached 31,695 people and had 1,845 engagements on Facebook.

### VIDEO MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

3,600 VIEWS

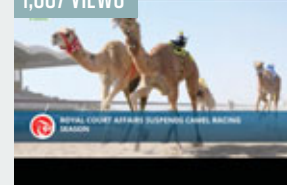


The Midday Minute update

The Midday Minute update got 3,600 views and reached 17,800 people on Facebook.

### VIDEO MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,607 VIEWS



The Maghrib Minute news wrap

The Maghrib Minute news wrap video had 1,607 views and 54 likes on Instagram.

## WHO

**< FROM A1** Tackling tropical diseases

"The new road map which we launched in January 2021, identifies critical gaps and the actions required to reach the 2030 targets. These include working with countries to provide them with greater ownership of national programmes by working with local governments, including communities."

Working alongside the WHO is a non-profit called United to Combat NTDs, a group consisting of global health and development organisations, together with companies involved in healthcare.

The group works alongside the World Health Organization and national health programmes to address the burden caused by these diseases.

"They affect some of the most vulnerable people in the world and they cause immeasurable suffering," said Mona Hammami, a board member for the organisation.

### Cycles of poverty

"They debilitate, disfigure, and can be fatal. NTDs create cycles of poverty and cost developing nations billions of dollars every year. But this doesn't have to be the case. These diseases are preventable and/or treatable."

Describing some of the NTDs and their impacts, Hammami said, "Examples include trachoma – the leading cause of infectious blindness worldwide. Snakebite is a leading cause of disability worldwide which still kills more than 120,000 people each year. Sleeping sickness is on the brink of elimination, with less than 1,000 cases worldwide. However, if left untreated, it has a mortality rate of close to 100 percent."

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## Sultanate of Oman Government Development Bonds

On behalf of the Government of Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Oman announces an issue of Government Development Bonds to be sold by auction. The 67<sup>th</sup> issue of Government Development Bonds will be issued on Thursday, 22/04/2021, carrying a coupon rate of 5.50% per annum for a maturity period of 7 years (maturing on Saturday, 22/04/2028). These Bonds will be auctioned on Tuesday, 20/04/2021. Investors may apply for these Bonds through competitive bidding only.

### Security of Capital

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Interest of 5.50% per annum is payable half-yearly during the life of the Bond, commencing from the date of issue (i.e. 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021). The interest will be paid semi-annually on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> April, every year till maturity of the Bond on Saturday, 22/4/2028. The first interest payment will be on 22/10/2021.

### Liquidity

The Bonds can be liquidated before maturity by trading in Muscat Securities Market at the prevailing market price.

### Collateral Advantage

The Bonds can be used as a collateral security to obtain loans from any commercial licensed bank.



OPENS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

CLOSES ON MONDAY, APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### Who Can Invest?

Resident and Non-resident investors, such as Banks, Financial Institutions, Companies, Individuals and any other entity of any nationality.

### How to Apply?

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### MSM Investor Code

The investor must provide the MSM Investor Code in his/her application.

Anyone who does not have MSM Investor Code, can obtain it from Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. (MCD) through their website at least one day prior to submitting the application to the commercial bank (www.mcd.gov.om) or can contact the following numbers:

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# PRACTISE YOGA FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

If your sleep has taken a hit owing to the uncertainties of the current times, practise yoga before bedtime. A good sleep is not only important for your energy but it also helps you to have a strong immune system.

If you are going through anxiety and stress during the current times, remember you are not alone. While it is perfectly normal to feel that way as we deal with the effects of the ongoing pandemic, we should also ensure to do the necessary things to alleviate the fears. Practising yoga in the evenings or before bedtime is a wonderful way to reduce the stress and have a good night's sleep.

Studies have found that regular practice of yoga before bedtime can help to manage symptoms of insomnia and promote better sleep which also has a positive effect for those who are wanting to reduce their weight. Also, the most important benefit of practising yoga in the current times is that it reduces our stress

level while we are social distancing and staying indoors.

An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi study has found that yoga practitioners had "lower stress, anxiety and depression" during the lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 outbreak last year as compared to non-practitioners. The study, titled 'Yoga an effective strategy for self-management of stress-related problems and well-being during COVID-19 lockdown: A cross-sectional study', has been published in the journal 'Plos One'. It was carried out by a team of scientists from the National Resource Centre for Value Education in Engineering (NRCVEE) at IIT-D. The study found that long-term practitioners had "highest peace

of mind, lowest depression and anxiety. Start by getting to get the right breathing technique. Once you start breathing deeply and in the correct way you not only allow your muscles to relax, but reduce your mental stress. In the long run regular practise of pranayama or breathing exercises helps one to overcome anxiety disorders and have a calmer mind. Do not take your breathing for granted and few minutes of deep breathing everyday have many benefits in the long run.

While it is not feasible to join a physical class or workshop now, there are several online classes that you can take up during the current night lockdown period. There are many restorative yoga postures that are perfect for the evenings. Restorative is a type of yoga that's per-

fect for the evenings as it helps your body and mind to get the much needed rest.

Start with a waterfall pose or legs up the wall. It's an ideal way to stretch your hamstrings which often gets stiff owing to long hours of sitting at work.

Lie on your back, and then gently lift and extend your hips to make sure that your back is comfortable. Then bring your knees up to your chest and extend the legs up the wall, so that they're at a 90-degree angle to your body. Bring your arms out to the side, close down the eyes and relax, breathing deeply for 10-15 breaths.

Another way to relax is to do Ananda Balasana or Happy Baby pose. From the leg on the wall pose bring your knees back into your chest and grab the out-

side of the sides of your feet. Then gradually extend your legs a little and bring your knees wide, letting your elbows fall inside your thighs. Push into your hands, feeling a nice stretch. Hold for 10-15 breaths. Other helpful poses are Sleeping Butterfly pose and Child's Pose that gives your body the much needed relaxation. Adding these yoga poses to your bedtime routine can help you to sleep more deeply.

After all, a good night's rest isn't just important for your energy but it also helps you to have a strong immune system that is most important during the current times. So if your sleep has taken a hit owing to the uncertainties of the current times, practise these yoga postures.

## WHAT TO DO DURING NIGHT LOCKDOWN





# A SLICE OF OMAN’S RICH HERITAGE

Harat Al Raml, one of the old districts, in the wilayat of Ibri stands a testimony to the determinations of people in the past who faced immense challenges due to adverse conditions

**IBRI:** The residential areas of the wilayat of Ibri, besides its old souq, are of the oldest areas and souqs in the Sultanate with historic buildings dating back to over 500 years. Located at the junctions of travellers and traders, such historic buildings were famous for their economic value throughout the history.

Harat Al Raml, one of the old districts, in the wilayat of Ibri stands a testimony to the determi-

nations of people in the past who faced immense challenges daily due to difficult conditions.

Harat Al Janour, is one of the oldest districts with its ways/lanes and old houses still stand amidst ruins. The old houses and buildings are characterised with the use of arches, unique windows’ decoration, columns and big doors, which reflect the beauty of architectural engineering in Oman.

Harat Al Atash still maintains



the beauty of its houses built of clay and palm trunks besides the use of columns, arches and big doors.

Harat Al Shanadid is also one of the famous districts with a few

houses and landmarks remain till date including Bait Al Oud , Masjid Al Shuja’a and Masjid Ali bin Said. This is in addition to other residential areas such as Harat Al Zayada and Harat Zainab.—ONA



## UN body praises Oman for conduct of electronic census

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has praised the efforts of the National Centre for Statistics and Information for the successful conduct and implementation of the electronic census of population, housing and establishments 2020 based on administrative records.

The UN body also praised the speedy publication of its results in record time, despite the exceptional circumstances that afflicted the world in 2020, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The National Centre for Statistics and Information, at the workshop organised by the ESCWA, highlighted its experience in the wonderful work done by the centre and the Sultanate’s experience in conducting a cen-



sus based on administrative records which was attended by a large number of experts representing a number of Arab and international organisations, and appreciated the efforts made by the Sultanate for the conduct of the census based on the administrative records.

The participants also called on the centre to conduct a series of workshops and seminars -targeting each stage of the census, including the challenges faced and related solutions, linking records, the role of geospatial information and the quality measurement framework.

### ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform that Mr. Rajesh Debnath (pictured here) holder of **Indian Passport No. L4908812 and Resident Card No. 75722727**, who has been working as Asst. Sales Manager in our Company is terminated from the service from 28th March 2021.

Therefore, we request all the concerned parties to stop dealing with him henceforth with respect Baabood LLC. If anyone dealing with him will be doing at their own risk and Company will not take any responsibility hereafter. If anybody has any claim, he/she should report to the company within next **10 days** of this advertisement, to the name listed below.

**Mr. Ahmed Al Abri, Moblie: 9699 9631, Mail ID : ahmed.alabri@baabood.com**  
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### ANNOUNCEMENT



|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Name        | : Srinivasulu Siragam           |
| R/C No      | : 117903228                     |
| Passport No | : L8683470                      |
| Nationality | : Indian                        |
| Profession  | : Projects Manager              |
| Sponsor     | : Oman International Group SAOC |

Dr. Srinivasulu Siragam is no longer employed at Oman International Group SAOC effective from 28/03/2021.



### U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

## ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS

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

Interested bidders may view the auction items online starting on April 4, 2021 by going to <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>. Bidding will open April 11 at 10:00. Bidders must first register on the site before placing a bid.

All items offered for sale will be sold as is, where-is. "As is, where is" means that there is no warranty, either expressed or implied. Bidding closes on April 15 at 10:00.

Successful bidders will be notified on April 15. At that point, they must make full payment of all lots won. Payment instructions are listed in the "How to pay for your items" section in the "How it works" link on the auction page. Full and complete payments must be received in the U.S. Embassy bank account no later than April 22.

Successful bidders with fully paid lots may collect their goods on April 24 at the Ghala warehouse.



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# US Capitol lockdown lifted after one officer, suspect killed in attack

The suspect has been identified as Noah Green, a 25-year-old man from Indiana

**WASHINGTON:** The lockdown at the US Capitol was lifted about two hours after a person rammed a car into barriers surrounding the complex on Friday afternoon, leaving one police officer dead and another injured.

The driver was shot by police and died in hospital. Local media citing senior law enforcement officials in charge of the investigation said the suspect has been identified as Noah Green, a 25-year-old man from Midwest state Indiana.

The authorities have not yet confirmed the suspect's identity or specified a motive.

The killed police officer was named by Capitol Police as 18-year veteran William "Billy" Evans.

"It is with profound sadness that I share the news of the passing of Officer William 'Billy' Evans this afternoon from injuries he sustained following an attack at the North Barricade by a lone assailant," acting U.S. Capitol Police Chief Yogananda Pittman said in a statement.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told pool reporters that President Joe Biden, who arrived at Camp David at noontime on Friday to spend the Easter weekend, is "aware" of the Capitol incident.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi



**LOCKDOWN LIFTED:** The driver was shot by police and died in hospital.

ordered the flags at the U.S. Capitol to be flown at half-staff due to the death of the Capitol Police officer, Pelosi's deputy chief of staff tweeted.

"This has been an extremely difficult time for U.S. Capitol Police," Pittman said at a news conference on Friday afternoon, noting the attack underscores that the Capitol Hill remains a potential target for violence.

After ramming his car into the barricade, the suspect exited the vehicle with a knife, started lunging at and was killed by the police, Pittman said.

"The suspect entered what we refer to as the north barricade of the Capitol. The suspect rammed his car into two of our officers and then hit the north barricade barrier," Pittman said.

"At such time the suspect exited

the vehicle with a knife in hand. Our officers then engaged that suspect. He did not respond to verbal commands," said Pittman, "The suspect did start lunging toward U.S. Capitol Police officers, at which time U.S. Capitol Police officers fired upon the suspect. At this time the suspect has been pronounced deceased."

The exact cause of the police officer's death was not immediately clear. The attack occurred about 91 metres from the entrance of the building on the Senate side of the Capitol before 1:30 p.m. eastern time.

There was a heavy police response outside of the Capitol, including a helicopter landing on the premises. Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it also provided support to the Capitol Police.

The D.C. National Guard also deployed an Immediate Response Force made up of members of the National Guard to the Capitol complex to support the Capitol Police.

It was the second line-of-duty death in Capitol Police this year. Capitol Police officer, Brian D. Sicknick, died a day after rioters supporting former President Donald Trump stormed Capitol on January 6 "due to injuries sustained while on-duty."

Two Capitol Police officers have died by suicide in the wake of the riot leaving five people dead including Sicknick.

Barbed wire fencing has been set up around the Capitol complex since the January 6 riot. Several thousands of the National Guard troops still remain in Washington, D.C. over security concerns. Xinhua

**Times**  
OF OMAN

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



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

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## MISSILE PROGRAMME

# US, Asian allies urge North Korea to limit nuclear programme

**WASHINGTON:** Officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan urged North Korea on Friday to curtail its controversial nuclear and missile programmes, following an in-person meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.

US President Joe Biden's National Security adviser Jake Sullivan consulted with his counterparts from South Korea and Japan, Suh Hoon and Shigeru Kitamura, after recent threats from Pyongyang towards the new US administration.

In a joint statement, the three "shared their concerns about North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs," vowing "concerted trilateral cooperation towards denuclearization."

The officials urged North Korea to abide by UN resolutions on its weapons programs, after Pyongyang reportedly shot off two ballistic missiles last month.

The Biden administration will soon complete a review of US foreign policy towards North Korea. Biden has previously chided North Korea for its missile launches, but has also said he is willing to use diplomacy as needed towards Pyongyang.



## How has US policy towards North Korea changed?

Biden's stance towards North Korea is a U-turn from that of his predecessor, former President Donald Trump. Although there was hostility between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the beginning of his term, Trump later said he "fell in love" with the dictator.

Trump downplayed North Korea's missile tests during his presidency, and sought a nuclear deal with Pyongyang to cement his foreign policy legacy. The Trump administration hoped that North Korea would pursue a path to denuclearization in exchange for the lifting of the US sanctions that were crippling its economy. Trump met Kim for summits in Singapore in June 2018 and in Vietnam in February 2019, but the two leaders were unable to close on a deal. **ow**

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WORST RAIL DISASTER

# Taiwan mourns after deadliest train crash in decades

**TAIPEI:** Salvage teams began removing pulverised train carriages on Saturday after Taiwan's worst rail disaster in decades plunged the island into mourning.

At least 50 people have died following Friday's crash near the eastern coastal city of Hualien.

With rescuers anticipating the discovery of more bodies inside the wreckage, officials have suggested the death toll may still rise. By Saturday morning, flags were seen flying at half-mast across Taiwan. They were set to stay that way for the next three days.

The train was packed at the

start of a long holiday weekend — with 492 passengers and four crew on board.

Just moments before the collision, which occurred at around 9:30 a.m. local time (0030 GMT), a parked railway maintenance vehicle slipped down an embankment and onto the track, according to the Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA).

As it approached a narrow tunnel, the train hit the errant truck that lay in its path, derailing many of the carriages as the devastation unfolded.

Some railway experts have suggested the narrowness of the tunnel made the crash even worse, and rescue efforts

more difficult.

**Prosecutors seek arrest warrant**

Prosecutors said they are seeking an arrest warrant for the construction site manager who may have failed to secure the parking break, state-run Central News Agency reported on Saturday.

Investigators began questioning the man late on Friday but had to stop their interrogation when he became too emotional, the agency reported.

For the time being, he has been released on bail and is barred from leaving Taiwan, pending further investigation.



**TRAIN DERAILMENT:** At least 50 people have died following Friday's crash near the eastern coastal city of Hualien.

REVERSE MOVES

# United States lifts Trump's sanctions on International Criminal Court officials

**WASHINGTON:** The United States on Friday lifted sanctions on the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor as President Joe Biden seeks to reverse the previous administration's aggressive moves targeting international institutions.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the decision saying an assessment concluded that the measures adopted by the previous administration "were inappropriate and ineffective."



**Why were the sanctions imposed?**

The Trump administration had imposed financial sanctions and a US visa ban on the ICC's Gambian-born chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda last year after she launched an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by American forces in Afghanistan.

The Hague-based court also pressed ahead with an investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories by Israel, a US ally.

Angered by the investigations against the US and its allies, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denounced the tribunal as a "kangaroo court," accusing the ICC of infringing on US national sovereignty.

Sanctions also targeted Phakiso Mochochoko, head of the ICC's Jurisdiction, Complementarity and Cooperation Division while other court staff were slapped with visa bans.

Biden on Friday revoked the executive order by Trump, termi-

nating all sanctions and visa bans.

However, he added that the United States would "vigorously protect current and former United States personnel" from any ICC attempts to exercise jurisdiction over them.

**A move for cooperation**

Blinken said that the United States continued to "disagree strongly" with the court's moves on Afghanistan and Palestine.

"We believe, however, that our concerns about these cases would be better addressed through engagement with all stakeholders in the ICC process rather than through the imposition of sanctions," he said in a statement.

A spokesperson for the ICC said the court and its governing body of member states, known as the Assembly of States Parties, welcomed the move.

Silvia Fernandez de Gurmen-di, President of the Assembly of States Parties, voiced hope that

the decision "signals the start of a new phase of our common undertaking to fight against impunity" for war crimes.

Lifting of sanctions would contribute to "strengthening the work of the Court and, more generally, to promoting a rules-based international order," she said.

**The United States and ICC**

The US is not a member of the court and remains out of the Rome Statute that established the tribunal.

While the Democratic administrations have been more supportive of the ICC, there was little prospect of the US joining the court, amid fierce opposition from Republicans.

In 2002, the US Congress even passed a law authorizing military force to free any US personnel held by the court, theoretically giving the president authority to invade NATO ally The Netherlands. **dw**

COUNTRYWIDE LOCKDOWN

# Bangladesh announces seven-day lockdown from April 5



**DHAKA:** Bangladesh government on Saturday announced a week-long countrywide lockdown from April 5 to curb the new wave of COVID-19 infections.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has said the government is all set to announce a countrywide week-long lockdown, *Dhaka Tribune* reported. Quader, who is also the road transport and bridges minister, made the announcement at a regular briefing from his official residence on Saturday morning.

"Every office and court will be closed during this lockdown but industries and mills will continue their operation on rotation," State Minister for Public Administration

Farhad Hossain said while confirming the matter to *Dhaka Tribune*.

Ask why industries and mill will be kept operational during the lockdown period, the state minister replied: "If we close the mills then the workers may have to leave their workstations and head for home."

Bangladesh reported a record 6,830 new cases in the past 24 hours till Friday at 8 am, with an alarming 23.28 per cent single-day infection rate. With the new cases, the tally has reached 6,24,594 in the country.

The country reported 50 deaths in the 24 hours to Friday morning, taking the tally of fatalities to 9,155. **ANI**



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### Invitation for the Extra-Ordinary General and Ordinary General Meetings of Shareholders

#### Dhofar Power Company S.A.O.C

The Board of Directors of Dhofar Power Company S.A.O.C is pleased to invite the shareholders to attend the Extra-Ordinary and Ordinary General Meetings to be held at 3.00 pm on 19th, April 2021 via the electronic platform for general meetings which may be accessed through Muscat Clearing and Depository's website ([www.mcd.gov.om](http://www.mcd.gov.om)). In the event that the quorum to convene the general meeting is not complete, the second Extra-ordinary General meeting and/or Ordinary General Meeting will be convened at 3.00 pm on 25th, April 2021, to discuss the following agenda: -

**Firstly: Extra-Ordinary General Meeting**

- To consider the proposal to change the name of the Company from (Dhofar Power Company SAOC) to (Dhofar Integrated Services Company SAOC) and approve the same; and
- To consider amendment of the Articles of Association of the Company to comply with the provisions of the Royal Decree No 131/2020 regarding Water and Wastewater sector and approve the enclosed amended and restated Articles of Association of the Company.

**Secondly: Ordinary General Meeting:**

- To consider and approve the transfer of business, assets, liabilities, contracts, registers and records, rights and obligations of SSDC to the Company as further described in the Explanatory Memorandum.
- To authorise the Board of Directors of the Company to approve, ratify and affirm the actions to be taken in relation to the Transfer and to negotiate, and finalise the Transfer mechanics including the final consideration, terms of the Transfer, the Business Transfer Agreement and related documentation, and undertake all associated steps to execute all documents that may be necessary or desirable to finalise and implement the Transfer in accordance with the applicable law.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company and the Rules for Convening General Meetings of Closed Joint Stock Companies via Electronic Means issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, we would like to bring your attention to the following:

- Only juristic persons shall have the right to appoint a proxy to attend the Annual Ordinary General Meeting and vote on their behalf via electronic means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company.
- Voting on any of the items on the agenda shall commence no more than three days before the date of the general meeting and until the voting process ends on the day of the meeting. If a shareholder's balance is increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled, and the shareholder must cast his vote again on the day of the general meeting.

To prevent delay in starting the meeting, shareholders are requested to attend the meetings at least half an hour before the scheduled meeting time.

*For any clarification regarding the matters mentioned in the above agenda, please contact Mr. Said Salim Al Kathiri on Tel.: 23232519, Mob: 99497517.*

Documents, reports and annexures related to the agenda will be available for your review during official business hours at the company's main office.

**Ms. Suhaila Mohammad Al-Farsi**  
Chairperson of the Board



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# Mussanah Championship kicks off as hopefuls eye Olympic 2021

Over the next week, 102 sailors from 17 countries will compete

Times News Service

**MUSSANAH:** Sailors from across Africa, Asia and Europe have convened at the Millennium Resort Mussanah for the start of the Mussanah Open Championship. Over the next week, 102 sailors from 17 countries will compete in 49er, 49er FX, Laser, Laser Radial and RS:X classes where the African and Asian sailors will be looking to secure their place at this year's long-awaited Tokyo 2021 Olympics at the final qualification event before the Games.



officials selected by the Asian Sailing Federation (ASAF) will join their counterparts from Oman Sail, organisers of the event, on Saturday 3 April for the first day of competitive sailing with clear skies expected and an average temperature of 31c with wind of 12 knots providing perfect conditions on the first day.

Sailing at Oman Sail, said, "We are delighted to welcome a strong fleet to sail in Oman and we're confident of a very high level of competition. Conditions in Mus-sanah are great and with such high stakes, we know the sailors will be able to perform at their peak. The competitors in each class are evenly matched, so it will be all about small gains on each day and fine

margins will decide who qualifies for Tokyo 2020."

Two of Oman's own national teams are also competing this week. The 49er Olympic team of Musab Al Hadi, Waleed Al Kindi, Abdul Rahman Al Mashari and Ahmed Al Hasni are chasing Olympic qualification for the first time, and Abdul Majeed Al Hadrami, Faisal Al Qutaiti and Al Mukhtar Al Mujaini will be eager to perform well in the RS:X class on home waters.

The Mussanah Open Championship was allocated Olympic qualification status by World Sailing to substitute for postponed events throughout 2020 and allow sailors the opportunity to confirm their spot in a safe and competitive environment. Everyone involved has been tested upon arrival and regularly throughout to create a secure bubble and allow the event to go ahead.

Ajay Narang, Chair of the ASAF Events Committee, said, "It has been very challenging for everybody to organise an event during this pe-



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riod but the organisation has put systems in place to make sure that sailors are safe and able to compete to qualify for the Olympics.

Despite the challenges everybody has gone through, there has been thorough testing at every stage to ensure the safety of the sailors, coaches and officials so that the event can happen. We are very grateful to Oman Sail for organising this event in such a short timeframe and making sure the event is successful."

All sailors, coaches and onsite management staff have passed rigorous COVID-19 safety procedures in order to enter Oman and will remain within race partners

Millennium Resort Mussanah for the duration of the event. Also supporting the event is the International Maritime College Oman (IMCO), Salsabeel water from National mineral water company, Carrefour Oman and OHI Telecommunications.

The first day offered sailors an opportunity to warm up with an official practice race in preparation for the start of official racing the following day.

Racing will then take place each day through until Thursday 8 April where the winners will receive their prizes and the closing ceremony will bring the extended qualification period to an end.

13 CENTURIES

## Babar becomes fastest batsman to hit 13 ODI tons

**CENTURIAN:** Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has added another feather to his illustrious cap as he became the fastest men's cricketer to score 13th centuries in ODI cricket.

Playing in his 78th ODI on Friday, Babar smashed 103 runs to guide his team to a three-wicket win in the first ODI of the three-match series against South Africa here at the SuperSport Park. He surpassed former Proteas batsman Hashim Amla and India skipper Virat Kohli to achieve the



feat. Babar has taken just 76 innings to score 13 tons while Amla, who until now was the fastest, had scored his 13th ODI hundred in 83 innings. Kohli had taken 86 innings to score 13 ODI hundreds.

Australia women's captain Meg Lanning, too, took 76 innings to reach her 13th ODI hundred.

With this thrilling win, Pakistan has taken a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series. The second game will be played on Sunday at The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. **ANI**

SL VS WI

## Spirited batting display helps Sri Lanka draw second Test against West Indies

**ST JOHN'S:** A spirited batting display from Dimuth Karunaratne, Oshada Fernando and Lahiru Thirimanne on Day Five ensured that the second Test between Sri Lanka and West Indies ended in a draw here at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.

With the result, the trophy was shared between the two teams as the first Test had also ended in a draw.

Resuming the final day at 29/0 and still needing 348 runs for the win, overnight batters Thirimanne and Karunaratne decided

to grind it out in the first session and the duo ensured that the visitors did not lose any wickets before the interval.

At the Lunch break, Sri Lanka's score read 93/0 with Karunaratne and Thirimanne batting on 54 and 37 respectively.

However, in the second session, Windies was able to get the breakthrough early as Alzarri Joseph dismissed Thirimanne (39). Oshada Fernando then stitched a 45-run partnership with Karunaratne. In the 56th over of the innings, Kyle Mayers got the

better of Karunaratne (75), reducing Sri Lanka to 146/2.

However, Fernando and Dinesh Chandimal then made sure not to let the hosts get a chance to go for the win.

They scored 47 runs between the two of them and ensured that the match ended in a draw with Sri Lanka reaching 193/2. Fernando and Chandimal remained unbeaten on 66 and 10 respectively.

Kraigg Brathwaite was adjudged the Player of the Match while Suranga Lakmal was named the Player of the Series. **ANI**



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CHINA'S HOME PRICES UP

Home prices in 100 Chinese cities saw a slight increase last month, an industry report showed. Among the 100 surveyed cities, average new home prices edged up 0.2 per cent from February to 15,916 yuan (about US\$2,424) per square metre in March, according to the China Index Academy.

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ECONOMIC BOOM IN TANGIER

Morocco's liberal economic policy is a prime mover of growing foreign investment in the kingdom, analysts at Standard & Poor's said. > B2

# Oman's bourse gains in March

The MSM 30 Index gained 2.7 per cent during the month resulting in a year-to-date gain of 1.4 per cent, Kamco Invest said

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** After declining for two consecutive months, the Omani stock market witnessed gains during March-2021 that pushed year-to-date performance into the green, according to a new report.

The MSM 30 Index gained 2.7 per cent during the month resulting in a year-to-date gain of 1.4 per cent, the Kuwait-based investment, strategy and research firm, Kamco Invest said.

"Gains during the month came solely on the back of the Financial index that gained 5.0 per cent during the month while the Industry and Services indices declined by 0.1 per cent and 0.32 per cent, respectively," the research report stated.

However, in terms of year-to-date performance, the Industry index continues to lead with a gain of 7.6 per cent followed by the Financial index at 0.9 per cent while the Services index continued to

remain in the red with a decline of 2.9 per cent.

Financial Index

The surge in the Financial Index came mainly on the back of double digit gain in shares of large-cap companies like HSBC Bank Oman and National Bank of Oman (NBO) at 16.7 per cent and 15.4 per cent, respectively, further supported by even higher gain in small-caps stocks including Al Anwar Investment, Muscat Finance and Oman & Emirates Inv.

The 5.8 per cent gain in shares of Bank Muscat also supported the growth that was partially offset by noticeable decliners like Ominvest by 4.8 per cent, Bank Nizwa by 3.1 per cent and OAB by 1.3 per cent.

Trading activity on the exchange also remained upbeat during the month. Value traded during the month more than doubled to OMR82.6 million as compared to OMR35 million during February-2021. Volume traded increased by more than 150 per cent to reach 654.3 million shares in March-2021 as compared 253.3 million shares during the previous month.

Ahli Bank topped the monthly value traded chart with OMR43.4 million worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Bank Muscat and Al Anwar Investment with OMR6.7 million and OMR 4.6 million, respectively.

In terms of monthly volume, Ahli Bank once again topped with 383.2 million traded shares during the month followed by Al Anwar Investment and Madina Takaful with 57.7 million shares and 23.4 million traded shares, respectively.

Omani investors remained active during the month and were net buyers with an 92.4 per cent share of total value of buy trades during the month as compared to 80.9 per cent during February-2021.

In terms of total value of sell trades, their share stood at 91.5 per cent in March-2021 against 79.5 per cent during the previous month.

GCC markets remain upbeat

The performance of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) equity markets remained largely positive during March-2021 with gains in most markets and marginal declines in Dubai and Bahrain, Kamco Invest said in its monthly research note.

Saudi bourse tops

Saudi once again topped with a gain of 8.3 per cent, followed by 4.4 per cent gains for the Abu Dhabi which closed at a record high at the end of the month. As a result, the MSCI GCC Index gained 7.0 per cent during the month, that pushed the gains to 12.7 per cent.

The index gained 2.54 per cent on the last trading day of the month, the biggest single-day surge in more than a year, led by 2.8 per cent gain in TASI (Saudi bourse). Abu Dhabi continued to lead in the GCC in terms of gains that reached 17.2 per cent followed by Saudi Arabia with a growth of 14.0 per cent.

Trading activity in the GCC remained upbeat as well reaching a 9-month high at US\$92.2 billion with a monthly increase of 20.5 per cent during March-2021.

STANDARD & POOR'S

## Oman's credit rating reaffirmed

**WASHINGTON:** Standard & Poor's (S&P) reaffirmed that the Sultanate's credit rating stands at B+/B with stable future outlook.

Standard & Poor's expects a contraction in the economic and financial pressure on

the Sultanate during the current year.

Financial actions

It pointed out to that the financial actions the Sultanate has taken would contribute to reduction of deficit.

Standard & Poor's also pointed to the significance of the Sultanate's government continuation in the economic and financial procedures it has taken to boost the financial position and improve the Sultanate's credit rating of the state. — OMA

SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE

## SOHAR installs state-of-the-art 'Light on-Demand' system

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Aligned with its vision to support sustainable and innovative initiatives, Sohar Port and Freezone (SOHAR) is one of the first ports in the region and in the world to have installed a 'Light on-Demand' system.

The implementation of this project, positions SOHAR as pioneers in the sector. Apart from promoting a low carbon footprint, the LED luminaires have successfully reduced energy consumption by 80 per cent.

Mark Geilenkirchen, CEO of SOHAR Port, said, "At SOHAR, we envision ourselves to be green front runners, by enabling and supporting sustainable development through energy efficiency projects and transitioning to cleaner fuels. Our overall objective is the need to develop a world-class complex and high-level of operations with state-of-the-art infrastructure that is safe, environmentally sustainable and legally compliant to attract investment and enhance industry diversification."

Khalid Al Alawi, Manager of



The implementation of this project, positions SOHAR as a pioneer in the sector

Assets Management at SOHAR stated, "The Assets Management Department has explored the recent development in the field of innovative technologies. The roads within the Port and Freezone area are not frequently used during the night, resulting in energy loss from the illuminated lights overnight. This is why we have identified a solution for real-time control of street lights within the respective areas."

"Light-on-Demand" is a revolutionary integrated wireless motion sensor for presence-based monitoring and control of outdoor lighting. The technology consists of precise sensors for about 200 street lights and hosts a cloud-based control and energy monitoring system dashboard,

commissioned by experts from the Netherlands.

"We continue to proactively seek and invest in alternative energy sources, such as green hydrogen, as part of our strategy to diversify energy sources and become a greener Port and Freezone. In addition, through the execution of these projects, we can enhance the attractiveness of SOHAR and enable further foreign investment. We believe that the Light on-demand system will serve as a stepping stone in our efforts towards sustainability and the building of a brighter future, which in turn, furthers the contribution of SOHAR to the Oman Vision 2040," Mark added.



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MARKET

# Economic boom in Tangier leaves a few winners and many losers

Morocco's liberal economic policy is a prime mover of growing foreign investment in the kingdom, analysts at Standard & Poor's said

**TANGIER:** Anass Bouzid has long held the dream of emigrating to Germany. He'd love to go to Frankfurt, because the German financial hub is where some of his family live, he told DW. The 25-year-old Moroccan wouldn't have much to leave behind, he said, as he has been jobless for quite a while.

He's acquired some basic professional skills while working as an electrician, but this isn't enough to land a job in Morocco, not even in Tangier, where an economic boom is attracting workers from all over the country.

So, to overcome boredom and earn at least a meager living he occasionally borrows a friend's 35-year-old Mercedes that has no seat belts and drives some of the few tourists around the northern Moroccan city.

In Tangier, Bouzid is not the only one chasing the dream of a good life with a decent job. Like him, thousands barely make ends meet in the vibrant, bustling port city, and the coronavirus pandemic has only made their longing stronger, especially among young people.

As the pandemic began to spread globally, Morocco was quick to close its borders, shutting



**CARGO TURNOVER ON THE RISE:** Despite the slump in global trade amid the pandemic, turnover of cargo at the Tanger Med port was up 23 per cent last year to 81 million tonnes. - dw

out not only the virus, but also tens of thousands of tourists that had previously flocked to the country's beaches and old bazaars. As a result, the Moroccan economy slumped dramatically last year and is likely to contract 5.5 per cent this year, as forecast by ratings agency Standard & Poor's.

Strolling through Tangier, however, you don't get the impression of a country hovering on the economic brink. In the medina, the cobblestone sidewalks are new and its public plazas are restored to their former splendor. Tanja Marina Bay International, the kingdom's first and largest urban marina, welcomes visitors with modern cafes and new apartment buildings, all financed by rich investors from the Arab world.

**Moroccan policy issues**

About 40 kilometres (24.8 miles) to the east of Tangier is the kingdom's crown jewel, the Port of Tanger Med. Africa's largest seaport is strategically located on the Strait of Gibraltar, and stretches for more than 10 kilometres along

the Moroccan coast. Huge wind farms in the port's hinterland provide electricity for the trade hub and beyond.

"There's no other country in the Maghreb [region] that invests so heavily in renewable energy. We Germans have come to cherish that," Andreas Wenzel, chief executive of the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Morocco, told DW.

Morocco's liberal economic policy is a prime mover of growing foreign investment in the kingdom, analysts at Standard & Poor's say, which is why they expect investors to quickly return to the country once measures to fight the pandemic are eased.

Gonzalo Eseribano, a political analyst at Madrid-based think tank Real Instituto Elcano, shared this view: "Morocco is trying to diversify both its sources of national income and its political dependencies," he told DW. Even though the European Union remained its biggest trading partner and foreign market, demands from Brussels for wider freedoms and democracy

were increasingly being ignored.

In recent years, Morocco's ruler, King Mohammed VI, has repeatedly invited criticism from Western governments over his policy regarding the independence movement in neighboring Western Sahara. Freedom of expression is another bone of contention with the West, as the country's press laws punish criticism of the monarchy with jail and restrict the movement of foreign journalists within the country.

Despite the kingdom's democratic shortcomings, Andreas Menzel from the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry said Morocco is "one of the most stable countries in Africa" and praised its "ideal infrastructure" that is raising German business interest.

Additionally, Britain's exit from the EU will open new foreign policy options for the government in Rabbat, including direct negotiations with London about a free trade zone in Morocco involving lower taxes for investors, said Gonzalo Eseribano.

Israel is also forging closer ties with Rabat in the hope of more investment, he said.

**Modernisation gathering speed**

Despite the slump in global trade amid the pandemic, turnover of cargo at the Tanger Med port was up 23 per cent last year to 81 million tonnes.

Recently the government also legalised the trade in medicinal cannabis giving commercial growers in the country access to global markets. A new high-speed rail connection links the crucial port in the north with the country's financial centre of Casablanca. Tangier is trying to become a hub for businesses and cruise ship tourism.

Only a few years ago, German companies doing business in Tangier were mainly interested in the low-cost manufacturing of textiles in the city. Now, it's logistics firms, technology companies and services providers.

German direct investment in Morocco amounted to €1.2 billion (\$1.4 billion), according to Germany's central bank using the latest

data from 2018. This is an increase of 600 per cent over a period of just eight years, said Wenzel, and made Morocco "the second-largest German investment location in Africa" after South Africa.

But despite the stunning growth, German investment still ranks well behind that of the US, Spain, France, China, Japan and the Arab world.

The situation of the local people in Tangier, however, hasn't turned around in any dramatic way with the arrival of new infrastructure and more business. Most of them still rely on the profits from tourism in the medina and its bazaars.

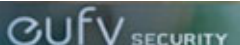
For more than a year now, the silence that's fallen over Tangier's old town amid the pandemic means life has become much tougher for the likes of Anass Bouzid. Along Tangier's splendid beaches, most of the restaurants have stopped offering meals, and the ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar has ceased to operate.

"People aren't going hungry," said Bouzid, because living costs were low. Morocco's biggest problem, he added, was the lack of vocational training.

Overall about 40 per cent of the Moroccan population is still employed in agriculture. Goats, sheep and cattle grazing next to modern factories are a reminder that modern times have arrived for some people, but not for many. And the country has become the focal point for a lot more of Africa's destitute who've been stranded there on their way to Europe.

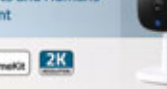
More than a million Moroccans have successfully made it across the Strait of Gibraltar, with most of them now living in Spain. But that country isn't where Bouzid wants to be, as he's aiming for Germany. Knocking on the roof of the ramshackle Mercedes he said: "I can learn a lot in a country that builds cars that are so good."

— DW

  
  
  
  
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INDUSTRY REPORT

## China's home prices slightly up

**BEIJING:** Home prices in 100 Chinese cities saw a slight increase last month, an industry report showed. Among the 100 surveyed cities, average new home prices edged up 0.2 per cent from February to 15,916 yuan (about US\$2,424) per square metre in March, according to the China Index Academy, a property research institution. Year on year, average new home prices increased 4.07

per cent. A total of 76 cities saw a month-on-month increase in home prices in March, while 23 cities saw home prices decrease.

In this year's government work report, China reiterated the principle that "housing is for living in, not for speculation" for the third time since it was first proposed in 2016, vowing to keep the prices of land and housing as well as market expectations stable. - Xinhua



  
  
  
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IN UZBEKISTAN

## ACWA Power signs financing package for gas power project

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** ACWA Power has announced the successful financial closure for the development, construction and operation of the 1500 MW Sirdarya Combined Cycle Gas-Turbine (CCGT) power plant in Uzbekistan.

ACWA Power is a leading developer, investor and operator of power generation and desalinated water plants in thirteen countries.

A syndicate of seven international lenders will provide US\$750 million senior debt for the US\$1 billion project. The mandated lead entities – including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), German Investment Corporation (DEG), Standard Chartered, Natixis, Société Générale, the OPEC Fund for International Development, and the Bank of China – helped structure the project finance debt. The commercial banks are providing funding on the back of a Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency four-point cover.

The project will provide cleaner, more efficient and cost-competitive gas power that can be utilised across industries in Uzbekistan.

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**Indian MBA finance** with 3 yrs Oman experience in accounting.NOC available. Contact 79396446.  
 Email [sheroofsabu@gmail.com](mailto:sheroofsabu@gmail.com)

**Indian accounts & finance** professional with 15+yrs of experience in Oman as Accounts Manager, Chief acct. Contact 78039524

**Indian Male Accountant**, M.Com 14 years experience in Oman with D/L & NOC seeks suitable placement. Contact 99757409

**Indian Female PGDM** (Finance & Marketing, worked as Associate with KPMG India, currently in Oman looking for a suitable opening. Contact 79629993

**Indian male 23 yrs.** Engineering graduate from NIT, experienced in investment banking / finance, sales & marketing, and entrepreneurial research. Contact: 97045277, 92738367

**Accountant** with 3 years Oman experience (6 years total Experience), MBA Finance, well versed in VAT, NOC Available. Contact 92862265

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

### ADMIN/HR

**Indian female** looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

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

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

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

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

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

**Business administration graduate** MBA holder, with 3 years experience looking for suitable vacancy.. Contact 968-79387444  
 Email [m.mukhtar2t4@gmail.com](mailto:m.mukhtar2t4@gmail.com)

### ARCHITECT

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

### DESIGNER / AUTOCAD D/MAN

**20+ yrs Exp. Architectural**, Structural & ELV Draftsman Looking freelance job. Contact 99718163,  
 Email: [riyasoka@gmail.com](mailto:riyasoka@gmail.com)

**Srilankan**, looking for MEP draftsman / Const supervisor. Dip in MEP draftman with 3-4 yrs experience. Contact 93988825.  
 Email [amenulas@gmail.com](mailto:amenulas@gmail.com)

### EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

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

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 Email [sales@oceancentre.co](mailto:sales@oceancentre.co)

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## JOB WANTED

### COOK

**Looking job as Cook**, Bangladeshi, 48 yrs - Indian, Chinese, Arabic, Continental food. Worked 8 yrs in Le Meriden (5 star Dubai) 8 yrs in Hyatt Regency Jeddah - KSA, 10 yrs in Omani house cook. # 92943422

### DRIVER

**Looking for driving job.** # 99141165

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

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

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

**Heavy vehicle driver** with 4 yrs experience looking for job. # 94241127

**Looking for driving job with car**, 4 yrs experience. Contact 97379365

### MANAGER

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

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

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

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

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

### MECHANIC/TECHNIC

**HSE adviser** IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926.  
[mubashirosman89@gmail.com](mailto:mubashirosman89@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**Tower crane operator.** NOC available. Contact 91519095

### LOGISTIC

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

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

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# CONNECT

## JOB WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

**Sr. Sales HVAC/MEP/Industrial Products**  
With 10 + years of experience in Sales and Business development of HVAC / Mechanical / Industrial products in Oman market. Hold DL and available immediately.  
**Contact: 93843068; mabcoman@yahoo.com**

**HR / Admin**  
Indian Female looking for job opportunities in HR/Admin or similar field. MBA with 7 yrs of experience in Oman, UAE and India in HR, Admin, Payroll n others. Experience in all HR functions. Available to start immediately.  
**Contact 99653715**

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

**ENGINEER**  
Omani female looking for a job, BSc in Process engineering (Done four different internships in process engineering), marketing experience as well.  
**Contact: 95119284 alya\_alsiyabi93@outlook.com**

**SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER**  
Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.  
**Contact: +96871180492 allirod1975@gmail.com**

**Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator**  
Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.  
**Please contact – 78022980**

**B.E Civil Engineer**  
Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.  
**Contact/ Whatsapp No.: 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

**Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.**  
**Call 97015841 Email: khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com**

**ASST. FINANCE MANAGER**  
Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.  
**Email: mq\_199820@yahoo.co.in GSM: 99279626**

## JOB WANTED

### ENGINEER

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

**MEP Mechanical engineer** with 2 year exp. **Contact 79027224**

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

**Construction engineer** with 10 yrs experience in Oman consulting offices 7 experience in government project. **Contact 96965100**

**Site Engineer (DCE)**, 9 yrs experience in building construction (execution of site works, BBS, BOQ preparation) Oman D/L. Local transfer/NOC available. **Contact 94334402. Email nishath.ind91@gmail.com**

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

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

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

**Civil engineer** with 9 years exp in Oman. **Contact 97646908**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Indian B.Tech** Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/MEP engineer. NOC available. **Contact 99873092 Email ranjithhr17@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ACCOUNTANT

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

**Contact 71990782**

## FINANCE

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

**Contact 94953826 / 92824146**

## JOB WANTED

### PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

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

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

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

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

### TOUR / TRAVEL

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

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

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### SALES / MARKETING

**Inventory, Sales & Accounting**, Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in MNC with F&B, Customer relations and various other skills. NOC available. **Contact: 96219904. Email: khanshah98@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

**Indian male (30) MBA** with Oman experience in sales & marketing, valid Omani D/L on visit. **Contact 79756795 Email dhajwani2@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

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Whatsnews

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Whatsuloom



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



# Land Rover extends partnership with Virgin Galactic, new spaceship revealed

Extension will result in a ten-year partnership between two world leaders in adventure, innovation and exploration

**MUSCAT:** Land Rover has announced a three-year extension to its global partnership with Virgin Galactic, the world's first commercial 'spaceline'.

Virgin Galactic's latest spaceship was unveiled on Wednesday, supported by a Range Rover Astronaut Edition. Land Rover will remain an integrated part of Virgin Galactic's day-to-day operations as the company completes test flights with 'SpaceShipTwo' and begins a regular commercial service.

#### Commercial service

Land Rover vehicles are part of daily life for the Virgin Galactic team, with roles which include towing the space vehicles, carrying equipment and clearing runways before take-off.

They played key roles during the company's first two spaceflights which saw Virgin Galactic become the first private company to fly humans to space on a spaceship designed for commercial service. A fleet of Land Rovers also supported Virgin Galactic's relocation from its manufacturing and test facilities in Mojave, California, to Spaceport America in New Mexico – the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport.



Virgin Galactic has already signed-up around 600 Future Astronaut customers, who will be transported to their flights from Spaceport America, in Land Rover vehicles.

In 2019, Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson and Jaguar Land Rover Chief Creative Officer Prof Gerry McGovern OBE unveiled the Range Rover Astronaut Edition. Created by Land Rover SV Bespoke and offered exclusively to Virgin Galactic Future Astronauts, these luxury SUVs celebrate the partnership's shared values and the Future Astronaut community's historic contribution to the democratization of space.

Virgin Galactic has a team of eight highly experienced pilots and is preparing for its next rocket-powered flight in New Mexico. Founder Sir Richard Branson is planning to fly to space later in 2021.

Joe Eberhardt, President and

CEO, Jaguar Land Rover North America, said: "Accessible space travel for explorers worldwide is the next great big adventure. Land Rover is proud to work alongside the Virgin Galactic team to support all future astronauts as they push the boundaries of personal adventure even further."

Michael Colglazier, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Galactic, said: "Land Rover vehicles provide invaluable support on the ground in Mojave and at Spaceport America in New Mexico. It is also fabulous to see our Future Astronauts around the world enjoying the unique Range Rover Astronaut Edition. We are delighted to be able to extend this strong partnership. With a shared pioneering spirit, pursuit of adventure and vision to push the boundaries of travel, this is a natural collaboration between our two companies and one that will take exploration to new heights."

#### About Land Rover

Since 1948 Land Rover has been manufacturing authentic 4x4s that represent true 'breadth of capability' across the model range. Defender, Discovery, Discovery Sport, Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Range Rover Velar and Range Rover Evoque each define the world's SUV sectors, with 80 per cent of this model range exported to over 100 countries.

#### About Virgin Galactic

Virgin Galactic Holdings, Inc. is a vertically integrated aerospace and space travel company, pioneering human spaceflight for private individuals and researchers, as well as a manufacturer of advanced air and space vehicles. It is developing a spaceflight system designed to offer customers a unique and transformative experience. You can find more information at <https://www.virgingalactic.com/>



#### MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA



## New Genesis G70 to be launched soon in region

**MUSCAT:** Genesis Middle East & Africa headquarters Monday revealed that The new Genesis G70 will be launching for customers in the region soon.

Launched originally in 2017, the luxury sports sedan has an athletic design, dynamic driving performance and leading safety features. It attracted such achievements as the 2018 Good Design Award (Transportation Design Division), 2019 North American Car of the Year and Top Safety Pick+ recognition from the US Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

#### Athletic exterior design

The new Genesis G70 features enhancements which focus on an athletic exterior design evolution, a driver-centered interior and

state-of-the-art technology update leveraging features found within the Genesis lineup.

#### Signature crest grille

The signature crest grille set even lower than the Quad Lamps which spread outward evokes a sprinter's pre-race posture and highlights the new Genesis G70's position, as the most athletic sports sedan by Genesis. In profile, side air extractors optimised for efficiency, show a form-follows-function mentality while the sensuous surface around the front wheels expresses the powerful muscles of a sports sedan.

Rearward, Quad Lamp tail-lights inspired by the soaring wings of the Genesis logo, clearly identifies with a distinctive Gen-

esis aesthetic. The full width G-Matrix mesh and body colored diffusers surround the oval exhaust tips add finishing touches to the exterior design.

The interior leverages a driver-centred architecture resembling a fighter jet cockpit and adds the latest connectivity specifications.

A launch date for The new Genesis G70 in the Middle East & Africa will be announced soon, customers can find out more by visiting [www.genesis.com/middleeast](http://www.genesis.com/middleeast)

OTE Group is the exclusive dealer for Genesis in Oman offering excellent sales and after-sales service support, underpinned by a nationwide service network, that's on par with global standards. For more information please contact 800-50003

#### HOLY MONTH OF RAMADHAN

## Bank Muscat launches new Sayyarati auto finance offer

**MUSCAT:** In line with its customer-centric vision 'To serve you better, everyday', Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has launched an attractive Sayyarati vehicle finance offer with the best rates in the market on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadhan.

The offer features some of the lowest rates for auto finance in the country and will prove to be of great advantage to customers looking forward to buying a new or pre-owned vehicle during the Holy Month.

Highly competitive short term rates starting at an amazing 3.5 per cent for 12 months are available for customers who need only short term loans. Sayyarti has some of the best interest rates in the country including 3.75 per cent for up to 2 years, 4 per cent for up to 3 years, 4.25 per cent for up to 4 years and 5 per cent for a loan term of up to 8 years.

Speaking about the promotional offers currently available, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashaani, Deputy General Manager – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat, said: "Sayyarati is a preferred vehicle financing option for people in Oman and we are happy to launch this special Ramadhan offer with the best possible terms in Oman



after listening to feedback from our customers. This campaign will be particularly helpful for a large number of Omani youth who are entering the job market and require financing facilities. Bank Muscat reiterates its commitment to making vehicle purchases easy and affordable through its excellent financing facilities. What is more we have a finance package available for every customer according to their individual needs and situation."

Coinciding with the Ramadhan auto sales season, the latest Sayyarati offer offers a highly competitive starting interest rate and absolutely no need for post-dated cheques. With its fast turnaround time, the feature-rich Sayyarati

finance can be obtained within the shortest possible time. Options available include a loan tenure up to 8 years for new and used vehicles, the lowest monthly payment options in the country and on-the-spot approvals.

The hassle-free Sayyarati finance can be obtained from Bank Muscat branches spread across Oman. Loans up to OMR60,000 will be offered for new vehicles and used vehicles. It is important to note that customers availing the Sayyarti offer can enjoy fast processing without any unnecessary paperwork and signing of cheques. Only the following documents are needed to process the loan facility: buyer's ID card, salary assignment letter, quotation / car valuation from the approved valuator, driving license, Mulkiya (for pre-owned cars only) and seller ID card (for pre-owned cars only).

The monthly loan installments are automatically deducted from the customer's account once the mandate to do so is provided to the bank. With some of the world's best and safest vehicles available for purchase in the Sultanate, the bank aims to do its part to improve road safety and the security of all road users. It is noteworthy that loans are disbursed within 24 hours subject to applicants meeting the concerned requirements.



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C.R. No.: 1/96545/2

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