

**ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER
RECEIVES ENVOY OF SPAIN**

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Wednesday Maria Luisa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Sultanate. **>A5**



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**SHURA COUNCIL SESSION
FROM NOVEMBER 7**

MUSCAT: Based on the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the third annual session (2021-2022) of the Shura Council will be held on Sunday, November 7, 2021. **ONA**



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OMAN IN FOCUS AS T20 WORLD CUP DATE NEARS



Having prepared well, the Oman team goes into its, and the tournament's first match, which is to be played in Muscat, with full confidence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ask Pankaj Khimji, the chairman of Oman Cricket, about his expectations for team Oman at the upcoming Twenty20 Cricket World Cup, and his answer is simple.

"Oman is going to Dubai to play in the knockout rounds," he said. "The team has trained hard to get to this point, we have the backing of more than four million people in this country, and the boys are very excited to show the world what we can do."

Oman is one of two venues for the Twenty20 World Cup, which starts on Sunday, October 17, with the very first game of the tournament set to begin in Muscat, when the home side takes on Papua New Guinea in the group stage.

Oman Cricket's ground in Amerat will hold all six games of the Group B qualifying matches, which also include Bangladesh and Scotland. Group A's games are scheduled for the neighbouring United Arab Emirates, where the rest of the tournament will be held as well. The teams that

Ahead of World Cup, Oman launches Hayya Cricket anthem

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To welcome the cricketing world to Oman and showcase the pride that is reverberating through the nation, Oman Cricket has released Hayya Cricket, an exhilarating anthem that spans the length and breadth of the nation.

The anthem was released to mark Oman staking its spot in the world of cricket, as a joint venue partner at the upcoming Twenty20 Cricket

World Cup, one of the biggest sporting events in the world. For the country, this is a landmark event as it signals the move from being an associate nation to an established force to be reckoned with, on the global cricketing stage.

A true homage to the Sultanate of Oman, Hayya Cricket has been released in English, Hindi and Arabic; the language of its people, an incantation that rouses hearts and the very spirit of the game. **>A6**

finish first and second atop both groups will make it through to the next stage of the tournament: the Super 12s, where a knockout format will be followed.

For Khimji, Oman's presence at the World Cup is a victory in itself in more ways than one: not just for the national team, but for the nation as well.

"We are the first ever associate-level country to both hold and play in a tournament like an ICC World Cup, so that says a lot about how far we have come as a cricketing nation," he said, in an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman* prior to the start of the tournament.

Explaining the upgrades made to the ground in Amerat so that it was in line with International Cricket Council (ICC) requirements, he added, "When we were awarded the rights as venue partners, we were all giddy with

excitement at the time, but I don't think we fully knew how daunting a task it would be to put it all together. I gave the organising team just 70 days, saying we had to be fully ready before the tournament begins."

A host of modifications were made, including the construction of media and broadcast boxes, commentary boxes, and hospitality suites for guests. Other changes included expanded changing rooms for the teams and match officials.

"We also had to improve the quality of floodlights for our main ground: they had to be a minimum of 2,500 lux so that the cameras could pick up the action properly, and I am proud to say that when we tested them, over some areas of the ground, we had values of up to 3,200 lux, so we have definitely met the requirements there," explained Khimji. **>A6**

MEETING

His Majesty sends written message to King of Bahrain

MANAMA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a written message to King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, dealing with bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

The message was handed over by His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahr Al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan when he was received by the Bahraini King at Al Sakhir Palace in Manama on Wednesday. Sayyid Fatik conveyed greetings of His Majesty the Sultan to King Hamad, along with His Majesty's best wishes of permanent health and happiness to him, and the Bahraini people further progress and prosperity. **>A4**



SAYYID THEYAZIN LAUNCHES SMART PORTAL

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Heritage, Sports and Youth, Chairman of the Digital Transformation Committee, inaugurated yesterday the Smart Portal of the Ministry of Heritage, Sports and Youth. The Ministry's Smart Portal showcases events and activities, their venues and the Ministry's services offered in the cultural, sports and youth fields.



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DHO FAR INSURANCE COMPANY (S.A.O.G)

Dhofar Insurance Company to expedite settlement of claims



The enormous damage that the Tropical Cyclone Shaheen caused to the infrastructure and property of individuals affected in the North and South Al Batinah Governorates obligated the insurance sector to respond immediately to provide all aspects of support and assistance to the affected insurance policyholders.

Mr. Sunil Kohli, CEO of Dhofar Insurance Company, said that the Company has formed a committee headed by Deputy CEO, Omar bin Ahmed Al Sheikh, and consists of 22 employees, including 10 engineers and loss adjusters to assess the extent of damages to the policyholders and pay the compensation due to them.

The CEO said that the Company has already started disbursing the compensation due to the affected policyholders. The compensations are for the owners of lost or damaged vehicles and those who hold comprehensive insurance policies, as well as property insurance policyholders for residential buildings and commercial facilities. In addition, the Company has received many claims related to damages to public facilities.

The CEO stated that it is the duty of the

Company to serve customers, reach them, and harness all means to reduce the amount of material damage incurred by them, which necessitated the formation of this committee.

The Deputy CEO, Omar bin Ahmed Al Sheikh, who personally manages the committee's work in the affected wilayats of the Governorates of North and South Al Batinah, said that the Company has already started receiving claims since the beginning of the week, and that all the Company's branches in the Governorate are ready to deal with all the claims and expedite the procedures for disbursing compensation for policyholders. He added that the Company provides all facilities in terms of housing, transportation and communications for the team that was formed, to provide services to customers at their locations. In addition, the Deputy CEO said that the Company's Call Centre is working round-the-clock, seven days a week, for receiving customers' claims.

In conclusion, the Deputy CEO stressed that providing and facilitating service to policyholders is our duty as a company, as well as the national responsibility.

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MUSCAT



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN ROP men from Nizwa help in reconstruction

1 Relief efforts in North Al Batinah in the wake of cyclone Shaheen have been given a boost, following the arrival of additional Royal Oman Police personnel from Nizwa. The reinforcements are the latest batch of ROP units to be sent to aid in the reconstruction of areas such as Suwaiq and Khabourah. **>A3**

WORLD UNHCR warning on Afghanistan crisis

2 The UNHCR has said that the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is worsening, and funding for emergency aid is urgently needed to help 20 million people there. This comes a month since the UN led an appeal for solidarity for the people of Afghanistan, seeking \$606 million for the troubled country. **>A7**

MARKET Pact on green ammonia project in Salalah

3 A Joint Development Agreement was signed for the development of green hydrogen and ammonia project at Salalah Free Zone. A consortium comprising alternative energy business unit of OQ, Oman's global integrated energy company, Marubeni Corporation, Linde and Dutco has signed the key pact. **>B1**



OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....11:58pm
Asr.....3:18pm
Maghrib.....5:47pm
Isha.....6:58pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:49am

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Mr. Mohammad Zubair

Commerce Minister in UK

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Mohammad Zubair, is on an official visit to Britain this week.

He began the visit, following an invitation from the British Government, on Sunday. The visit ends next Sunday.

Mr Zubair was meeting his British counterpart Lord Cockfield as well as Mr. Peter Rees, Minister of State for Trade who visited Oman this spring, and Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who paid several visits to Oman recently.

The Omani Minister was also meeting senior representatives of British industrial firms and financial institutions including British Steel, the London Stock Exchange, Lloyds of London and Shell (UK) Oil.

The British Ambassador to Oman, Mr. Duncan States, is accompanying the Minister.

Mr Zubair's party included Oman's Ambassador to Britain, Mr Ahmad al-Lamki,

the Director General for Commerce, Mr Ali Mohammed Mirza; the Director General for Industries, Mr Faisal al-Emir; Director, Economical Co-operation Dept, Abdulla Mohammed al-Lamki; Director of the Central Laboratory, Aaida Mohammed al-Riyami; Director Oil Production Department, Malik Mihana al-Adawi, and the secretary for the Minister's office, Tayai Jundal.

... AND FROM BRITAIN

Five British trade missions and parts of three others will be visiting Oman between this month and next May.

The first is the British Furniture Mission which will be in Muscat between October 22 and 28. Full details of this mission are on page 6

Between October 22 and November 1 a British Food Export Council Mission will be in Dubai, then scattering through the Gulf States, including Oman.

As announced in the Times last week the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce will be sending a delegation to Muscat between October 30 and November 1. More details of companies in this mission are given in this week's business section.

From December 5 to 9 members of Coventry Chamber of Commerce will be here and the Kent and Sussex Exporters' Club will send a team between March 7 and 11.

The Engineering Industries Association will have part of a team coming on here from Kuwait

Eight trade groups for Oman

between April 15 and 29 and the Ship and Boatbuilders' National Federation will have some members coming here from a Dubai mission between April 10 and 20.

Between May 15 and May 19 Muscat will be visited by a mission from Leeds Chamber of Commerce.

RO70m mill a step nearer

An aluminium rolling mill to cost about RO 70 million and in which Oman has a stake came a stage near setting up at a meeting in Manama, Bahrain.

The ordinary meeting of the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company's board of directors, was attended by representatives from the six countries that have a share in it — Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Kuwait.

Oman was represented by Mr Mohammed Ali Nasser al-Alawi, head of the Legal Department at

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The meeting was presided over by Qatari Industry and Agriculture Under-Secretary and chairman of the company's board of directors,

by Fermin D'Souza

Mr Ahmed A. Rahman al Manae. It discussed processing of the project and what had been achieved so far.

The company has bought

100,000 square metres of land in Bahrain where the aluminium plant will be built.

Tender documents for plant construction have been issued and tenders will be opened on December 1 when the board of directors meet again.

Ten international construction companies are bidding for the construction project. These are from Japan, France, Britain, Italy, Switzerland and Germany.

Construction is expected to begin on August 1, 1983.

The company is being set up with a capital of 24 million Bahraini Dinars. Oman holds 10 per cent of the shares, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia each have 20 per cent, and Qatar 10 per cent.

The board discussed rules and conditions of employment. A draft of the regulations governing employment was prepared.

The idea of an aluminium rolling mill jointly owned by Gulf nations was first put forward about two years ago. Following this, a feasibility study was conducted by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting. Seven Gulf countries form the GOIC — Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

The product from the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill will be used by the six countries that own it and a portion will be available for export.

One of the articles of association of the company states that governments involved in the joint project will not grant facilities for another aluminium rolling mill for at least five years from the time the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill goes into production.

'POSITIVE' TALKS ON DEFENCE

A firm foundation for military co-operation between members of the Gulf Co-operation Council has been laid down at talks in Riyadh this week between GCC Defence Ministers.

Oman's representative, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Sayyid Fahr bin Taimur, said the talks were "positive".

The Ministers met to draft recommendations for a summit conference of the Council in Bahrain on November 9.

Details of the meeting were not disclosed but Sheikh Salem al Sabah, of Kuwait said that a solid foundation for a joint military strategy had been laid.

Earlier, Prince Sultan ibn Abdulaziz, Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister, told a public opening session that a joint defence strategy should be mapped out by GCC states.

Prince Sultan said Council members — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — had made great strides in military co-operation since they first met in January.

The ministers, who control defence spending of over \$30 billion this year, also made recommendations related to military information exchanges, collective response to any aggression and unified training, the sources said.

Most of their huge arms purchases are made in the West, mainly in the United States, Britain and France, but Kuwait has also bought military equipment from the Soviet Union, including Sam-7 missiles.

The six spend heavily on defence. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, last year budgeted \$2,664 per head of population for defence, the highest level in the world.

Water Council meeting

The Water Resources Council held its fifth session on Tuesday, chaired by Abdul Hafiz Salim Rajab, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The council discussed applications for establishing new fishing companies and requests for fishing licences. They also discussed ways of dealing with starfish which had appeared in large numbers along some parts of Oman's coast.

Conservation

The Environmental Conservation Council met on Tuesday at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It was chaired by Salim bin Nasser al Busaidi, Minister of Communications and Deputy Chairman of the Council.

Still too hot

The Capital Area has been experiencing appreciably above normal day temperatures and slightly above normal night temperatures. Temperatures recorded at Seeb during the week hovered around 40 degrees C during the day with humidity around 25 to 30 percent.

Middle East: latest

The British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym has criticised the Israeli government for what he called its aggressive attitude towards the Arab states.

At a news conference in Cairo at the end of his visit to Syria and Egypt, he said the Israelis must alter their behaviour. He also called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation to renounce terrorism.

There have been clashes between Israeli and Syrian forces in Eastern Lebanon. A communique issued in Damascus said Israeli tanks and artillery opened fire on Syrian positions in the Bekaa valley.

SCC meeting

The executive office of the State Consultative Council met on Tuesday morning under the chairmanship of council's president Khalfan bin Nasser al Busaidi.

TV and radio programmes are on page 22



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BILATERAL RELATIONS



<FROM A1 His Majesty sends written message to King of Bahrain

In his turn, King Hamad asked HH Sayyid Fatik to convey his greetings, along with his best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people further growth and welfare.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Abdullah Hamad Al Khalifa,

Personal Representative of the King of Bahrain, Sheikh Khalid Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Diwan, Sheikh Ahmed Atiyatallah Al Khalifa, Minister of Follow-up at the Royal Diwan and the Chargé d'affaires of the Omani Embassy in Bahrain. —ONA

CLEAN UP EFFORTS

Dhofar municipal workers help colleagues in cyclone-hit north

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Municipality workers from the southern Dhofar region are working alongside their colleagues in North Al Batinah to clean up the damage caused by cyclone Shaheen, and aid in relief and rebuilding efforts.

“Technical support teams of the Dhofar Municipality continued their efforts in North Al Batinah, by spraying insecticides pools of stagnant water formed by cyclone Shaheen, in the wilayats of Al Khaboura and Al Suwaig,” said a statement from Dhofar Municipality.

Dhofari teams

The Dhofari teams are also repairing and erecting road signs, clearing homes of debris, and making roads fit for vehicles to drive on once again.

Apart from the workers, who have travelled more than a thousand kilometres to provide assistance during North Al Batinah's time of need, the people of Dhofar have also organised an aid cam-



paign to help those affected by cyclone Shaheen. The items provided by people and organisations in the Dhofar will be sent in an aid convoy bound for the north.

“We would like to offer our

thanks and efforts to everyone who donated money, resources and time as part of the relief campaign organised to help people in the governorates of North and South Al Batinah,” said Mohammed Al

Kalbani, the director general of social development in Dhofar.

“I also want to thank the private and government organisations, as well as individuals, who contributed as part of this effort,” he added.

Endless support

“The endless support provided by Dhofar Municipality and the administration team from the Salalah Tourism Festival must also be met with thanks and appreciation.

“We hope that when our aid convoy reaches North and South Al Batinah, it has the desired impact and is able to help those in need,” he said.

Adding to this, Tariq Al Kathiri, the supervisor of the Festival Department at Dhofar Municipality, said, “The Dhofar convoy aims to provide relief to people affected by cyclone Shaheen. We wish to thank all those who contributed aid and supported this campaign, as well as the people involved in the logistics and organising of the convoy.”



Duqm's Rock Garden is one of the major geological sites of the Sultanate of Oman. It is considered one of the greatest natural treasures of Duqm, and the six-kilometre site houses unusual rock formations believed to be 46 million years old.

Set around this site are sandstone and limestone sculptures shaped by wind, water, ice and other natural elements over millions of years. A visit to Duqm is incomplete without a tour of this singular attraction.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, “Located about 550 km from Muscat, visiting this geographical marvel feels like stepping onto another planet. Limestone and sandstone rock formations eroded by wind and weather cover a large area. Look closely and you might even be able to spot fossils. Whichever way you approach this place, you're likely to have travelled through hundreds of kilometres of rocky desert. It is, therefore, somewhat surprising to find three square kilometres of desert fenced off and signposted “Rock Garden.” If you



leave behind any preconceived ideas of what a garden may look like, and focus instead on the rock part of the name, you'll be better prepared for the site.”

“At first sight, there is little (if any) difference between the fenced off and the surrounding area. Yet, once you start wandering around, you'll find a curious array of sandstone and limestone formations. Water, wind and millions of years combined managed to create this bizarre landscape. Almost perfectly spherical stones sit next to rocks resembling animals, thrones, human body parts, and whatever else your imagination can conjure up. Some large rocks stand balanced on smaller ones, while others sit at improbable angles.”





PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES

Contracts worth over OMR3mn signed by Housing Ministry

MUSCAT: As part of the outcomes of the recent Food Security Lab forum, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on Wednesday signed five land development (usufruct) contracts with private sector companies and establishments to the tune of OMR3 million.

The Food Lab forum was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, with support from Oman Vision 2040 Follow-up Unit and "Invest-in-Oman Programme (for Programme for Attracting Investments and Supporting Exports in External Markets), which aligns with economic stimulus plans and meets the Sultanate's agricultural needs in an innovative manner that is compatible with its foods security policies.

Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, said that the agreements are specialised projects and constitute an added value to food security and employment of jobseekers.

The land development (usufruct) projects include a contract with Qais Al Batran Company to set up



FACT SIGNED: The agreements were signed by Dr. Khalfan Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, and the CEOs of the companies concerned. - ONA

a 9.5-fedan chicken farm in Khasab, Governorate of Musandam, (OMR600,000); a contract with Al An'am Business Company to establish a 95-fedan livestock breeding farm in Dhank, Governorate of A'Dhahirah (OMR1.5 million); a contract with Integrated Services for Business and Development Company for the setting up of a 200-fedan mango cultivation farm in Barka, Governorate of South Al Batinah (OMR1.25million); a contract with Gulf Mashroom Products

for establishing a 10-fedan wheat cultivation project in Thamrait, Dhofar Governorate (OMR26,000) and a contract with Al Rasbi Agricultural Development Company to set up a farm for fig trees on an area of 101 fedans in Al Kamil W'al Wafi, South A'Sharqiyah Governorate (OMR282,000).

The agreements were signed by Dr. Khalfan Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, and the CEOs of the companies concerned. - ONA

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTERS

Oman takes part in GCC meeting

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs took part yesterday in the 7th session of the GCC Endowments and Religious Affairs Ministers.

The Sultanate was represented

in the virtual meeting by Sheikh Abdullah Mohammed Al Salmi, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The meeting discussed several topics listed on the agenda, mainly areas related to the exchange of

experiences and the use of modern technologies in managing the endowments. The meeting further discussed different issues related to endowments and religious affairs.

- ONA

LATEST APPARATUS

Pact signed to develop vocational colleges



FUNDING PACT: The agreement was signed by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahroogi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and Ashraf Hamad Al Maamari, CEO of Human Resources and Technology at OQ. - ONA

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and OQ signed an agreement yesterday for funding the development of vocational colleges to enable students of colleges and schools, as well as members of civil society to use the labs as modelling centres.

The agreement comes within the context of the National Innovation System, Oman Vision 2040 and the National Research and Development Strategy.

As per the agreement, OQ will allocate a sum of OMR200,000 for equipping and developing a number of laboratories in vocational colleges affiliated to the Ministry, by introducing the latest apparatus.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahroogi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and Ashraf Hamad Al Maamari, CEO of Human Resources and Technology at OQ. - ONA

REVIEW TIES

Royal Office Minister receives envoy of Spain

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Wednesday Maria Luisa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Sultanate.

The meeting reviewed march of relations binding the two countries. It also touched on various fields of cooperation and means of enhancing them to serve the interests of the two countries.

The two sides discussed several matters of mutual interest.

- ONA



MEETING : Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office with Maria Luisa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain. - ONA

MEETING

Oman, UK discuss ways to strengthen trade relations

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammad Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion met in his office yesterday with Ranil Jayawardena, UK Minister for International Trade.

The meeting discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries. It also reviewed growth indicators of intra-trade and means of boosting them, as well as ways to increase the volume of trade exchange and joint investments.

The two ministers touched on the progress of negotiations on the free trade agreement between the GCC countries and the UK.

The meeting was attended by



BOOSTING TIES: Qais Mohammad Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion with Ranil Jayawardena, UK Minister for International Trade. - ONA

Dr. Saleh Said Masan, the ministry's Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry, Bill Murray,

UK ambassador to the Sultanate and a number of officials from both sides. - ONA

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HUMAN RIGHTS



MEETING: Chairman of the Omani Human Rights Commission Sheikh Abdullah bin Shuwain Al Hosani, met with Stella Kluth, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Sultanate, at the Committee's headquarters.

OHRC Chairman holds meet with the Netherlands envoy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Chairman of the Omani Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has met with the Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Shuwain Al Hosani, met with Stella Kluth, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Sultanate, at the Committee's headquarters.

During the meeting, a brief was presented about OHRC, its functions, work mechanism and the role it plays in promoting human rights in the Sultanate, in cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities.

A number of issues related to human rights were also discussed in the meeting, in addition to joint cooperation with the Dutch side in the field of human rights through exchanging experiences, especially in the field of training.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ali Al Kalbani, Secretary-General of the Committee, HE Shatha Al Zadjali, Director of the Organisation and International Relations Department, Iman Al Saidi, a specialist in international organisations and relations, and from the Dutch Embassy, Laura Claire Devosses, Second Secretary for Political Affairs.

DIGITAL COOPERATION ORGANISATION

DCO hails Oman

MUSCAT: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology received on Wednesday at his office Deemah Al Yahya, Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organisation (DCO).

Eng. Al Ma'awali lauded the DCO's role in enhancing coop-

eration to integrate efforts in speeding the process of digital transformation and vitalising the digital economy in the region.

In her turn, DCO Secretary General commended the Sultanate's role in the fields of communications and information technology.

— ONA

NCSI DATA

Fish landing rises 44.8%

MUSCAT: The total quantity of fish landed in the Sultanate reached 840,378 tonnes in 2020, comprising an increase of 44.8 per cent comparing to 2019, according to the statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The aquaculture production grew by 24 per cent compared to 2019. The total aquaculture production amounted to 1,307 tonnes of bream.

Oman's fish exports rose to more than 300,000 tonnes, a growth of 47.3 per cent, with a total value estimated at OMR114,275,600 in 2020.

Artisanal fishing in the Sultanate amounted to 793,419 tons of the total fish production in 2020. — ONA

BILATERAL TRADE

Italian firms explore investment opportunities in the Sultanate

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion held a meeting with Italian companies to familiarise them with the investment incentives and opportunities in the Sultanate.

During the virtual meeting, Aseela Salim Al Samsami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, affirmed that Oman opens doors for investment from all nationalities.

She also noted that there are more than 64 Italian companies currently operating efficiently in the Sultanate in the fields of mining, industry, real estate development, oil and gas.

The meeting saw the participa-



tion of Sultanate's embassy in Italy and the Italian embassy in Muscat, in addition to representatives from Oman Investment Authority (OIA), the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), ASYAD Group, and a

number of Italian companies from various fields.

The meeting touched on the Investor Residency Program, recently launched by the Ministry, in addition to the incentives and privileges generated by the Foreign Capital Investment Law.

— ONA

HAYYA CRICKET ANTHEM

< FROM A1 Omani flavour

"With the entire cricket-frenzy world watching, the World Cup is the ideal moment to unveil a spanking new anthem," said Pankaj Khimji, chairman, Oman Cricket. Hayya Cricket isn't just any other anthem; it bridges social, cultural, and geographical divides – bringing together the multicultural community in the country for the love of cricket.

"We unite to chant Hayya Cricket for the biggest event happening in the history of Oman," he added. Developed by Gozoop Group, an integrated communications agency, the anthem translates the crux of the moment and the belief that cricket is not just a sport; it is a reason to celebrate and bring people together.

The anthem has that distinctly Omani flavour, and features a global essence: it is composed in India, the music is from London and the Middle East, and features the blending together of instruments of Tajikistan and Syria, with mesmerising vocals from Iran, Pakistan, accompanied by

heart-warming moments shot entirely in Oman.

Commemorating the multicultural milieu, the anthem is an echo of the emerging passion Omanis hold for the sport and the pride they feel at cementing their position in the cricketing world. It reflects the joyful welcome of a nation that is poised and ready to make their mark by hosting an event that unites countries and transcends beliefs, borders and boundaries.

The Hayya Cricket anthem holds bundled emotions in a visually evocative 90 seconds that whips up an unrivalled frenzy across borders, generations, and languages. It showcases the length and breadth of the nation and portrays an unaltered vision for Oman in the world of cricket.

As the countdown begins for the first ball of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 in Oman, it is time to dance to the tunes of Hayya Cricket and not miss a beat as the world witnesses one of the largest cricketing events.

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

< FROM A1 Oman will be the focus of the world's cameras during World Cup tournament

"Before we could install these, though, we got the lighting towers built from a manufacturer in Sohar: we have done a lot towards boosting in-country value and making sure this World Cup brings in business for companies here," he added. "We also installed an LED screen with very high definition, so that the replays and action can be viewed on it – this was something we needed to do in line with ICC regulations as well."

"We wanted to have about 3,000 fully vaccinated fans come here to watch the action, so we reached out to our friends over at the Oman Automobile Association for their seating, which with their help has been transported to our ground in Amerat for our use," he went on to say.

"Let's not forget that Oman will be the focus of the world's cameras during the tournament, and this

gives millions of viewers around the world the chance to see what this amazing country has to offer," said Khimji. "Oman is going to be seen on screens around the world when the opening ceremony is also held."

In-country value, he feels, will be felt in many other ways. "You are looking at dozens of room nights for hotels in Oman, because you have got four teams playing here. We had teams like Papua New Guinea, England and Sri Lanka come here before the start of the tournament, so that adds on as well. Teams are going to be chartering flights from Oman Air to arrive here, so these are benefits to the aviation and hospitality industry, which as we all know, have taken a beating around the world because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

To mitigate the impact of the

coronavirus, teams that arrive in Oman will need to follow strict protocols.

COVID bubble

A COVID bubble has been established for all players, team staff and match officials, where they will be only allowed to travel between their hotels to the ground for training and matches. Furthermore, all of them must be fully vaccinated against the virus.

"Even prior to the World Cup, we had asked our players and their families not to travel outside their homes too much, unless it was necessary," said Khimji.

"Given all the pressures of the pandemic, it was also quite difficult to train, but we have been training every day for the last few months, with the exception of the days on which we had a complete lockdown in the country. This is

the first time our boys are able to play at home, and I don't mind telling you that they are all raring to go. I have to give great credit to our head coach Duleep Mendis and his team.

"This gives us the chance to play against some of the best teams in the cricketing world, which would have been unthinkable for us even a few years ago," he added. "If we overcome the challenges of the group stage, where we face a test-playing nation like Bangladesh, then we get a chance to mix it up with the big boys of world cricket, and that is going to be a huge learning experience for all of us."

Khimji ended on an optimistic note: "With the backing of our fans and the home advantage we have, I am confident of one thing: I am certain we will go through to the knockout stages...mark my words, Oman is going to Dubai."

HEALTH CONDITION

Military tried to force his resignation, says former Myanmar President

NAYPYITAW: Detained Myanmar President Win Myint on Tuesday said that senior military officials tried to force him to resign citing a false health condition on the day of the coup.

Win's statement came during his testimony on the charges of 'defamation' against him, Radio Free Asia reported. Win Myint said that two high-ranking officers--possibly lieutenant generals or generals--came into his home early on the morning of February 1 and demanded that he step down due to 'ill health'.

"The president turned down their proposal, saying he is in good health," Win's defence team was quoted as saying by Radio Free Asia.

"The officers warned him the denial would cause him much harm, but the President told them he would rather die than consent," the defence team added.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the coup on February 1, when the Myanmar military led by Senior General Ming Aung Hlaing overthrew the civilian government and declared a year-long state of emergency. The coup triggered mass protests and was met by deadly violence.

In the more than eight months



since the coup, military forces in Myanmar have killed 1,167 civilians while arresting at least 7,219 people in the country, as per data from Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

Win, along with State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and former Naypyidaw Mayor Myo Aung, is facing charges of 'defamation of the state' in Myanmar after the military ousted the democratically elected government.

These charges are related to two statements issued by the National League for Democracy (NLD) Central Executive Committee (CEC) in February, that prosecutors say were meant to disrupt public order and instigate against the state, Radio Free Asia reported. **ANI**

Oman Charitable Organization announces the opening of donation to help those affected people by climatic conditions (Shaheen Cyclone)

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WORLD



UNHCR warns Afghanistan crisis worsening as temperatures drop

This comes a month since the UN had led an appeal for solidarity for the people of Afghanistan

GENEVA: The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said on Tuesday that the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is worsening, and funding for emergency aid is urgently needed to help 20 million people there.

This comes a month since the UN had led an appeal for solidarity for the people of Afghanistan, seeking USD 606 million for the troubled country. Only 35 per cent of the funds it needed to fund operations for the next two months had been received, the UN refugee agency said. On Monday, UN chief



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: Only 35 per cent of the funds it needed to fund operations for the next two months had been received, the UN refugee agency said.

Antonio Guterres had urged the international community to inject cash into Afghanistan's crumbling economy to prevent its collapse, for which "not only they but all the world will pay a heavy price".

UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch on Tuesday said that the agency was trying to establish a logistics hub just outside Afghanistan's border to distribute aid to the country's many hundreds of thousands of internally displaced, UN News reported.

Baloch stated that Afghanistan's economy was at "a breaking point", and that this collapse had to be avoided at all costs. "So, resources are really needed to reach more and more Afghans, I mean, when you talk about half of the population relying on humanitarian assistance; 20 million, that number is rising day by day," he said. "We need those resources as immediately as possible."

The UNHCR spokesperson said that the agency planned to conduct three airlifts to scale up supplies to Afghanistan in the coming period. "Consignments will be airlifted to Termez, Uzbekistan, and subsequently trucked through the

Hairatan border point into Mazar-i-Sharif. The airlifts will deliver urgently needed humanitarian relief items. The first flight is expected to arrive mid-October."

At the beginning of 2021, 18 million people in Afghanistan needed humanitarian assistance, half of the country's population.

UN aid officials insist that "the window to assist is narrow", as only five per cent of households have enough to eat every day, and more than half of all children under-five are expected to become acutely malnourished in the next year, UN News reported.

Severe drought and disruptions to farming have increased the risk of food insecurity as the winter approaches, said the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

At the G20 Extraordinary Meeting on Afghanistan, the UN chief Antonio Guterres, stressed there are three areas for essential action: ensuring a lifeline of help to the Afghan people, avoiding a total meltdown of the country's economy and a "constant commitment" to move things in the right direction, for the Afghan people. **ANI**

FOREIGN AFGHAN ASSETS

Taliban say West not responding to request to unfreeze Afghan reserves

DOHA: The Taliban on Tuesday said that western countries have remained silent in response to the request to unfreeze foreign Afghan assets in international banks.

"Today, the Afghan government delegation met with representatives of the United States and about 15 European countries, including Norway, Italy, Germany, France, the UK, Sweden. We discussed well-known problems -- human rights, women's rights, the creation of a safe corridor for entry and exit from the country, as well as unfreezing Afghan foreign assets, which are the money of the people," Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Naeem told *Sputnik* after the meeting in Qatar with the EU delegation. "It is the right of the people to return this money. However, we have not received any answer yet, they are silent and do not give us any answer. They mention the provision of humanitarian aid for certain amounts, but that's all temporary solutions," he said.

There is a difference between humanitarian and political issues, but ordinary people should not suffer from problems in politics, the spokesperson added.

Afghanistan is on the verge of a major humanitarian catastrophe, and Western countries continue to talk about separate issues, such as the education of women, he said. Media reports say that nearly USD 9-10 billion of Afghan funds have been frozen in Western banks.



The United States on Tuesday said that it will make a decision regarding Afghanistan's bank reserves on the basis of the future government's conduct.

"When it comes to central bank reserves, we will judge and interact with any future Afghan government on the basis of its conduct and its conduct in key areas," US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said during a press briefing.

The Biden administration has decided to freeze billions of dollars of Afghanistan government reserves held in the US fi-

nanial institutions to halt the Taliban from accessing these funds.

The Taliban took over Afghanistan in August and the US military ended its 20 years of military presence in the country. In the subsequent weeks, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund suspended financial aid to the country.

Additionally, the US also froze billions of dollars in assets belonging to the Afghan Central Bank.

US President Joe Biden and the other G20 leaders agreed during a virtual meeting to provide hu-

manitarian aid directly to the Afghan people instead via the Taliban government.

"The Leaders also reaffirmed their collective commitment to provide humanitarian assistance directly to the Afghan people through independent international organizations, and to promote fundamental human rights for all Afghans, including women, girls and members of minority groups," the White House said in a statement.

This statement comes after the G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan. **ANI**

ERUPTION



Hundreds of residents evacuated amid volcanic eruption in Spain

MADRID: Between 700 to 800 people in Spain have been evacuated as a result of the ongoing volcanic eruption on the island of La Palma, local emergency services have said.

The new wave of evacuations came after the approximately 6,000 people who were evacuated in the early days of the 24-day eruption on the Cumbre Vieja volcano in the southwest of the island. A new lava flow, which began after the north face of the crater collapsed at the weekend, has so far covered 595 hectares (5.95 square km) of land on the island, which forms part of the Canary Island archipelago off the northwest coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean.

Meanwhile, an estimated 1,281 buildings have been destroyed by lava and it has also led to the formation of around 60 hectares (0.6 square km) of new land. One

branch of the new flow on Monday destroyed a cement factory in an industrial estate, leaving 3,500 people from the municipalities of El Paso and Los Llanos de Aridane temporarily confined to their homes due to noxious gasses.

Measurements of Sulphur dioxide and a continued chain of small earthquakes have implied that this eruption would last much longer.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said he will make another visit to La Palma on Wednesday, his fourth of the kind over the three weeks.

The prime minister will give further details of his government's emergency aid plan. The plan has already designated 206 million euros (about 237.8 million USD) in aid to help evacuees and the island's economy, which is mainly based on tourism and banana planting. **ANI**

LAND BORDERS

US to open Mexico, Canada land borders for vaccinated people

WASHINGTON: Washington has announced that it will open its land borders for non-essential travellers from Mexico and Canada from November.

As per the statement from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, fully vaccinated people for COVID-19 from both countries will no longer be restricted from entering the US for non-essential purposes.

Air travel

"In alignment with the new international air travel system that will be implemented in November, we will begin allowing travellers from Mexico and Canada who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to enter the US for non-essential purposes via land and ferry border crossings," Mayorkas said in a statement.



Mayorkas added that the easing of travel restrictions will boost economic activity in the border communities, and noted that the DHS will continue to take steps to "resume regular travel in a safe and sustainable manner." **ANI**

DEBT CRISIS

China's real estate industry body to hold meeting amid Evergrande crisis

BEIJING: As the debt crisis at Evergrande continues to spark concerns in China, the country's top real estate industry body is planning to convene a meeting on Friday to deal with issues in the housing market.

An internal meeting will be held by the China Real Estate Association on Friday in the capital city of Beijing to evaluate challenges faced by real estate companies, the *Global Times* reported cited a source close to the matter. According to the Chinese state media, the meeting will bring in high-level executives from housing enterprises to probe the problems in the housing market and address the turbulence.

As pressure mounts on the housing market in China, several research and banks have cut the growth outlook of the country. This bleak state of affairs came to the limelight after the revelation of Evergrande Real Estate



Group's debt crisis.

Evergrande, China's second-biggest real estate developer, is marred with debt it cannot pay back.

The embattled developer owes

a total of USD 368 billion in loans to banks, along with liabilities to contractors and suppliers. Experts believe that declining sales, a high-risk business model, and China's clampdown to curb the boom

in the Chinese housing market brought the company into crisis.

After China's property giant Evergrande Group faced a debt repayment deadline, another real estate developer Modern Land is struggling to pay its debts now.

Citing Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Jill Disis, writing in CNN said that Modern Land on Monday asked its investors for more time to pay back a USD 250 million bonds.

China's property crisis is ensnaring yet another developer. The payment was due October 25. Modern Land said it wants to extend that deadline to the end of January as it seeks to improve "liquidity and cash flow management and to avoid any potential payment default," wrote Disis. The company said in a separate filing that Chairman Zhang Lei and President Zhang Peng intend to provide about USD 124 million in loans to support the company. **ANI**

SPORTS



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Oman have a home advantage in their ICC Men’s T20 World Cup match

The hosts earned their place after coming through the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019

DUBAI: Group B looks set to be hotly contested in the first round of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2021 as Bangladesh, Oman, Papua New Guinea and Scotland battle it out to qualify for the Super 12.

The teams will play each other once in a round-robin format from October 17-21, with the top two advancing into the next stage. Oman have a home advantage in just their second ICC Men’s T20 World Cup, with all the Group B matches to be played at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Al Amerat.

The hosts earned their place after coming through the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019, as did Scotland and Papua New Guinea - who will be playing in their first World Cup in any format.

Bangladesh qualified by virtue



T20 WORLD CUP: A combination of steady improvements and playing on home soil give Oman reasons to believe the players can advance further on this occasion.

of its world ranking and entered as favourites to top the group. Whoever does so will join Afghanistan, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Group A runners-up in Group 2 at the Super 12 stage.

The team finishing second in Group B will meet Australia, England, South Africa, reigning champions West Indies and the Group A winners in Group 1. Ever-presents at the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup,

Bangladesh have not yet topped their performance in the very first edition in 2007 when they reached the Super 8s stage.

Hosting the tournament in 2014 did not bring a change in fortunes

but a squad containing a promising mixture of youth and experience enter in excellent form this time around following an impressive sequence of series wins.

Victory over Ireland an-

nounced Oman’s arrival on the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup scene in style five years ago. And though they went on to fall at the first hurdle, a combination of steady improvements since and playing on home soil give Oman reasons to believe they can advance further on this occasion.

Following near-misses in their qualification attempts for the 2014 and 2016 ICC Men’s T20 World Cups, Papua New Guinea left nothing to chance in the 2019 ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier and was the first team to seal their spot after topping Group A.

A five-wicket win over the Netherlands in the group stage proved decisive and though the Dutch got their own back by winning the final, Papua New Guinea was still able to celebrate qualifying for their first-ever ICC global tournament.

Following a seven-year hiatus, Scotland was back in ICC Men’s T20 World Cup action in 2016 and sealed their return by winning the fifth-place play-off against Oman in the 2019 ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier.

The same qualifying tournament saw them defeat Group B rivals Papua New Guinea while a five-wicket win over Ireland in their opening warm-up match suggests this is a Scotland side arriving in good nick. **ANI**

T20 WORLD CUP 2022

Denmark, Germany, Italy and Jersey begin road to ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2022



DUBAI: The qualification pathway to the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2022 Australia will continue this week with Denmark, Germany, Italy and Jersey set to compete in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier hosted at the Desert Springs Cricket Ground in Spain.

The event will be played from October 15-21 as a double round robin format with the teams finishing first and second to progress to the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Qualifiers A and B, which will take place in 2022. Little separates the teams on the MRF Tyres ICC Men’s T20I Team Rankings with Jersey (24th), Italy (26th), Denmark (30th) and Germany (36th) all within 12 positions of one another.

The previous ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier in 2019 went down to the wire of the final match with Jersey narrowly pipping Germany to book their place at the Global Qualifiers.

Jersey joined The Netherlands and Scotland as the two other European Associate Member representatives at the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Global Qualifiers in 2019 and narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, winning three of their six group matches.

Freddie Klokke, Denmark captain said: “It has been nearly two years without any ICC events, so we can’t wait to get the tournament underway and play some very competitive cricket. There is a great opportunity for every team

to go through to the next round so we as a team are really looking forward to the challenge ahead. If we are good enough to qualify for the next round, it would be a great opportunity to promote and advertise the great game that we play in Denmark.”

Venkatraman Ganesan, Germany captain said: “We are extremely excited to be a part of this tournament and the opportunity to progress to the Global Qualifiers is a big motivation for the whole squad. Qualifying to the next round will be quite huge for cricket in Germany and I hope it will raise the profile of the sport significantly, opening up new and exciting opportunities to grow the sport in our nation. Good luck to all other participating teams.” **ANI**

FOOTBALL



Ronaldo becomes first men’s player to score 10 international hat-tricks

ALMANCIL: Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first men’s player to score ten hat-tricks in international football. The Portuguese striker achieved the feat in Portugal’s match against Luxembourg in Group A qualifying game for the 2022 World Cup. Ronaldo converted two penalties before netting a late header to help Portugal record a 5-0 victory.

The striker has now scored 58 career hat-tricks, including 10 for Portugal, reported Goal.com.

With a full Algarve Stadium, the Portuguese National Team entered at full speed and at 17th minute, they were already winning 3-0. Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring through a

penalty in the 8th minute.

It took a little wait to see Cristiano Ronaldo score again, again with a penalty. The captain of Equip das Quinas thus reached 8 goals against the Luxembourg team, which became his biggest victim. The wait for the third goal of the match was short, and this time it was Bruno Fernandes who scored with the right foot inside the penalty area after an assist from Bernardo Silva. It was Fernandes’ sixth goal for the National Team.

In the second half of the match, the pace dropped and Portugal controlled the game at their leisure, still having several good opportunities to score.

In his 100th game for the national team, goalkeeper Rui Patrio managed his 49th clean sheet.

In the 69th minute, Joao Palhinha scored his second goal for Portugal, following a corner taken by Bruno Fernandes. Very close to the end, Cristiano Ronaldo completed the hat-trick after a pass from Ruben Neves on the left side. This was Ronaldo’s ninth goal against Luxembourg and the 801st goal as a senior.

In the other meeting of Group A held this Tuesday, Serbia won (3-1) at the reception to Azerbaijan. Thus, Serbia leads Group A with one point more than Portugal, but also one more game played. **ANI**

WORLD CUP

England held by Hungary, Sweden leapfrog Spain to top Group B

LONDON : England dropped points for only the second time in their World Cup qualifying campaign as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Hungary at the Wembley Stadium on Tuesday.

Roland Sallai’s 24th-minute penalty gave Hungary the lead and the first goal in five competitive meetings with England, only for the Three Lions to reply 13 minutes later when John Stones equalised from an exquisite Phil Foden cross. England remain three points clear of Poland at the Group I summit despite their 21-match winning run in home qualifiers ending; Marco Rossi’s men are six points and two positions shy of second place.



Alexander Isak made the difference as Sweden moved two points clear of Spain at the top of Group B. Sweden defeated Greece 2-0. Greece hit the post and crossbar before Isak won a penalty, which Emil Forsberg steered in. Isak then burst through a confused Greek defence to clip in the second, before Pantelis Hatzidiakos was sent off late on.

In Group F, Lyndon Dykes netted in his fourth consecutive World Cup qualifying fixture as Scotland squeezed past Israel, while Todor Nedelev’s second-half double helped Bulgaria recover against Northern Ireland, to keep the Lions in Group C contention. **ANI**

UEFA EURO 2028

Euro 2028 hosts to be confirmed in September 2023

ZURICH: European football body UEFA on Tuesday announced that its member associations interested in hosting UEFA EURO 2028 have until March 2022 to declare their interest, with the appointment of the hosts set to take place in September 2023.

UEFA EURO 2028 is set to take place over 51 matches and feature 24 teams, as has been the case for the previous two tournaments. Joint bids are permitted, provided that the bidding countries are geographically compact.

“In order to ensure compatibility with the competition’s sporting and commercial format, the automatic qualification of the host team(s) shall be guaranteed only for a single host or a maximum of two joint host associations, as

always implemented in the past,” UEFA said in an official statement.

Interested parties will need to provide 10 stadiums, with the following capacities:

- * Minimum of 1 stadium with at least 60,000 net seating capacity
- * Minimum of 1 stadium, preferably 2 stadiums, with at least 50,000 net seating capacity
- * Minimum of 4 stadiums with at least 40,000 net seating capacity
- * Minimum of 3 stadiums with at least 30,000 net seating capacity

In the case of more than two joint host associations, the automatic qualification of all the host teams cannot be guaranteed and shall be subject to a decision to be made in conjunction with decisions concerning the qualifying competition. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by December 2021 reaching \$81.45, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 64 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was at \$82.09. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,964.08 points, up 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.12 per cent at 578.14 points. Al Omaniya Financials Services was the top gainer, up by 6.36 per cent. While Dhofar Generating, down 9.28 per cent, was the top loser.

Pact signed for green hydrogen, ammonia project in Salalah

The project, named 'SalalaH2', targets the production of up to 1,000 tonnes per day of green ammonia, utilising OQ's existing ammonia plant in Salalah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Joint Development Agreement was signed (JDA) for the development of green hydrogen and green ammonia project at Salalah Free Zone in Oman.

An international consortium comprised the alternative energy business unit of OQ, Oman's global integrated energy company, one of Oman Investment Authority government's companies, Marubeni Corporation, Linde and Dutco has signed the key pact.

The Salalah region enjoys rich solar and wind resources supported by a world-class shipping infrastructure at the Port of Salalah;

all of which position the region to be a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen and green ammonia.

The project, named 'SalalaH2', targets the production of up to 1,000 tonnes per day of green ammonia, utilising OQ's existing ammonia plant in Salalah. An electrolysis facility with a capacity of up to 400 MW will be constructed to produce green hydrogen. Approximately 1 GW of solar and wind energy, produced either by existing or new facilities, will be used to power the electrolyser.

The consortium is currently conducting studies that will provide the basis for an investment



GLOBAL HUB: The Salalah region enjoys rich solar and wind resources supported by a world-class shipping infrastructure at the Port of Salalah; all of which position the region to be a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen and green ammonia. - **File picture**

decision. Various offtake streams will be explored and coordinated with the OQ ammonia plant's current offtake including the co-firing needs of coal-fired power plants in Asia, the renewable feedstock

needs of fertiliser plants in Europe and the decarbonisation needs of the global shipping industry.

The project is set to create a positive impact on Oman's national economy through the diversifica-

tion of its energy infrastructure, the transformation of its skills base and the transfer of new technologies into the region.

Dr Salim Al-Huthaili, CEO of Alternative Energy at OQ said, "OQ is excited to enter into this unique opportunity as the integration of the Salalah cluster between LPG, methanol and ammonia is already bringing great synergies. Integrating green molecules, and green hydrogen into the system is a true transition story to pave the path towards decarbonisation. The potential of low carbon hydrogen production is promising in Oman and this partnership reflects OQ's, and our shareholder OIA's deep commitment towards maximising value and diversifying Oman's economy in line with Vision 2040."

Yuji Sato, General Manager of the Middle East and Africa Dept., Power Division in Tokyo, Japan, stated that "Marubeni is keen on leading the development of this project to support the hydrogen economy in Oman utilising our abundant experience in acting as a lead developer of renewable projects in the Middle East and the world. We are com-

mitted to the energy transition and an active participant in the decarbonisation of the world economy. We are delighted to be part of this project in Oman, one of our most important markets in the region."

Philippe Peccard, Linde's Vice President Clean Energy, stated, "At Linde we believe that hydrogen and its derivatives will play a key role in reshaping the global energy landscape, and as a leader in the production, processing, storage and distribution of hydrogen, we are proud to be a partner in the SalalaH2 project which we expect to be transformational for the local society."

Tariq Baker, Vice Chairman, Dutco group of companies, stated, "Dutco has strategically positioned itself to be part of the hydrogen economy through driving new investments in the value chain of production of green hydrogen and green ammonia. The diversified and unique set of global capabilities of the members of this consortium will greatly contribute to making the SalalaH2 project a showcase project that will allow Oman to position itself as a global player in the production and export of green hydrogen/green ammonia."

SECOND PHASE

Sezad conducts drone experiments for delivering postal, food parcels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: This week saw the second phase of conducting the unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) experiments in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad). Such experiments are part of the efforts of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) to benefit from the technologies of these drones to improve the services provided in the zone.

The USA-based company, UVL Robotics, which is specialised in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and drones, carried out two experiments in cooperation with Azim Technology Company, one of the local companies providing artificial intelligence services and autonomous systems.

In the first experiment, a number of parcels and postal mails were delivered from the Oman Post office in Duqm to the headquarters of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. The experiment succeeded in delivering the goods within only a few minutes, during which the drone travelled an estimated distance of around 11 kilometres.

In the second experiment, a basket of food and beverages was delivered from the "911 Restaurant"



in Say commercial district to Renaissance Village buildings, flying for about 6 kilometres. The experiment marked success in delivering food parcels in a record time. During the two experiments, the team employed an electric drone that can fly 25 kilometres and carry a payload of up to 5 kg.

UVL Robotics provides infrastructure solutions for delivery services by offering a drone landing station, which comes as a smart box that can accommodate over thirty parcels. Thus, the drones land on the box to drop and save the postal parcels inside this box. Being built with the latest technologies in this field, the box includes an electronic screen that makes it easier for the

user to make payments and get the postal parcel post putting his interactive code.

Al Sumri explained that Opaz has designated a dedicated zone for artificial intelligence and drone experiments in Sezad, covering 18 square kilometres of area. Hence, all companies and individuals interested to conduct their experiments in the zone are obliged to register through the Opaz website.

Sultan Al Hatali from Azim Technology Company expressed his appreciation to Opaz for inviting companies to conduct drone experiments in Sezad. He also noted that the zone has many advantages that contribute to the success of these experiments.

OERLIVE CONFERENCE & AWARDS

Conference to highlight innovation and digital transformation in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OERLive, Oman's leading digital platform for business, technology, economy, and lifestyle, will be organising the OERLive Conference & Awards 2021 on October 27 at the Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

The first edition of the conference will throw the spotlight on digital transformation in the Sultanate under the foresight of the Oman Vision 2040, and will deep dive into topics such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G as an enabler of Industry 4.0, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Information Technology, the rise of e-Commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic, Fintech and Blockchain, and the rise of disruptive technologies.

Ali Al Shidani, the Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology will be the chief guest at the conference.

Conceived by the OERLive team and organised by UMS Events, the event will see Oman Banks Association as the endorsement partner, Oman Arab Bank as the presenting partner, and Petroleum Development Oman as the energy partner. MHD ITICS, Alizz Islamic Bank, GBM Oman and Dhofar Insurance Company will be the associate partners for the conference.



With a collective aim to empower organisations across corporate and government sectors with digital turnkey solutions, insights and analyses, and to help them keep pace with the ever-evolving digital ecosystem, the one-of-its-kind conference will bring in key speakers, industry leaders, analysts, and C-suite executives from across the region.

Digital transformation is driving the nation's move towards achieving all goals set under Oman Vision 2040 and is empowering creative individuals to set the tone for a competitive economy that creates a responsible digital government. This

should also pave way for the Sultanate's ICT market, which is expected to grow to OMR2.2 billion by 2024 from OMR1.2 billion in 2019, and push for new levels of citizen engagement.

With youth accounting for 46.7 per cent of the community and innovation being paramount in the state apparatus' shift to a modern, digital governance model, Oman offers strong grounds for advances towards the fourth industrial revolution. This comes on the heels of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology's bold move to implement AI systems across its governing units.

The Digital Transformation & Innovation Awards 2021 will also be presented at the conference to commemorate exceptional organisations and individuals in the sector.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Pact signed to provide technical support to SMEs

MUSCAT: The Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) signed an agreement of cooperation with Takatuf Oman to provide technical and organisational support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to transfer knowledge and enhance professional standards.

The SMEs covered by the agreement operate in the field of human resources (HR) consultancy. The agreement aims to polish skills and to form an advanced model of enterprises and boost the In-Country Value (ICV) of those businesses.

This agreement will generate more jobs and training opportunities for Omani youth, leading to an economy that keeps pace with changes and is based on enterprises and cadres which are qualified locally and internationally.

The agreement was signed by Halima Rashid Al Zar'ei, Chairperson of ASMED and Sheikh Ibrahim Mohammed Al Harthy, CEO of Takatuf Oman. - **ONA**

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MARKET

MSM index ends higher

Al Omaniya Financial Services was the top gainer, up by 6.36 per cent. While Dhofar Generating, down 9.28 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,964.08 points, up 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.12 per cent at 578.14 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services was the top gainer, up by 6.36 per cent. While Dhofar Generating, down 9.28 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 467 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR 1.2 million, with more than 7 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 11 advanced, 10 declined and 17 remained un-

changed. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR139,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR126,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR14,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,274 points, up 0.18 per cent. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, Oman & Emirates Holding, Oman & Qatar Insurance, National Finance and United Finance were up 6.36 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 3.93 per cent, 2.86 per cent and 1.72 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,199.39 points, down 0.70 per cent. Services Index was down by 0.26 per cent before closing at 1,673.04 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

Table with 8 columns: Index, High, Low, Value, Prev. Value, Diff, Diff%. Rows include MSX 30 INDEX, FINANCIAL INDEX, Industry Index, Services Index, MSX Shariah Index, MSX TR INDEX.

Trading Summary table with 8 columns: Volume, Turnover, Trades, Market Cap, Up, Down, Equal, Sec. Traded. Row shows totals: 7,432,071, 1,189,020, 467, 22,069,814,917, 11, 10, 17, 38.

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Table with 15 columns: SECURITIES NAME, VOLUME, TURNOVER, TRADES, OPEN PRICE, HIGH, LOW, CLOSE PR., PREV. CLOSE, DIFF (R), DIFF %, LAST PR., LAST BID, LAST OFFER, P/B VALUE, MARKET CAP. Rows include REGULAR MARKET and Parallel Market.

STOCK MARKETS

Asian shares edgy amid inflation fears

HONG KONG: Asian shares were on edge on Wednesday as worries about soaring power prices fuelling inflation weighed on sentiment and drove expectations the United States would taper its emergency bond-buying program, holding the dollar at a one-year high. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.1 per cent in early

trading, steadying after falling over 1 per cent a day earlier, in what was its worst daily performance in three weeks. Moves were muted in most markets. Chinese blue chips were flat, Australia eeked out a 0.06 per cent gain, while Japan's Nikkei shed 0.2. Hong Kong's stock market was closed in the morning because of a typhoon.

Also contributing to the uneasy mood, investors are waiting for a raft of data releases due to be published Wednesday, including Chinese trade figures, US consumer price inflation data, and minutes of the US Federal Reserve's September policy meeting. The looming start of company earnings season also deterred some investors from placing large bets. — BNA

DHL GLOBAL FORWARDING

Pact signed for solar energy project in Dubai

DUBAI: DHL Global Forwarding, the leading provider of air, ocean and road freight services, and TotalEnergies have signed a contract for a solar energy project in Dubai. It is in continuation with its strategic cooperation agreement signed in 2019. TotalEnergies will solarise eight of DHL's sites in Dubai to cover the equivalent of over 46,000m² of photovoltaic panels. The solar system will save more than 6,000t of CO2 in the first year. The project complements Deutsche Post DHL Group's sustainability roadmap to achieve zero-emissions logistics from 2050 onwards. "With an annual average of 8.7 hours of sunshine per day, Dubai has a clear advantage in terms of solar energy. I am all the more pleased that we can use this asset to advance our sustainability goals further," says Amadou Diallo, CEO DHL Global Forwarding Middle East and Africa. "With TotalEnergies, we have a partner at our side, not only to drive forward the use of alternative fuels but also to optimise our overall energy consumption. In this way, we are going step by step to achieve our ambitious target to reduce all logistics-related emissions to zero by the year 2050."

Upper Air UV Purification advertisement featuring Philips UVC Technology and Signify Value Added Partner. Includes diagrams of air purification and contact information for NEW 4TH DIMENSION LLC.

Special Discount advertisement for Oman Oasis water dispensers. Features a large image of a water dispenser and details on discounts and prizes.

Mastercool Watercoolers advertisement. Features images of water coolers and lists benefits: Tropicalised, Heavy plated drip proof faucets, Copper tube for increased cooling efficiency, Stainless steel tank. Contact: MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS LLC.

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2BR flats at Bowsheer, near Bowsheer Stadium	260-OMR	200 OMR
3BR Flats with Split A/c's, near Al Falaj Hotel.	325-OMR	275 OMR

Call Bader: 92609625 / WhatsApp: 72582888

1BR flats with Balcony & Split A/c's at Rex Road.	210-OMR	180 OMR
1BR Flats with 2 Toilets at CBD.	210-OMR	150 OMR
Spacious 2BR flats with Lift at Azaiba, near NBO.	240-OMR	215 OMR
2BR Flats at Darsait & Al Khuwair with a/c's.	290-OMR	225 OMR

Call Rifaquat: 99338627 / WhatsApp: 72582888

1BR flats next to Indian School, Darsait.	190-OMR	165 OMR
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2BR flats at Darsait near Indian School.	250-OMR	200 OMR
2BR Spacious flats with a/c's opp. Al Falaj Hotel	250-OMR	220 OMR
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WANTED

LOOKING FOR INVESTOR IN HEALTHCARE BUSINESS

Looking for a serious Omani Investor or Buyer for a 15-year-old Medical & Laboratory supply company.

Company seeking Investments for their projects and for expansion of business.

Contact expressing your Interest with your contact details to: investoman21@yahoo.com

FOR RENT AL HAIL NORTH

New Twin Villa containing 10 rooms, 10 toilets, multiple majlis and two fully equipped kitchens with fully designed interior decoration recommended for management staff.

Interested call: 99411607 / 92466266

Room rent starting from 60 to 200 R.O 02 (Two) rooms starting from 120 R.O
With accessories and include with following services:

1. 24-hour electricity & water service. 2. Water & Electricity bill are included with rent. 3. We have electrician & plumber for repairing & fixing any problem. 4. Clean the site morning & evening every day. 5. Site is monitored by the latest IP camera. 6. An Omani supervisor always observing site security.

Contact No: 93910079, 93817042, 99321944 • Address: Wadi Al Lawami, Nursery, after NMC medical, Seeb, Muscat

FOR RENT

HAR Complex MSQ

2&3 BHK Flats & Villas / 6 BHK villas + maids room, garden, shared gym/swimming pool & Children play area.

Al Khuwair

2 BHK spacious flats (prime location).

Al Ghubrah (18 Nov. Street)

3 & 4 BHK Villas.

Darsait

1 & 2 BHK Flats.

Ruwi

2 & 3 BHK spacious flats (Prime locations).

Al Amerat

2 & 3 BHK Flats With A.C.

Website: assarainproperties.com

For viewing please call 24694088, 99316410, 92841690 or email us on: hartc@omantel.net.om

FOR RENT

3 BHK Duplex (With Maid Room)
Split A/Cs, Free Unlimited Broadband WiFi, Security access system, & Secured car park

Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

Contact: 99657906 or 24702141

FOR RENT

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next to Al MAHA Petrol Stn.

TEL. 99382489, 99263443

FOR RENT

2 BHK Flats available near ISM Darsait. Contact 99428764

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Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Ducted VRF A/Cs, Free central gas, Built in wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured car park.

Next to Sri Lankan School Wadi Kabir

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Fully Furnished Apartment and Transport for Office also available

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Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Panasonic VRF A/Cs, Free central gas, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured Car Park.

Behind Mazoun Complex, Ruwi

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Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

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Fully Furnished Apartment And Transport For Office Also Available

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

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JOB VACANCIES

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Responsibilities:

- To manage operations and production of the restaurant.
- To liaise with the respective Government/ Statutory Authorities to procure the necessary licenses and documentations.
- To lead the operations and production team to deliver within specific standards and schedules required.
- To manage overall costs including material, equipment, manpower, etc.
- To manage production planning, forecasting, purchasing and stock control.
- To maintain and improve the overall performance of the restaurant on a regular basis including cost analysis and monitoring of processes.
- Provide on-job coaching and guidance to team members, managing their performance to ensure a smooth operation.
- To work along with the Marketing team to develop Marketing Strategies and Promotion plans to successfully market the restaurant in the relevant media platform.
- Manage and supervise the food & beverage staff to ensure maximum utilization of the manpower allocated.
- Ensure strict compliance with all relevant Hygiene and Safety legislation and requirements.
- To maintain close, professional and effective links with all external contractors/suppliers to ensure that they deliver to mutually accepted agreements and highest quality levels.
- To handle responsibilities for the special orders made at the restaurant. It involves all planning associated with each event, right through to delivery.

Educational Qualifications & Experience:

- Post Graduate/Graduate or equivalent qualification.
- Minimum 05 years of experience in a supervisory level at F&B, Catering, Hotels and Hospitality establishments.
- Knowledge of food hygiene and Health and Safety requirements.
- A good understanding of quality assurance, procedures and protocols.
- Excellent communication skills both verbally and written English/ Arabic.

Key Skills Required:

- Excellent co-ordination skills
- Strong presentation and communication skills, verbal and written.
- Effective planning, management and organizing skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with internal teams and external suppliers and customers.
- Must possess neat and pleasant grooming habits.
- Change orientated to make business improvements.

If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at oman2020marketing@gmail.com

WE ARE HIRING

SPACE MARKETING for Online Directory

Responsibilities:

- Contact potential clients to describe advertising opportunities. This usually takes the form of cold calling over the telephone but may involve face to face contact as well.
- Contact existing clients to arrange the placement and design of advertisements they have agreed on and ensure an ongoing relationship.
- Research client needs and explain the benefits of buying advertising space, responding to any objections.
- Explain pricing costs to potential clients and negotiate a fee, if necessary.
- Account manage an existing client

to ensure their needs are satisfied and they are happy with the service.

- Work with production teams to ensure that agreed advertisements are carried in the right place and at the right time.
- Track purchases and keep record of sales, contacts and deals.
- Work to maximize sales and meet targets.
- Deliver sales reports to management.

Key Skills: Excellent telephone manner, ability to persuade clients, outgoing, and sociable

Education: Any degree, candidates with marketing background will be preferred.

If you feel you are right for the position and for any further information, please write us at oman2020marketing@gmail.com

Freelancers and Part-timers Required

FREELANCE SALES AGENTS AND PART-TIME TELECALLERS

for a reputed organization

	Freelance Sales Agents	Part-time Telecallers
Requirements	- Consulting with clients to understand their needs - Guiding prospective clients through the sales process - Providing excellent customer service - Managing client relationships, satisfaction and expectations	- Calling active and budding clients to encourage the purchase of items. - Recording all successful and unsuccessful attempts to close sales.
Key Skills	Availability and prompt response, ability to persuade clients, and Excellent telephone manner	Superb interpersonal, research, and record-keeping skills.
Work Location	Work from Home	At Office
Timing	Flexible (target based)	4 hours

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One of the most reputed ISO Certified Manufacturing Company in the Sultanate of Oman has vacancy for the post of Sales Coordinator. The candidate should be a graduate with excellent skills in Microsoft Office.
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• Oman/GCC driving license is must.
Interested candidates may please contact on +968 99443014

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A Reputed Construction Company in Oman is looking for suitable candidates for the following Positions.
1. Electricians
2. Finishing Carpenters
3. Masons
4. Helpers
Interested applicants may send their updated CV to:
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Indian Cook
For Private Family, with experience in Arabic and Indian cuisine.
Please contact
99735820

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTS

A leading company requires a Branch Accountant with 8-10 years of experience up to Finalization of accounts. Applicants having valid Oman D/L preferred. Kindly send CV to: omanaccjob@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently required Junior accountants,safety officer,civil autocad draughtsman for a reputed Construction company.Interested candidates can send CV's to: hr@oasisgrace.com. Contact/Whatsapp 99881459. Fax 24812226

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant, B.Com, MBA, with 15 years of accounting experience in Oman seeks Senior/Managerial Level Post. NOC available. Please contact 78581435

Senior Accountant, B.Com with MBA Finance, with 15 years of accounting experience in Oman seeks Managerial Level Post. Ready to join immediately.NOC available. Please contact 78581435

Female, Senior Accountant. Available for part time accounting and audits. Contact 97019955 15 yrs experience in construction looking for a freelance job in accounts/finance. Contact 93384382

15 yrs experience in construction looking for a freelance job in accounts/finance. Contact 93384382

Chief Accountant/Senior Accountant, Indian Male, MBA finance, having more than 12 year's GCC including Oman & Indian experience in AP, AR, Cash flow, VAT, BRS, Trade-Finance, P&L, BS etc. With Valid D/L. Contact 9359 6524. Email: shahome.mhs@gmail.com.

Indian Male MBA. 25 years old, 4years experience in India, Well experienced in Tally, Excel, Oracle & MS office. Contact 968 98944397/72218339

Part time Accounts doing up to finalization seeking Job. Contact 79102100

Indian male Accountant with 8 years exp in GCC (4 Years in Oman), doing up to finalization of Accounts, Looking for suitable placement, Oman D/L & NOC available, Mob: 93849217, Email: ishaque150@gmail.com

43 Yrs Male B-Com 19 Yrs of Exp in Accounts (17 yrs in Oman) until Finalisation Currently working in a reputed company. Contact 95349498

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Senior Architectural Draftsman with 9 years Exp in commercial, Residential,Industrial Projects. Looking for a suitable position. Contact 96764860 Email: engadeelamin@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

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Required Electrical Engineer with minimum 2 year Oman experience in HT, LT, OHL & UG. Oman D/L must. creativemarketingoman@gmail.com Fax: 24593880

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Available vacancies for young and energetic salesmen in the field of textile trading for well reputed company to recruit urgently Email: sendcvom@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian Female MBA (HR), PGDBM, B.E. 7 Yrs. of experience in HR & Administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L Looking for suitable placement. Contact 92474376

Indian male having 20+ years' experience in Oman seeks suitable job in HR/Admin. Contact 95425764

Energetic Degree holder male from Kerala aged 23, speaks Arabic, English, Hindi and Malayalam, seeking job. Contact 9277 9806, Email: muhsinmuhsin333@gmail.com

Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years rich Oman experience in EPC, Media, Healthcare, Aviation. NOC. Contact 99283938

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 95388417 Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA, BCOM having 7 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 95388417. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Senior logistics Coordinator/ Document controller, with 8 years experience in Logistics, Warehouse management and Documentation in UAE seeking employment in Oman .Presently in Oman & can join immediately. Contact 79176488 Email: melrickveigas@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Female Doctor, MBBS, General Practitioner, 11 years' experience with MoH Oman is looking for a placement in Clinic/Polyclinic at Sohar. Contact 97783061

MANAGER

HSE Manager With 14 yrs exp. 8 yrs in Oman with D/L. Expertise in malls, hospitals, mosques & large scales of residential projects. Currently in Oman in a reputed company. Ready available. Contact 97477573

Construction Manager, QC Manager , Materials Engineer in construction and laboratory field. 15 years gulf experience. Lankan Male. Contact 99888143, 98070195

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male 44yrs with 20 yrs experience in Warehouse, stores & purchase seeks suitable post. NOC & D/L available. Contact 98676159. Email: nairviju77@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with Driving License looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

Pakistani Male (5 years experience), M.Phil, Marketing and Sales Expert in the oil & energy industry. Skilled in Lectureship, Research, Business Administration. Contact 91102995 fahadikram96@hotmail.com

Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs. Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact 79975436 nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com

MBA graduate with 9 years experience in handling mobile distribution in Oman for various hypermarket. Looking for sales and marketing opportunity. Contact +968 7902 4220

JOB WANTED

FINANCE MANAGER
Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies.
Contact Number # 78556829

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

FINANCE
Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.
GSM: 92334161

FINANCE
M Com - Financial Professional, 17 years of Experience in Oman, Currently working as a finance Manager is looking for suitable placement, available from 10th November 2021.
Mob # 92301318
abdulrasheedlulu@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT
Indian Male Accountant available for instant joining: Having B.com higher grade graduation with 6 years of acquaintance and comprehension on major accounting platforms,well versed in Microsoft and profound communication skills, NOC Available.
Contact No: +968-94649272
Email: sherin.am01@gmail.com

GROUP FINANCE MANAGER
with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement
Contact 92578435
Email: 1974KSD@gmail.com

IT/ HR / ACCOUNTS
Indian Male MCA 15Yrs Exp in Oman, Seeking a job in IT, HR, Payroll, Accounts or any suitable post. NOC & D/L available.
Contact: 95297497

Projects Manager
Indian Male, having 12 years of Experience in Oman, presently working as Projects Manager, NOC available.
Contact 92636569
Email: nisarg_shah35@yahoo.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: +96899075683
allirod1975@gmail.com

HR/ADMIN
Female with 13yrs of experience in HR/Admin or Similar field is looking for job opportunities. Available to start immediately.
CONTACT 79285929

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)
Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Also having Experience in Education Industry (India) in a senior Management Position. Presently in Muscat (family visa).
Contact 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

PROJECT ENGINEER
Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.
Contact 79170769

Graduate in B.A
Specialized in Marketing & Advertising, Content Copywriting and Graphic Designing, excellent communication & technical skills.
Indian female with valid driving license currently on family visa. Looking for suitable placement.
Contact 92550471/96736832

ENGINEER
B.Tech Mechanical Engineer with 2yrs Exp, Seeking Suitable placement. Presently in Muscat (Visit Visa)
Contact 78375996
Email: vishnutp999@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO
Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.
Contact 97264447

Process Engineer (Omani)
Bachelor degree from German University of technology in Oman, 3 year experience in process and Contract engineering worked with Multiple Water and wastewater companies in Oman in different Sites and STPs.
Contact number: 92115804
Email: Faiza112@outlook.com

MEP Supervisor
Indian male, 36years old, diploma graduate having 15+years of Oman experience in MEP supervisor role in an excellent grade construction and trading company with good practical knowledge, have MEDC, CEP, MEDC Electrician license. NOC available, is looking for suitable opening. Oman D/L
Contact +968 96135973
Email kddhaya2@gmail.com

HR & Administration
HR & Administration professional, with Executive Assistant exposure, well experienced with Oman labour law, well versed in office management, new office induction & administration, Indian male, with Valid Oman D/L, NOC available, seeks suitable placements.
Contact 94948676

Management Professional with Business Development Experience
Looking for suitable placement
Worked in Diversified Business Conglomerate, Oil & Gas and Construction Industry. Long journey in Oman with progressive career growth. Professional experience in Sales, Administration, Business Development, Project Management and Overall Company Management. Dual Masters in Oil & Gas Management and International Business with PMP Certification. NOC with Local Transfer is available.
GSM: +968 9943 8477 / e-mail: harimct@gmail.com

HSE OFFICER
Indian HSE Officer, diploma in Mechanical Engineering & Diploma in fire and safety engineering. NEBOSH, OSHA AND QA/QC Holder. 5 years Experience in HSE seeks suitable placement.
Contact 7974 3601

Finance Head
CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.
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3 TIPS FOR VACATIONING SAFELY WITH YOUR FAMILY

While the pandemic caused many people to have to cancel or postpone their vacation plans over the past eighteen months, travel has resumed again. If you're considering taking a trip sometime soon, it's a good idea to make sure everyone in your group knows the best ways to stay safe — and how to pack and plan your trip while keeping health top of mind.

Here are some tips for making sure your next adventure goes off without a hitch, and that you're prepared for any changing conditions that may occur while you're away from home.

1 Pack enough safety gear for everyone

No matter where you're headed or what the state of travel may be right now, make sure you're ready in case of any unforeseen

changes that may occur. Pack enough of these items for everyone:

- Well-fitting, high-quality masks. Depending on your family's situation, you may feel more comfortable wearing masks in crowded places — indoors or out. Public transportation services, as well as many public venues and private businesses, may also require that you wear masks, so you'll want to be sure you have at least two per family member packed and ready to bring with you on your excursions.
- Hand sanitiser. It's a good idea to carry small bottles of hand sanitiser containing at least 60% alcohol with you, in case you won't have access to soap and water when you need to wash your hands. Make sure to supervise children so they use it correctly, and keep out of reach of young children.

- Cleansing wipes. To help keep your surroundings and personal belongings clean wherever you go, sanitising wipes can give you peace of mind. Frequently cleaning high-touch surfaces and objects including door handles, TV remotes and your phones can help improve hygiene for you and your family.

2 Research hotels and entertainment venues before you book

While planning your vacation, make sure to check the websites (or call) for any places you plan to stay — this includes airlines, tourist attractions or other businesses you plan to visit. Find out their current health and safety policies and procedures to be sure you are in compliance. It can also be reassuring to know that the places you'll visit — and especially where you'll be sleeping, whether

overnight or for several days — are clean and following appropriate sanitation measures.

3 Practice social distancing

To lower your risk of infection, avoid crowds, and staying at least six feet (about two arm lengths) away from anyone who is not travelling with you. Outdoor venues or activities are also considered to be lower risk than indoor activities. If you or a family member is feeling sick, it is recommended to stay home and avoid being around other people to stop the spread of any illness.

Keeping these tips in mind will not only help you feel good that you're taking the proper health and safety precautions — but will ensure a more carefree travel experience as you set off to some of your favorite vacation spots this year. -BPT



FEATURE

ENERGY AGENCY URGES BIGGER GLOBAL PUSH TO CUT EMISSIONS

FRANKFURT: The International Energy Agency (IEA) is urging governments to make stronger commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions at an upcoming UN climate summit, warning the world is not on track to meet environmental goals and that new investment in clean energy was needed to “jolt the energy system onto a new set of rails.”

The Paris-based international organisation said on Wednesday in its annual world energy outlook that great strides have been made to move away from fossil fuels by relying on more wind and solar energy, while electric vehicles are setting sales records.

But the economic rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic also has seen an increase in the use of coal and oil, the report said, as well as a leap in emissions. Burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas that scientists blame for climate change.

“The world’s hugely encouraging

clean energy momentum is running up against the stubborn incumbency of fossil fuels in our energy systems,” said Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the 30-country IEA.

Governments at the summit needed to “give a clear and unmistakable signal that they are committed to rapidly scaling up the clean and resilient technologies of the future. The social and economic benefits of accelerating clean energy transitions are huge, and the costs of inaction are immense.”

The report said the recovery was putting major strains on parts of the energy system, leading to sharp rises in prices for natural gas, coal and electricity as worldwide energy demand is set to regain the ground lost last year during the pandemic.

Electricity demand in particular had come “roaring back” in Asia, leading to a rise in the use of coal-fired plants. Such energy crunches were a prelude of more disruption to come if investment in new sources of energy did not increase, according to the report.

Representatives of more than 200 countries will gather for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, from 13 October 2021 to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference will discuss new targets for cutting or curbing the growth of emissions that contribute to climate change.

The goal under the 2015 Paris climate accord is to limit the rise of global temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius (35 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees.

The UN’s scientific committee on climate change has said emissions must be cut to net zero when greenhouse gases are balanced out by their removal from the atmosphere by 2050 to reach the 1.5-degree limit, the Associated Press (AP) news reported. — **UNA**



ROUND-UP

Hawana Salalah welcomes European tourists to Dhofar this winter season

Muriya’s Hawana Salalah is expected to welcome more than 10,000 tourists by end of 2021 as more international travellers flock to the region’s only tropical getaway

MUSCAT: With Oman re-opening its borders to vaccinated travellers without prior approval, Muriya’s Hawana Salalah, Oman’s largest integrated tourism complex is welcoming European travellers for the winter season in the Governorate of Dhofar.

With a surge of interest among domestic, regional, and international markets for the concept of resort living, Hawana Salalah is collaborating with international tour operators to promote Dhofar as the most popular vacation destination in the region.

Hawana Salalah is expected to



welcome more than 10,000 tourists by end of 2021 as more international travellers flock to the region’s only tropical getaway.

“Since its inception, Muriya has been constantly working diligently to contribute to the growth of the tourism sector in Oman in line with the government’s diversification strategy. We have been hard at work for years with tour operators to attract direct flights from European cities to Salalah to help increase the flow of tourists to the

Hawana Salalah offers tourists, visitors, and homebuyers a unique destination that is a celebration of Dhofar’s rich heritage, legendary culture, and enchanting spirit. Brimming with life all year-round and the winter season is no exception, Hawana Salalah boasts a picturesque 170-berth marina, surrounded by a variety of hospitality establishments including the 577-room Fanar Hotel & Residences, the 87-room Juweira Boutique Hotel and the beachfront 19-hut,

Souly Lodge. Another key hotel in the destination is the 422-room Salalah Rotana Resort, which will reopen in December 2021.

In addition, Hawana Salalah creates a vibrant atmosphere for guests to enjoy a wide range of restaurants, shops and leisure facilities. The Hawana Aquapark, open on weekends, is a major aquatic attraction for local and international visitors featuring 65,600 sqm of pure adventure and fun as well as a food court.

The low-density and ever-evolving destination is complemented by a number of freehold real estate projects offering flexible payment plans for people looking to make a home or for investment including the communities of Forest Island, Hawana Lagoons, Laguna Gardens, Marina Bay, and Signature Villas. Joining this thriving destination is the Laguna Gardens – Azure project, which was launched in September 2021, where the exclusive living meets a resort lifestyle full of discovery. Designed as a celebration of the finer things in life, the new project features private gardens and swimming pools overlooking the lagoon and it includes one-bedroom twin villas, as well as two- and three-bedroom stand-alone villas, with brilliantly designed spacious living spaces, vast gardens with unparalleled views across the lagoons.

Since its inception, Muriya has consistently explored ways to create long-term value for the tourism, real estate and leisure sectors. The company contributed to the Sultanate’s tourism strategy by signing with European tour operators in 2016 to attract more travellers to Oman in general and Dhofar in specific. By providing a unique proposition of hospitality, real estate and leisure all in one, Muriya has established itself as a pioneer in the local, regional and international marketplace.

SPORTS SEDAN

INFINITI Q50 Red Sport 400: Build to inspire, thrill and stir

MUSCAT: Sports sedan INFINITI Q50 Red Sport 400 is defined by performance and features amazing exterior, incredible design, and innovative technologies. Designed to empower and support the driver, it offers breathtaking horsepower at command.

Build to inspire, thrill, and stir the daring side INFINITI Q50 offers two engines to choose from: the 300 HP 3.0 L V6 twin-turbo or the exhilarating 400 horsepower 3.0-litre Twin Turbo V6. The RED SPORT 400 has Kacchu Aluminum trim and red contrast stitching that takes the cabin to a new level.



Putting high performance at the heart of the INFINITI Q50, the 400 horsepower twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine, offers class-leading performance that’s bound to get the driver’s heart racing. With 475 Nm of torque, acceleration is effortless.

Those who don’t need such high output and high efficiency can choose the class-leading twin-turbocharged V6 that returns 300 HP and 400 Nm of torque.

The INFINITI Q50’s suspension shapes the drive around you. As road conditions change, it automatically adjusts the vehicle’s body roll, pitch and bounce rate for a smooth, comfortable ride.

Dynamic Digital Suspension comes equipped with two distinct settings, Standard and Sport. Standard mode is meant for comfortable, dynamic handling. Sport mode offers firmer dampening and greater agility.

Owners can set their preference for a soft or firm ride through the Drive Mode Selector. Electronically adjusted dampers do the rest, applying the right amount of force to keep the drive feeling balanced.

The Infiniti Q50 sports sedan which offers an optimal blend of ride comfort and class-leading agility has been impressing the new generation of buyers. Its new engines and chassis technologies that deliver empowering performance and rewarding drive have been a big winner with Oman’s auto enthusiasts.

A senior official at Infiniti Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “Q50 Red Sport 400 is the performance-oriented. It offers a premium driving experience with great powertrains as well as several technological advancements in driver safety. While its new powerful and efficient turbocharged V6 gasoline engines headlined by Q50 Red Sport 400 delivering 400 hp, key technology additions including dynamic digital suspension and rack electronic power steering are impressive too.

The premium sports sedan has been developed to offer buyers a higher level of customisation and driving engagement, bringing the brand’s signature design, energising driver technology, and inspiring performance to the model.

Red sport package

Red sport package is adorned with sports brakes with red callipers, exterior mirrors in black colour, door waist moulding in black, trunk finisher in the black, radiator grille and surround in black paddle shifters, direct adaptive steering (DAS) with active lane control (ALC), 19-inch alloy wheel rims with a dark grey metallic finish, black headliner and semi-aniline quilted leather seats with red contrast stitching.

Visibility

For visibility, INFINITI Q50 offers a rear defogger with timer exterior mirrors electric folding, heated, black colour, reverse link with memory interior rearview mirror with auto-dimming front led headlamp with high and low high beam led daytime running lights adaptive lighting system and smart beam.

Interior

INFINITI Q50 offers electrical tilt and telescopic steering wheel with memory, standard leather shift lever knob, paddle shifters, INFINITI intelligent key (I-key) - keyless entry system with push-button ignition, window opening both sides front and rear one-touch up and down I-key linked open and close system, driver and passenger sun visor with cardholder, illumination, vanity mirror, extension, front headrest 1-way adjustable (up and down), rear headrest 3-separate and 1-way adjustable, front armrest console, rear armrest with cupholder and load through, semi-

aniline quilted leather seats with red contrast stitching, driver seat 8-way power adjustable with thigh support and power lumbar and memory and backside support and thigh extension, driver and passenger seatback pocket, passenger seat 8-way power adjustable with thigh support and extension, rear seat 6:4 split and armrest with cupholder and load through, heated front seat, 2 pieces coat hanger on rear-seat assist grip (right & left), ambient lighting, dual-zone auto climate control with plasma cluster deodorisation treatment & auto recirculation, grape polyphe-nol filter.

Its audio and navigation includes 1CD/DVD AM/FM, SSV, AUX, USB, digital audio broadcasting (DAB), Bose® performance series audio system with 16 speakers, Infiniti InTouch p-IVI navigation system with three maps and voice recognition, smartphone integration, wireless Apple car play and wired android auto), wireless charger, voice command function (audio), Aux (Mini-jack) and USB (2), Bluetooth and smartphone connection.

Exterior

The exterior attributes include electric sunroof- I-key linked open/close system, sport front bumper, sport rear bumper, dual exhaust tailpipe sport type. Its performance is supported by sports suspension, electronically controlled shock absorbers, sports brakes with red callipers at synchronised rev. control, INFINITI drive mode selector.

It has a run-flat summer tire 245/40R19 and 19” alloy wheel rims with a dark grey metallic finish. Its high end safety and security features includes advanced driver and passenger airbag, front side airbag and curtain airbag, 3-point ELR front seat belts with

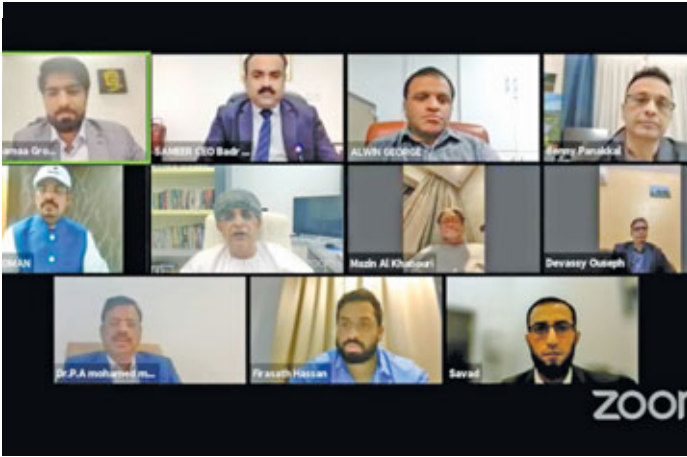
pretensioners and load limiters, 3-point ELR front pre-crash seat belts with pretensioners and load limiters, 3-point ELR rear seat belt*3 (right and center and left), driver and passenger seat belt shoulder height adjuster, isofix + tether, immobiliser + anti-theft alarm, emergency stop signal, ABS and EBD (anti-locking braking system) assist brake, intelligent brake assist, TCS (traction control system), VDC (with cancel switch, brake boost assist, side brake force distribution, hsa), high mounting stop lamp, seat belt reminder for front seats, parking sensors: front and rear with monitor guide display, Around view monitor, cruise control, intelligent cruise control with distance control assist, eco pedal, lane departure warning and prevention, blind spot warning and intervention, backup collision intervention, forward collision warning with forward emergency braking, predictive forward collision warning, tire pressure warning, trunk emergency opener, direct adaptive steering (DAS), active noise control and active sound creator and active stability assist.

Sensory package includes INFINITI InTouch P-IVI navigation system with 3D maps and voice recognition, Bose performance series audio system with 16 speakers, ambient lighting.

SBA commitment

SBA is largely committed to supporting INFINITI Oman’s growth in the Sultanate through a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of more than 40 showrooms, service centres and parts outlets, SBA has further built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.

HEART CARE



Badr Al Samaa organises webinar on World Heart Day

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, on the occasion of world heart day, organised a heart awareness webinar.

Dr Mazin Bin Jawad Al-Khabouri, Director-General – DG-PHE, Ministry of Health, Oman was the chief guest of the event and Dr Kadhim Jaffer Sulaiman, Sr. Consultant Cardiologist, National Heart Centre, MoH, DG-Specialised Medical Care, MoH and Immediate Past President Oman & Gulf Heart Association was the guest of honour. Dr Benny Panakkal, Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Group Medical Director, Badr Al Samaa was the keynote speaker.

The event was attended by the managing director of Badr Al Samaa, Dr P A Mohammed, Executive Director Firasath Hassan and senior management of Badr Al Samaa, doctors, and the general public.

Dr Suman O S, the Specialist Cardiologist, presented the welcome note and welcomed all the panellists and attendees.

Dr P A Mohammed said that this year’s World Heart Day theme inspires us to provide equal opportunities and facilities for every heart patient and community. It tells us the importance of preventive heart care. He said we at Badr Al Samaa understand this responsibility better. Through our wide network of hospitals and medical centres, we are reaching a larger population with quality and affordable healthcare services. I urge everyone to take a pledge on this World Heart Day to adopt heart-healthy practices: good diet, exercise, quitting bad habits and regular heart screening.

Dr Mazin Jawad Al Khabouri said that this event shows the importance Badr Al Samaa Group of hospitals places on continuous medical development and raising awareness on cardiovascular dis-

eases. He said Badr Al Samaa being the largest private healthcare provides has the widest network and have cardiology services in almost all centres.

He appreciated Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals for its efforts in preventive heart care and was inspired to take more steps towards this direction.

Dr Kadhim Jaffer Sulaiman said re-admission rates in cardiology are on the higher side. He said most cardiac diseases are preventable, raising awareness and regular preventive screening will help decrease the burden of cardiac diseases.

Adapting heart-healthy routines are not difficult and everything is possible. On World Heart Day the message is to focus on preventive heart care and not to wait for heart disease to occur.

Dr Benny Panakkal in his keynote speech emphasised this year’s world heart day theme; Use Heart to Connect: Your Heart, Every Heart and Connect People. He said we should use our knowledge, compassion, influence and utilising digital health platforms to connect and promote preventive heart care. To achieve this aim there are here pillars identified which is equity; equal opportunities for quality healthcare, prevention; prevention is the key to control the rise of cardiovascular diseases and community; communities should be brought closer to provide new avenues of cardiac care.

Firasath Hassan said World Heart Day is an important occasion to raise awareness on cardiac diseases and encourage people to a heart-healthy lifestyle. This year theme of World Heart Day comes with harnessing the power of digital health to improve awareness, prevention and management of cardiovascular diseases. He said a healthy heart leads to a happy life.

ROUND-UP

Meethaq to celebrate quarterly and Omani Women’s Day draws

Ten high-value cash prizes of OMR 10,000 each and OMR 5,000 each will be given away to 20 lucky winners during the quarterly draw. In addition, 30 cash prizes of OMR1,000 each will be given away to our lucky female customers in celebration of the Omani Women’s Day draw

MUSCAT: Meethaq, the pioneer of Islamic banking in Oman from Bank Muscat, is all set to celebrate the upcoming Hibati savings account quarterly draw in a special event, which will be broadcasted on the bank’s social media channels. Ten high-value cash prizes of OMR 10,000 each and OMR 5,000 each will be given away to 20 lucky winners during the quarterly

draw. In addition, 30 cash prizes of OMR1,000 each will be given away to our lucky female customers in celebration of the Omani Women’s Day draw. Speaking on the occasion, Amor Said Al Amri, Senior Regional Manager, Meethaq Branches said: “We are delighted to carry out the upcoming Quarterly Draw and the Omani Women’s Day Draw

under Meethaq Islamic Banking’s flagship Hibati Savings Account. The bank has been constantly updating the prize scheme taking into account customer feedback from across the Sultanate and has increased the total cash prize substantially this year. The 2021 Hibati prize scheme gives more chances for customers to win valuable prizes.” He thanked all customers for their confidence in the scheme and the various products and services of Meethaq. Hibati Savings account is based on the unrestricted Mudarabah contract. The cash prizes offered under Hibati’s 2021 prize draw scheme are: ‘Hiba’ (gift) from Meethaq to its customers and are paid out of the Mudarib’s /shareholders’ sources. The cash prizes are over and above the profit share of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in the General Mudarabah Pool as per the declared profit-sharing weightages. The 2021 Hibati Saving account has two grand draws including the

upcoming End-of-Year draw. For every OMR 30,000 in the quarterly average balance maintained in the preceding quarter, the customer shall be entitled to one entry to the grand draw. Four grand prizes of OMR 50,000 each and one grand prize of OMR 100,000 will be given away during the end-of-year draw. Prizes totaling over OMR 1.5 million will be given away to a record number of 5,331 winners in 2021. The Hibati account benefits include attractive Mudarabah profit rates, cash prizes through draws, Visa debit cards, no minimum balance charges and eBanking facilities. Initially launched in 2018, Hibati has been instrumental in improving awareness for Islamic Banking in Oman and has seen an excellent response from customers. Very importantly, every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.



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MUSCAT: Lexus enthusiasts looking forward to owning their dream Lexus can make the most of the offer from Lexus. 4 years / 40,000 km (whichever is earlier), and 1 year of free registration. The campaign is valid up to October 21. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details). Customers looking to own a Lexus can choose from the range that includes luxury sedans, SUVs and coupes too. In sedans, the range includes the IS350. This sleek and stylish powerful sedan is equipped with a 3.5-litre engine that’s paired with 8-speed automatic transmission. The turbocharged IS300 features a 2.0-litre twin-scroll turbocharged inline four-cylinder engine with an intercooler that generates 241 Hp. One of the most popular luxury sedans in the segment, the ES is available in options of 2.5L, 16 Valve, engine with a fuel efficiency of 17.2 km/L and a classy 3.5 Litre, engine paired to an 8-speed automatic transmission with a fuel efficiency of 13.6 km/L. The ES is also available in the Hybrid version with a 2.5-litre

DOHC direct-injection Atkinson cycle 4-cylinder with intake VVT-i E and exhaust VVT-i with a total system output of 215 hp, offering 24.1 km/L mileage. The flagship LS which is an inspiring luxury sedan is available in a 3.5-litre V6 Multi Stage Hybrid System producing 354 hp, a 3.5-litre V6 naturally aspirated Atkinson-cycle producing 311 hp and 38.7 Kg.M Torque, and a 3.5-litre twin-turbo V6 engine producing 415 hp and 61.2 Kg.M of Torque. The powerful and luxurious SUV range has exciting models that include the NX300 with an advanced turbocharged 238hp, 2.0-litre engine which combines fuel efficiency with outstanding power output. This generates exhilarating acceleration for sporty driving, together with exceptional fuel economy. The Lexus UX has a front-wheel-drive configuration and is powered by a high-efficiency 2.0 litre, four-cylinder engine, which is coupled with a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission (DCVT). The five-seat Lexus RX350 is

equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 that is mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission. The RX is also available in a 3-row 7-seater option. Also available is the Lexus RX450h, a hybrid version featuring a 3.5-litre Atkinson-cycle engine. The Lexus GX460 is perfect for families who seek no-holds-barred adventure on their days off, yet also desire an easy-driving, comfortable and versatile luxury SUV for the workweek. The Lexus GX460 features a 4.6L engine that provides outstanding power and responsive performance. The LX570 possesses a 5.7-litre engine that delivers the punch and towing power befitting this vehicle. The 8-Speed automatic transmission with a wide gear range contributes to achieving excellent start-off and acceleration performance and fuel efficiency during high-speed driving. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer’s Warranty of 4 years/100,000 km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

SOHAR INTERNATIONAL

8th Virtual Viewpoints titled Global Economic Challenges on October 19



MUSCAT: In line with the broader goals of the bank to invoke curiosity in the individuals’ minds, spread awareness about global best practices, and provide avenues for individuals to connect with global experts, Sohar International is set to conduct its 8th Virtual Viewpoints session on Tuesday, October 19. The bank is hosting Doug Elmendorf, economist, former Director of the US Congressional Budget Office, and currently Dean and Don K. Price Professor of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School as its guest speaker. Those interested can register through Sohar International’s website (www.soharinternational.com) or the bank’s official social media pages by following the registration post/link. With past sessions attesting to the popularity of the event, Sohar International’s Viewpoints is a highly-anticipated virtual seminar that has hosted top industry leaders, experts from different fields and various public figures. Titled Global Economic Challenges, the event will be live-streamed via the Zoom app and bank’s official channel on YouTube from 6:30 pm. “Viewpoints - Sohar International Chairman’s Forum has been a successful platform where we have witnessed global experts passionately sharing personal experiences, insightful knowledge, and pioneering ideas with a cross-section of Omani society. Since its inception, the forum has inspired them to take initiatives and imbibed in them the zeal to become leaders in their fields. By helping aspiring individuals from the lo-

cal community to connect with industry leaders, engage in interactive sessions and raise compelling questions, we endeavour to give our people the necessary international exposure and access to world-class knowledge,” said Mohammed Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Sohar International. “The topic for our upcoming session has been chosen given the dynamically evolving market scenario. With sources showing a rapid growth in the world economy, understanding the causes, benefits and effects it will have on different countries is imperative. We are delighted to have economist Doug Elmendorf as our esteemed speaker and are certain that his knowledge, analysis and study of the market will provide all the participants with valuable insights. We encourage everyone to log in and participate in this one-of-a-kind virtual event.” Holding his position as Dean since 2016, Elmendorf had also been a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution after serving as the Director of the Congressional Budget Office from January 2009 through March 2015. He had previously been a Senior Fellow at Brookings, Assistant Director of the Division of Research and Statistics at the Federal Reserve Board, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Treasury Department, Senior Economist at the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers, and an Assistant Professor at Harvard University. In the policy roles, Elmendorf worked on budget policy, health care issues, the macroeconomic effects of fiscal policy, social se-

curity, income security programs, financial markets, macroeconomic analysis and forecasting and a range of other topics. With commendable contributions in his field, Elmendorf earned his PhD and AM in economics from Harvard University and his AB summa cum laude from Princeton University. Apart from learning about global economic challenges, Viewpoints will also be an excellent platform to interact with the speaker. A dedicated time allotted for questions and answers not only helps participants have their queries addressed but also makes the session more engaging. Establishing two-way communication boosts creativity, promotes better understanding of the subject and leads to the generation of new ideas. Ever since the event took a virtual form, a few of its recent distinguished guests included public figures such as Mina Al-Oraibi, Editor-in-Chief of The National newspaper, Dr Reinhard Christian Zinkann, a fourth-generation Executive Director and Coproprietor at the 121-year-old Miele Group, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, explorer and motivational speaker and George de Lama, a prominent international journalist and the President of Eisenhower Fellowships. Through events like these which are geared at encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs, working professionals, and students to stay updated with world events, Sohar International has been successful in instilling a culture of continuous learning and development in the local community.

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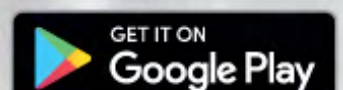
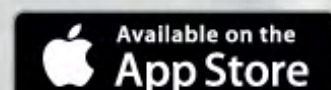
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