

HM CONDOLES US PRESIDENT ON VICTIMS OF TORNADOES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Joe Biden of the United States of America (USA) on victims of the tornadoes that hit several US states. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Biden, families of the victims and the US people, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. - **ONA**



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HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM LEBANESE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Michel Aoun of the Lebanese Republic in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, President Aoun expressed his thanks and appreciation for His Majesty's greetings and best wishes. He lauded the fraternal ties and cooperation between the two countries, stressing his keenness on enhancing the bilateral relations in all areas to serve the interests of the Omani and Lebanese people. - **ONA**



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TODAY

On behalf of HM, Sayyid Fahd to chair Oman's delegation at 42nd Summit of GCC leaders



MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers will leave on Tuesday for Saudi Arabia to lead the Sultanate of Oman's delegation in the 42nd Summit of the GCC leaders. The summit is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 14 December 2021.

The Sultanate of Oman has affirmed that it would continue to support the GCC march and enhance all endeavours to serve Arab and Islamic issues. It also vowed to consolidate ties of cooperation and understanding with friendly countries. HH Sayyid Fahd will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising a number of ministers and government officials. - **ONA**

ON ACTIVE DUTY

RNO staff member dies while performing his national duty

MUSCAT: The Morale Guidance department at the Defence Ministry has announced the death of a staff member of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), Petty Officer First Class Ali Abdurrahman Al Balushi, who died while performing his national duty.

Al Balushi was on active duty on board one of the RNO vessels currently taking part in a naval

drill (Al Thamar Attayyib) carried out jointly with Pakistani naval forces.

A statement issued by the Morale Guidance also reported the injury of another RNO staff member, Able Rating Sultan Salim Al Sulaitni, who was immediately transported to a military hospital in Karachi where he received medical treatment. - **ONA**

DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY WILL BRING GROWTH, RESILIENCE TO OMAN

Countries have understood the importance of diversification, due to the COVID impact

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's plans for economic diversification will help bring growth to the country and make it more resilient, according to a top official at the World Bank. Issam Abousleiman, the World

Bank's country director of the GCC countries, Middle East and North Africa, said in an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman* that diversification also provides more sustainable levels of growth, and multiple career opportunities for the next generation of graduates.

"Taking into consideration that oil and gas are exhaustible resources, which could be depleted or stranded in the future, and over-reliance on oil exacerbates macroeconomic volatility. Diversification will provide a sustainable source of growth and employment when oil resources are depleted," he explained.

Abousleiman added that more countries have understood the importance of diversifying, owing to the impact the COVID-19 pan-



ISSAM ABOUSLEIMAN, World Bank's country director of the GCC countries and MENA

demographic has had on economies that manufacture fewer or a limited number of products.

"The pandemic has shown that countries that are heavily dependent on one particular sector or resource, such as oil or tourism, for example, are vulnerable to sudden

external shocks," he added. "Extreme reliance on one commodity revenues produces large pro-cyclical swings in expenditures, resulting in painful spending cuts and a boom-bust cycle."

"This in turn will dampen growth in the non-oil sector particularly spending on much-needed public investment and human capital programmes, and strain the sustainability of public employment," he said.

"Diversification of the economy has long been on the agenda of GCC countries. However, it takes time and persistence to introduce and implement the needed reforms. It is a way to move away from volatile oil prices, and yet it is the volatility of those prices that makes it difficult to do."

>**A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Ancient secrets of Qamira

1 The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with an archaeological mission from the University of Warsaw is conducting archaeological surveys and excavations in Qamira that is located in Al Dhahirah Governorate. >**A3**

WORLD First Omicron death registered in the UK

2 UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that at least one person died after contracting the Omicron coronavirus strain. "Sadly, yes Omicron is producing hospitalisations and sadly at least one patient has been confirmed to have died with Omicron," he said according to local media. >**A6**

SPORTS Salalah wins HM's Cup for Youth 2020

3 At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat sponsored the ceremony of announcing the results of His Majesty the Sultan's Cup for Youth 2020. >**A8**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION e-payment to be mandatory



MUSCAT: The Director of Commercial Affairs and e-commerce at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Azza Ibrahim Al Kindi, said that the decision of mandating some commercial activities in Oman to provide e-payment services will be implemented in early 2022 as a first phase, in cooperation with the authorities concerned.

She told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the cash payment option remains available to consumers. This step, she explained, aims to achieve comprehensive digital transformation in line with Oman Vision 2040.

She urged commercial institutions in Oman to press ahead with completing the procedures to provide the e-payment service. - **ONA**

NCSI

Enrolment of students rises, diploma course bucks trend

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) has released key educational data for the Sultanate, which shows significant increase in the number of schools across government and private sector, as well as increase in enrolment of students across educational levels barring diploma and vocational education.

In the year 2020-21, the number of government schools (class 5-10) increased by 10.3 per cent to 866 schools as compared to the number during 2015-2016. The number of students at government schools (class 5-10) stood at 370,461 representing 55.2 per cent of the total number of students. The number of GCC students stood at 462, representing 0.1 per cent of the total students.

The number of private nursery schools (class 1-4) increased to 326 in 2020 compared to 16 in 1989 with 55.5 per cent in Muscat Governorate. The number of government nursery schools (class



1-4) for school year 2020-2021 stood at 589 with 262,411 students compared to 16 schools accommodating 328 students in 1971, according to the NCSI statistics.

The number of students in class 11-12 for the school year 2020-2021 amounted to 101,445, representing 12.3 per cent of the total students in the schools of the Sultanate. Omani students amounted to 90.9 per cent and GCC students 0.1 per cent.

The number of students admitted to diploma programmes in

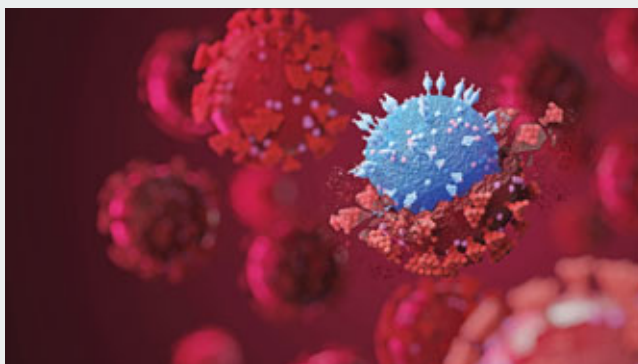
2020-2021 within the Sultanate decreased by 30.1 per cent to 2,735 compared to the previous year. The number of students admitted to vocational qualification (diploma) at the government universities and colleges for the academic year 2019-2020 decreased by 9.2 per cent from 651 students to 591 students compared to the previous year.

The number of students in the age group 18-24 years admitted to the diploma/vocational diploma at the private universities and colleges stood at 61 per cent while the students within the same age group admitted to government universities and colleges stood at 39 per cent for the academic year 2019-2020.

The number of students from within and outside the Sultanate registered to the bachelor's degree level or equivalent for the academic year 2019-2020 amounted to some 109,061—an increase of 13 per cent compared to the previous year. - **ONA**

VIRUS ALERT

Oman's health ministry detects two cases of Omicron COVID-19 variant



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health announced yesterday that it has registered two cases of Omicron COVID-19 variant in two citizens arriving from abroad to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two were in stable condition and under epidemiological investigation, said the Ministry. The Ministry of Health urges all to comply with the precautionary

measures such as wearing the mask at all closed areas, to observe social distancing, avoid gatherings and to keep hands clean at all times. The Ministry urges everyone aged 18 years and above to take the booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine available at the healthcare institutions.

Omicron virus has been reported in various countries, including some of the GCC countries.

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:06pm
Asr.....3:07pm
Maghrib.....5:27pm
Isha.....6:43pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:21am

TBY hosts panel discussion on ‘Oman Vision 2040: The Future of Investment’

The event was held in Strategic Partnership with Oman International Development and Investment Company (OMINVEST) and with the support of a number of sponsors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Some of the country's top public- and private-sector leaders, as well as key personalities from the international business community, came together at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat on December 12 to discuss the socio-economic reinvention of the Sultanate of Oman through sustainable policies.

The Business Year event, 'Oman Vision 2040: The Future of Investment', coincided with the first year that the Vision has been implemented in all sectors of the economy, and aimed to project its diverse achievements to the world, alongside laying out where



the investment opportunities lay in Oman.

The event was held in Strategic Partnership with Oman International Development and Investment Company (OMINVEST) and with the support of a number of sponsors, including OQ, Ma-dayn, Nama Group, Bank Nizwa, be'ah, Sultan Qaboos University, and Qatar Airways.

After a welcome address by The Business Year's Country Manager, Andrea Tsiachtsiri, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion kicked off the event by discussing work to build a pro-business enterprise environment and attract foreign investment. On behalf of the government and public entities, he stated that all incentives are most welcomed.

"We want Oman to be a place where, more than anything, business can grow, suc-

ceed, and thrive," he said.

The purpose of the plan created is to increase private-sector resilience, attract investment, and assist post-COVID-19 recovery while protecting Omani workers. Historic steps are being taken to place Oman alongside the developed nations of the world.

Abdullah Al Hakmani, the Head of Programmes Management Office at the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation & Follow-up Unit, made a presentation on the pillars and national priorities that the vision features, focusing on a society of creative individuals, a competitive economy, an environment with sustainable components and responsible state agencies.

He noted the main challenges that the country will face in its current and upcoming stages, showcasing confidence in national enablers and implementation programs to attract direct added-

value investment.

The event featured a panel discussion on the main incentives for investing in Oman, how firms are diversifying abroad, and which sectors will play a key role in the diversification of the local economy.

Also on the table were circular economies, energy transition, and the use of advanced technologies.

Speakers included Anwar Al Jabri, Group President-Investment Banking at OMINVEST and CEO of Jabreen Capital; Aimen Al-Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports; Mohammed Al Harthy, Executive Vice President of Oman Environmental Service Holding Company S.A.O.C (be'ah); Saleh Al Rumhi, CEO of Oman Electricity and Transmission Company and Khaled Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa.

OMINVEST's Anwar Al Jabri discussed important investment



tools for strengthening the investment ecosystem in the Sultanate of Oman, such as venture capital investments, which are essential in supporting new businesses and innovations; he also elaborated on the need to enhance the risk appetite in general and discussed the importance of sustainable and responsible investment in the portfolio of any successful investment company.

"Good citizenship is a main part of our core values at OMINVEST, and our corporate purpose—Transforming Businesses to Enrich Societies—guides us in everything we do. As such, our investment decisions are shaped by this purpose, too," he said.

CEO of Bank Nizwa, Khaled Al Kayed stated that being linked to the real economy through infrastructure is crucial, and suggested that the future is open banking.

"We need to have a bigger ecosystem and to start integrating new stakeholders", he said."

Be'ah's Mohammed Al Harthy made special recognition of the

importance of circular economies, not solely as a concept of recycling, but of optimisation. "Creating awareness is vital, and main focus is to generating know-how," he said.

Al Hosni from Oman Airports declared that the firm is working toward expanding fleets and destinations, as well as schemes that incentivise new airlines, and is working closing with OIA to create new routes.

"We should be ahead of the game," he said, highlighting the importance of reactivation in the private sector. He also drew special attention to the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2040.

Saleh Al Rumhi of Oman Electricity and Transmission Company declared; "We think local, and we act local," as he announced the firm's newest grid project, which will contribute to the reduction of emissions and environmental footprint. He drew special attention to the potential Oman has in renewable practices.

The Business Year has been charting the course of the Omani economy for almost a decade. The Business Year: Oman 2021/22, Special Vision 2040 Edition, featuring interviews with 150 leaders from the business community, is out now and available on all major business information platforms, including Bloomberg Terminal, Refinitiv Eikon, Dow Jones Factiva, and FactSet, as well as on Press Reader and Google Books and at the-businessyear.com.

STRATEGIC PLAN

COOPERATION

Endowment agency holds meeting

MUSCAT: The board of directors of Siraj, an endowment agency that lends support to education, held its third meeting of the year yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education,

Research and Innovation, board chairperson.

Dr. Rahma took note of the progress made in forming the organisational structure of Siraj, outlines of its strategic plan, its logo and its plans for cooperation with other

endowment and investment institutions. The board discussed steps taken towards the implementation of the decisions made in its second meeting. It stressed the need to rally media efforts to keep pace with its visions and goals. -ONA

Omani-Iranian military panel meets

TEHRAN: Deliberations of the annual meeting of the Omani-Iranian Military Friendship Committee began here yesterday.

The five-day meeting is being chaired by Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Manthari, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) for Operations and Planning and Second Brigadier Mohammad Ahadi, Iranian Deputy Defence Minister for International Affairs.

The meeting reviews several topics listed on the agenda and serve ties of the military cooperation between the



two countries.

It is worth noting that the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and the Naval Forces of Iran will conduct the annual joint naval drill (Search and Rescue) at the end of the committee's meetings.

duct the annual joint naval drill (Search and Rescue) at the end of the committee's meetings.

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Archaeologists at work to reveal secrets of Qamira

Located in Al Dhahirah, Qamira is one of the most important sites of the Bronze Age associated with the copper trade in the Majan civilisation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Archaeological surveys and excavations are being carried out in Qamira that is located in Al Dhahirah Governorate. The excavation site dates back to the third and first millennium BC. “The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with an archaeological mission from the University of Warsaw, continues for the sixth season to conduct archaeological surveys and excavations at the site of Qamira, which dates back to the third and first millennium BC,” the Ministry said in a statement.



CONTINUING EFFORT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with an archaeological mission from the University of Warsaw, continues for the sixth season to conduct archaeological surveys and excavations at the site of Qamira, which dates back to the third and first millennium BC.



ra is one of the most important sites of the Bronze Age associated with the copper trade in the Majan civilisation. It includes huge archaeological towers, a settlement, and workshops for smelting copper ore from the third millennium BC, in addition to a fortress and a temple dating back to the first millennium BC.

Oman Air inks pact with Paul Maxence Lounge at Paris

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, has signed a service agreement with Paul Maxence Lounge at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, offering complimentary access for its business class passengers. The agreement coincides with Oman Air's route resumption between Muscat (MCT) and Paris (CDG), which took effect on 31 October 2021. Business class passengers and Sindbad Gold tier members can access the lounge for free, while economy class passengers can purchase access to the lounge for \$70. Stylishly appointed and equipped with a full range of amenities, Paul Maxence Lounge offers welcome respite from busy airport crowds and provides passengers a quiet, private space to dine, work or freshen up before their flight. “In signing this service agreement with Paul Maxence Lounge, Oman Air business class passengers and Sindbad Gold members flying from Paris can now enjoy an enhanced travel experience that



combines comfort, elegance and convenience in an exceptionally relaxing space,” said Rocio Jolivet, Oman Air Country Manager for France. “Oman Air economy class passengers can also access the lounge for a fee and elevate their travel journey with the sophistication of French hospitality.” Complimentary WI-FI, à la carte menu prepared to Halal-certified standards offering hot and cold food and beverages, shower facilities, outdoor smoking terrace, and prayer room are just some of the amenities available to lounge visitors between 06:00 am and 10:00 pm daily in Terminal 2A.

ECONOMY

<FROM A1> VAT to aid in fiscal diversification

“When oil prices are low there is tremendous demand for more diversification, austerity and reform,” revealed Abousleiman. “During this time, diversification programmes receive an impetus. However, oil prices don't stay low for long periods and when the oil price rises, there is increasing political pressure to abandon the tough reforms required to diversify the economy. The trick is announcing an implementable long-term plan and sticking with it even when the oil price rises. Therefore, patience, perseverance and predictability are the main three ingredients for a successful reform programme.” Oman's economic expansion is a key part of Vision 2040, which aims to develop a sustainable, diversified economy that provides good standards of life and employment opportunities for all.

The World Bank country director said that in expanding into tourism, agriculture and fisheries, mining, renewable energy, manufacturing, transport and logistics, the country is taking the right steps forward. “With a stunning coastline of over 3,000 km plus attractive natural landscapes, historical monuments and a welcoming culture, Oman is well poised to capitalise on the tourism sector and its niche areas of eco-tourism and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions),” he said. “Other areas in which Oman might have a comparative advantage include logistics, given its geographic location, and food and agriculture,” said Abousleiman. “In addition, given the energy transition, Oman can move in taking advantage of the wind and the sun to expand renewable en-

ergy production that could reduce the cost of its own energy, reduce emission by helping meet its international commitment, and export excess energy as the GCC links its grid to other parts of the Middle East, Africa and beyond. “The other area of diversification that is less talked about is fiscal diversification,” he went on to say. “This is important for Oman because the Sultanate depends on oil for more than just exports but also for revenues. Diversifying the revenue base is equally important for ensuring sustainability of ongoing programs, besides improving the efficiency and prioritisation of its spending. “Here, the introduction of value added tax earlier this year and the move to explore additional sources of non-oil revenues are important steps in the right direction,” Abousleiman added.

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787 VIEWS

Kerala reports first case of Omicron variant of COVID



Morning Minute video on Kerala reports first case of Omicron

The Morning Minute video on Kerala reports first case of Omicron variant had 787 views and 60 likes on Instagram

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

3,400 VIEWS

Maghrib Minute episode in Hindi



The Maghrib Minute episode in Hindi had 3,400 views and reached 13,300 people on Facebook.

OLD-WORLD CHARM OF JALAN BANI BU ALI



Jalan Bani Bu Ali is located in the South Sharqiyah Governorate, about 300km away from Muscat and is known for its archaeological sites. A town steeped in history with old watchtowers, an old fort and ornate carved wooden doors at every turn, it is also famous for the souq that sells a variety of modern and traditional goods.



According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "A further 10km south of Jalan Bani Bu Hassan, the town of Jalan Bani Bu Ali is the most interesting in this part of Sharqiyah: staunchly traditional," added the ministry. "Even now, the town retains a decidedly old-fashioned atmosphere, and visitors remain a source of (usually friendly) curiosity."

In addition to being a unique geographical setting, what sets this place apart from the rest is that unlike the other tourist spots, the beaches of Sharqiyah South have a calm and mild weather throughout the year, making it a convenient destination for tourists around the year. This little-known tourist gem is unique,

compared to other places, as it features its own unique environment and traditions.

Fisheries is one of the most important economic sectors, contributing to the national economy and providing job opportunities for the local people. Most of the villagers are engaged in fishing and allied activities as a traditional occupation. The wilayat has more than 30 fish facilities spread over the coastal areas and the centre of the wilayat. The fishing port in Al Ashkharah is a major fishing harbour in the Sultanate. Other traditional occupations include khanjar making, weaving, welding, livestock breeding, handicraft and others. While farming is the main occupation, ship building is also practised here.



MEETING

Oman, Egypt discuss bilateral relations

CAIRO: Dr. Khalfan Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, met here on Monday Dr. Assem Al Jazzar, Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



Housing, urban planning
During the meeting, the two sides discussed the bilateral relations binding the two countries. They also explored their countries' experiences in housing, urban planning and related strategies.

The meeting was attended by Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt, and a number of officials. -ONA

MINISTERIAL DECISION

Ministry bans import of live birds from many countries

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources announced a ban on the import of live birds and their products, derivatives and waste from several countries (listed below).

A ministerial decision was issued in this regard, to be effective from on 13 December 2021.

This decision was based on the recommendation of the veterinary authority concerned and the report of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).



Countries
The countries are the Republic of Togo, Lubuski in the Republic of Poland, the island of Zealand in Denmark, Flevoland in Netherlands, the Veneto region in Italy,

Bache-Qiskun-Kongrad-Veques-Hadjo Bihar in the Republic of Hungary, Chungcheong-do in Korea, Akita Prefecture in Japan, Rogland in Norway, Biulavisky District in Northern Kazakhstan, Mungan in the Republic of Ireland, Kirov-Bashkortostan in Russia, Trnvinisky District in Slovakia Republic, Nordrhein-Westfalen in Germany, Hotsdo District in France, Sisako-Moslavaka in Croatia and Semnan - Ardabil - Mazandaran in Iran. -ONA



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
24/2021	Provision of cleaning services for the building dar al-aman in al-khoud	Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board, which have the activities of cleaning, washing and pest control services, and which are registered in excellent, first or second or third or fourth degree.	Friday 24-12-2021 02:00 PM	Monday 3-1-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) . On wednesday 15/12/2021
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

“ The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry “

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Stress on digital exchange between Oman and China

The event has been organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture in China

MUSCAT: Activities of the Digital, Cultural Exchange Week between youth in the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Republic of China kicked off on Monday at Omantel premises under the patronage of Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture.

The event has been organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture in China.



FUNCTION: The Digital, Cultural Exchange Week kicked off on Monday under the patronage of Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture.



Activities of the event include a forum for youth pioneers of the digital culture industry between the two countries.

In addition, the two countries present experiences of their companies in digital culture, such as cartoon films, games and online broadcasting and podcasting.

The event also includes various activities such as virtual art sculpture and photography exhibitions for Omani and Chinese artists, as well as Huawei exhibition for the Omani and Chinese youth in the field of advanced technology.

Sayyid Said explained that the activities have an important impact on building confidence and understanding among peoples, besides enabling the international community to address various issues of common concern.

He further added that the strategic location of the Sultanate of Oman within the silk route gives it an important status for cultural exchange and cooperation. In her turn, Li Lingbing, Ambassador of China to the Sultanate of Oman stressed the importance of such events that serve the bilateral relations between the two countries and their peoples, particularly in the cultural areas. -ONA



SQU graduation

MUSCAT: At the Behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr. Mahad Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour patronised yesterday over the graduation ceremony of the first group of Sultan Qaboos University's (SQU) 32nd batch.

The total number of graduates in this ceremony stood at 1,369 representing the College of Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Education and the College of Engineering. -ONA

REALISING ASPIRATIONS

Oman reiterates its full support for GCC march

RIYADH: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states seek to consolidate their joint march of collaboration in different fields with a view to realising the aspirations of their peoples.

The Sultanate of Oman has stressed that it would continue to support the GCC march and enhance all endeavours to serve Arab and Islamic issues. It also vowed to consolidate ties of co-operation and understanding among friendly countries.

On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmood Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, will head the Sultanate of Oman's delegation at the summit.

In its 150th preparatory session for the summit, held here yesterday by the Ministerial Council, the GCC states affirmed that "The GCC summit of bounty and prosperity will continue to achieve the common goals of



member states. A statement issued at Al Ola Summit at the conclusion of the 41st GCC summit, "Summit of Qaboos and Sheikh Sabah", underscored the keenness of GCC leaders to safeguard the gains of the GCC region and realise the aspirations of its peoples, as well as joint action to address the challenges that come in the way of the GCC march."

The summit is expected to discuss a number of issues, including updates of coronavirus pandemic, means of protecting societies against the disease, coordination to tackle pandemics, completion of steps for the establishment of the Customs Union and the GCC Common Market and the development of the respective governments' technical capabilities and educational systems. -ONA

APPLE CORP

Glitch in the IOS system

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, represented by the National Center for Informatics Safety, has discovered a security gap in the IOS system of Apple corp.

The flaw was spotted by Omani researcher Saif Hamad Al Hinai, Senior Security Data Analyst.

The anomaly was reported to the company, which took measures to patch the security gap in

its latest version "IOS 15".

Apple also documented this discovery (ref. CVE-2021-30870) through its official page (website) where it lists the security gaps registered/reported as of 25 October 2021.

It has been the third security accomplishment of its kind registered by Apple under the name of the National Center for Informatics Safety of Oman: The first took the number (CVE-2016-7667)

and it was dated 20 December 2016 and the second was registered under (CVE-2019-873) and dated 8 October 2019.

The discoveries reflect the advanced level of cooperation between the national centre and Apple in the field of cyber-security.

The National Center for Informatics Safety of Oman advises the technology's users to update their systems. -ONA



Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital announces the following tender;

Tender No.	Subject	Non-Refundable Fees	Last Date Of Submission
809/2021	Contract for supply of Residential Furniture for Sultan Qaboos University Hospital	RO. 25	24/01/2022

Tender's Conditions

- The companies who are interested in participating in the above tender shall collect the tender documents during office hours from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm from the Procurement Department/ Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.
- The tenderers shall submit with the form of tender a certified cheque or tender bond in the sum of (1%) of the tender value valid for (90) days, issued in the name of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital by locally registered bank in the Sultanate of Oman.
- The tender quotations shall be sealed and addressed to Procurement Director; Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. The tender number and the name of the tender shall be mentioned on the tender document. It is not accepted to indicate or mention the name of the company or its logo on the envelope.
- The quotations are subject to the Tender General Terms and Conditions for the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.
- Sultan Qaboos University Hospital is not bound to accept the lowest bid or any other bid.
- The payment of the tender should be done at the Hospital Finance Department at the Revenue Section ground floor.

Procurement directorate / SQUH
P.O.Box 38, P.C.123
AL Khodh / Oman
Tel: 24144634/ 24144688
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E-mail: hospitalprocure@squ.edu.om





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First Omicron death registered in the UK

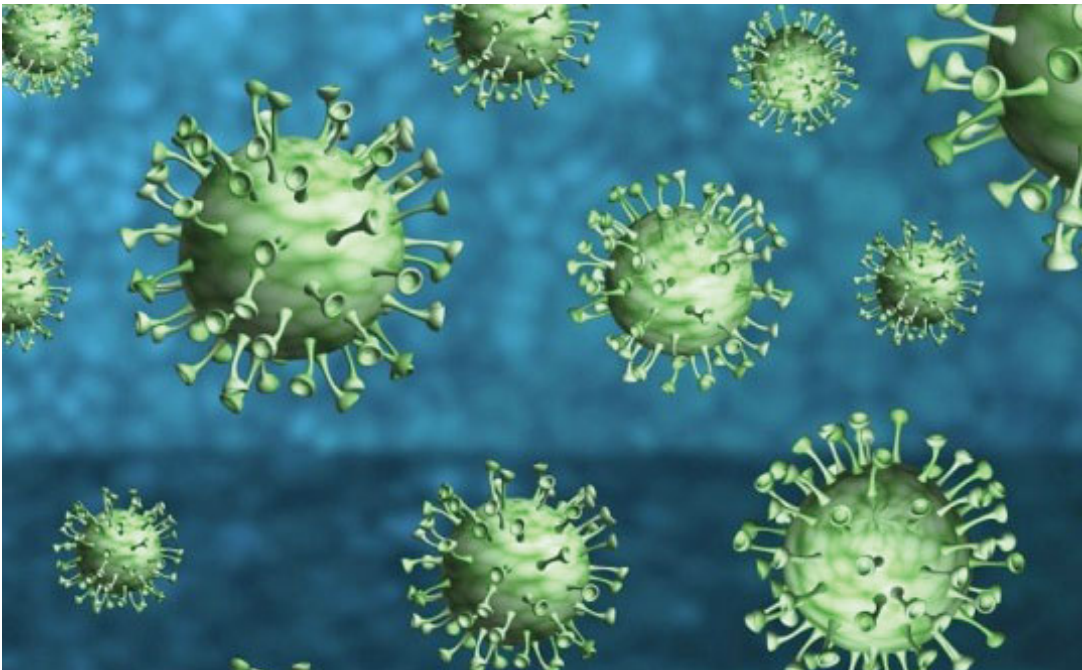
This comes hours after the UK coronavirus (COVID-19) alert level increased from Level 3 to Level 4

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that at least one person died after contracting the Omicron coronavirus strain, local media reported on Monday.

"Sadly, yes Omicron is producing hospitalisations and sadly at least one patient has been confirmed to have died with Omicron," said Boris Johnson during a visit to a vaccination clinic in west London, as quoted by Sky News. This is the first death reported among those infected with the Omicron strain.

This comes hours after the UK coronavirus (COVID-19) alert level increased from Level 3 to Level 4 amid the surge in the Omicron variant cases.

The UK Department of Health and Social Care on Sunday had said that transmission of COVID-19 is already high in the community, mainly still driven by



Delta, but the emergence of Omicron adds additional and rapidly increasing risk to the public and healthcare services.

"Early evidence shows that Omicron is spreading much faster than Delta and that vaccine protection against symptomatic disease from Omicron is reduced. Data on severity will become clearer over the coming weeks but hospitalisations from Omicron are already occurring and these are likely to increase rapidly," the UK Health Department statement said.

On Sunday, the UK had reported 1,239 new confirmed cases of

the Omicron variant.

South African President tests positive for COVID-19

Johannesburg: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa tested positive for COVID-19 with mild symptoms.

Ramaphosa is receiving treatment for mild COVID-19 symptoms after testing positive on Sunday, the office of the presidency said in a statement, reported CNN. Ramaphosa "started feeling unwell after leaving the State Memorial Service in honour of former Deputy President FW de Klerk

in Cape Town earlier today," the presidency statement said.

"President Ramaphosa says his own infection serves as a caution to all people in the country to be vaccinated and remain vigilant against exposure. Vaccination remains the best protection against severe illness and hospitalization," the statement said.

He has delegated all responsibilities to Deputy President David Mabuza for the next week, reported CNN. South Africa, where scientists identified the new Omicron variant, has recently entered its fourth wave of the pandemic. **ow**



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MISS UNIVERSE BEAUTY PAGEANT

India's Harnaaz Sandhu crowned Miss Universe

NEW DELHI: Indian contestant Harnaaz Sandhu won the 70th edition of the Miss Universe beauty pageant held at the Israeli resort town of Eilat early on Monday. After being postponed over the COVID-19 pandemic, the show was hit by repeated calls for a boycott over the Palestinian crisis.

Sandhu, 21, was crowned by Mexico's Andrea Meza, who won the 2020 title. India last won the title in 2000 when Bollywood actress Lara Datta was crowned Miss Universe. Sandhu said she was feeling "overwhelmed because it's been 21 years since India got the Miss Universe crown and it's happening right now."

The pageant saw contestants wearing national costumes, gowns and swimwear, and included a series of interview ques-



tions that tested their public speaking skills.

Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira was the first runner-up. The unusual timing, with a winner crowned around 3 a.m. local time (0100 GMT/UTC), enabled proceedings to be aired on late-night television in the US. **ow**

DEFENCE DEAL

Australia, South Korea sign historic defence agreement

CANBERRA: South Korea and Australia have signed a nearly \$700 million defence deal on Monday during South Korean President Moon Jae-in's visit to the country. Under the agreement, South Korean defense company Hanwha will provide the Australian army with equipment like artillery weapons, supply vehicles and radar.

The deal, worth 1 billion Australian dollars (\$717 million, €635 million), is the largest defense contract between Australia and an Asian nation, local media reported.

Strengthening diplomacy

"The contract that we have signed today, I think, speaks volumes about what we believe are the capabilities of the Korean de-



fense industry," Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. The new defense contract is expected to create close to 300 jobs in Australia, where a division of Hanwha operates.

The agreement was signed as

Moon was in the Australian Capital Territory on a four-day visit to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The two leaders agreed to upgrade the formal ties between South Korea and

Australia to a "comprehensive strategic partnership."

No diplomatic boycott of Beijing Olympics

During his time in Australia, Moon laid emphasis on develop-

ing ties with China, ruling out joining the United States' diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

"We need the constructive efforts of China to enable denuclearization of DPRK (North Korea)," Moon said, referring to Beijing's role in promoting peace in the region.

However, the defense contract comes as tensions are heightened between Australia and China. Canberra's recently announced deal to build nuclear-powered submarines in partnership with the US and Britain was widely condemned by Beijing.

Move towards end-of-war declaration

The South Korean president also said the US, China and North Ko-

rea agree, in principle, on putting a formal end to the Korean War and affirmed Seoul's commitment to the idea.

He said a declaration would help kickstart stalled talks between the neighboring countries as well as and between North Korea and the US. It's the latest of several similar appeals in recent months from Moon, though he also said North Korea's conditions for talks were currently not acceptable. The two Koreas never signed a formal peace treaty after the 1950-53 Korean War.

Moon is the first international leader to visit Australia after the country eased its pandemic-induced border restrictions. During his visit, the two countries signed a series of technology and military cooperation agreements. **ow**

MEETING UNLIKELY

Face-to-face meeting between Biden, Putin 'unlikely', says State Secretary Blinken

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday said that a face-to-face meeting between President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin is "pretty unlikely" after the Russian leader requested for a meeting following their video conference last week.

As per Blinken who appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" where host Chuck Todd asked what it would take for Biden to have a one-on-one meeting with Putin, he said that it would not take place as Russia continues to build up its military along its border with Ukraine, reported *The Hill*. "What we are looking to see from Russia -- and, again, not just us but allies and partners in Europe -- we're looking to see de-escalation," said Blinken.

"We're looking to see Russia pull back forces from the border. And we're looking to see Russia engage in good faith in diplomacy and diplomatic dialogue with the Europeans, with Ukraine to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine and to give Ukraine its borders back. That's what we're looking to see," added Blinken.

On Sunday, the Kremlin said

that both Biden and Putin had agreed to more talks going forward during their video call. According to Russian media, Putin told Biden, "[We will] definitely see each other. I would really want that to happen."

When pressed by Todd on whether a one-on-one in-person meeting could be in the future for Biden and Putin, Blinken said the ongoing aggression from Russia likely would not allow for it to occur, reported *The Hill*.

"Look, in the absence of de-escalation and taking the diplomatic path, seems pretty unlikely. But, you know, they met before in Geneva. There's no prohibition against meeting in person with Putin. If he's once again sending troops into Ukraine, hard to imagine that would be a good context for a meeting," he said.

During their video call last week, Biden warned that the US and its allies would respond with "strong economic and other measures" if Russia acts militarily against Ukraine.

However, administration officials have stressed that a military response from the US is currently not on the table, reported *The Hill*. **ANI**

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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة Tender Notice

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology
In AL Khuwair invites for the Following Project:

TENDER NO	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
68/2021/ MTCIT/ HQ-38(17698)	Supply hardware and virtualization solution to hosting MTCIT environment	14/12/2021	28/12/2021	24/01/2022	EXPERIENCED SME COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD IN SUPPLY (EXCELLENT & FIRST CLASS)	(25/-) TWENTY FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
67/2021/ MTCIT/ HQ-37(17797)	Supply And Supply, Install New Systems And Spare Parts For National Data Center And MTCIT Disaster Recovery Site	14/12/2021	28/12/2021	23/01/2022	EXPERIENCED SME COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD SUPPLY (EXCELLENT & FIRST CLASS)	(25/-) TWENTY FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. Note: Electronic bid bond feature is now activated on eTendering, Please contact eTendering support if assistance is required.

CORRESPONDANCE:
1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om**

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ARAB CUP

Yorke puts classy Qataris under the microscope

DOHA: Qatar raced into a 5-0 half-time lead against UAE with just 25.8 percent possession of the ball. Study Group expert Dwight Yorke heaped praise on Felix Sanchez and his players for the performance.

"It's the first time this has happened to me. In all my career, I've never experienced anything like it."

Bert van Marwijk, a 69-year-old FIFA World Cup finalist with more than two decades of coaching experience under his belt, was in shock. And he wasn't alone.

Everyone was asking how Qatar, with a mere 25.8 per cent

share in possession, had raced into a 5-0 half-time lead against Van Marwijk's UAE.

The secrets to this stunning success are pored over in detail on the FIFA Training Centre, with Technical Study Group expert Dwight Yorke full of praise for the FIFA Arab Cup™ hosts.

"It's the best first half I've seen in the competition in terms of the execution," enthused the UEFA Champions League-winning former Manchester United star. "You could see their class, the energy, the balance in the team."

-FIFA

AHMED REFAAT, EGYPT'S SUPER SUB



DOHA: Before the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021™, Ahmed Refaat had made just a solitary appearance for the Egypt senior team. Back on 14 August 2013, the then 20-year-old came on as a substitute in the second half of a friendly against Uganda at the El Gouna Stadium. Refaat's absence from the international scene lasted more than eight years, before coach Carlos Queiroz named him in the Pharaohs' squad for this Arab Cup.

His second cap finally arrived when he came off the bench for his side's opening game against Lebanon at the Al Thumama Stadium.

He then started Egypt's second game against Sudan but sat out the third against Algeria, before entering the fray at the beginning of the first period of extra time in yesterday's quarter-final against Jordan. With 100 minutes on the clock and the score still 1-1, Re-

faat latched onto a low cutback from another substitute Mohamed Sherif to steer the ball home from 10 yards and pave the way for a 3-1 victory and a place in the semi-finals.

Speaking to FIFA.com after the win, Refaat said: "It's true that I restored our lead in the game, but that's my duty, and all my teammates play their part." "I was determined to do my best and managed to score a goal. Games are not only decided by those who score the goals. There are those who repel opponents' attacks, and a goalkeeper who makes the saves. There are also the defenders and those who make the assists. We all play with one objective in mind, which is to win games. We're doing our utmost to help the team," he added. The 28-year-old believes that his participation at the FIFA Arab Cup has helped

enhance his reputation and says his main objective is to continue his international career and help Egypt get results. "I'm happy with my performance at the tournament so far. I'm trying to establish myself in the squad and do my best in order to play more games. I want to play well and be fully focused when I'm on international duty," he said.

Extraordinary goal

Refaat's crucial strike against Jordan, which paved the way for the Pharaohs' semi-final place, was not his first moment of brilliance at this Arab Cup. His goal against Sudan was truly sublime and a certain contender for goal of the tournament. Just four minutes in, Refaat struck a delightful free-kick with his right foot that came back off the crossbar. A partial clearance by the Sudanese

defence fell to him again outside the area, from where he powered a thunderous left-foot volley into the top corner to open his international scoring account in style.

Speaking about that goal, the No7 said: "Luck was on my side with that goal. I certainly trust my right foot but also my left one, because I play with both." "When the ball came back to me, I didn't hesitate to direct it again towards the goal. Honestly, I didn't expect it to go in the way it did. That said, I was pleased to score because I struck the free-kick well and, while it didn't go in directly, I ended up scoring in even better fashion," he added. Their appetites whetted, Egyptian fans will be hoping for more sumptuous strikes from Refaat in the final week of the FIFA Arab Cup as he continues to shine on his return to the international stage. **FIFA**



TIME TO MEET AGAIN: SAN FRANCISCO

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SPORTS





Mbappe makes history with 100th PSG goal

The 22-year-old forward dispatched a 12th-minute penalty, then followed it up with a superb curling effort on the stroke of halftime

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe registered both his 99th and 100th goals for Paris Saint-Germain in the capital club's 2-0 win over Monaco at the Parc des Princes on Sunday.

The 22-year-old forward dispatched a 12th-minute penalty, then followed it up with a superb curling effort on the stroke of halftime, after a fine pass from Lionel Messi.

As a result, PSG extended their lead at the top of Ligue 1 to 13 points, whilst Monaco dropped to the eighth position.

With the brace in the French capital, Mbappe passed the 100-goal mark for PSG in Ligue 1, becoming the youngest player ever



FIGURE 1: With the brace in the French capital, Mbappe passed the 100-goal mark for PSG in Ligue 1, becoming the youngest player ever to score a century.

to score a century of top-flight goals for a single club at the age of 22 years, 11 months, and 23 days.

Mbappe also scored 16 goals

for Monaco before making the move to Paris in 2017. Paris-born, Mbappe was given his Ligue 1 debut with Monaco in 2015 and

won the title with them at PSG's expense in 2017 before making a record-breaking return to the capital the following year. **ANI**

RESULTS



Salalah wins HM's Cup for Youth 2020

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat sponsored the ceremony of announcing the results of His Majesty the Sultan's Cup for Youth 2020.

The ceremony, held at Oman Exhibition and Convention Center, was attended by a number of members of the Royal Family, Ministers, and clubs' representatives.

Salalah Club won the cup ranking the first place, A'Seeb Club came second, Al Bashaer Club ranked third, Ibri Club ranked fourth, Ahli Sidab Club ranked fifth, A'Suwaiaq Club ranked sixth, Al Nasr Club ranked seventh, Sa-

ham Club ranked eighth, Nizwa Club ranked ninth, and Quriyat Club came in the tenth place.

This edition of the competition saw the participation of 42 clubs, which is the largest participation in the history of the competition and clubs. The clubs are Ahli Sidab, A'Seeb, Oman Club, Muscat, Bowsher, Quriyat, Salalah, Al Nasr, Dhofar, Al Ittihad, Mirbat, Khasab, Madha, Diba, Bukha, Ibri, Yanqul, Nizwa, Bahla, Samail, Al Bashaer, Fanja, Al Hamra, Sohar, Saham, A'Suwaiaq, Al Khaboura, Al Salam, Majees, A'Rustaq, Al Musna'a, Al Mudhaibi, Bidiyah, Al Nahdha, Al Wusta, Al Kamil wa Al Wafi, Al Wahdah, Sur, Al Tali'ah, Al Uruba, Ja'lan and Masirah. **ONA**

ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH



David Warner, Hayley Matthews named ICC Players of the Month for November

SYDNEY: Australia opener David Warner and West Indies all-rounder Hayley Matthews have been voted the ICC Players of the Month for November.

Warner's crucial efforts in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 helped him pip Pakistan opener Abid Ali and New Zealand seam bowler Tim Southee to grab the men's award while Matthews's all-round show in ODIs won her the women's award ahead of left-arm spinners Anam Amin of Pakistan and Nahida Akter of Bangladesh.

Warner won the award on his maiden nomination following his Player of the Tournament show at the T20 World Cup, in which he smashed 53 in the final against

New Zealand after 49 in the semi-final against Pakistan.

He was also named Player of the Match in an earlier Super 12s match against the West Indies for a blistering 89 not out off 56 balls. Warner aggregated 209 runs at an average of 69.66 and a strike rate of 151.44 in four T20Is during the period.

"David was back to his scintillating best during the T20 World Cup and his aggression at the top of the order was outstanding. His 209 runs at a strike rate of 151 in four innings simply tell the story. There was no recovering from the early onslaught by Warner and his stroke play was pleasing to the eye," ICC jury member Russel Arnold said in an official release.

Matthews won the award on her second nomination. She was earlier nominated in July along with captain Stafanie Taylor, who was the winner then.

Matthews scored 141 runs and grabbed nine wickets at an average of 13.11 during the period. She starred in a series win over Pakistan, scoring 57 runs and taking three for 31 in the first match before a four for 26 runs in the second.

"Hayley was the star, performing with both bat and ball. Her all-round performance was one of the reasons the West Indies won against Pakistan, and she deserves to be the women's Player of the Month," ICC jury member Irfan Pathan said. **ANI**

HAMSTRING INJURY

Rohit Sharma ruled out of South Africa Tests, Priyank Panchal named replacement

NEW DELHI: India Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match series against South Africa, confirmed Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah on Monday. "Rohit Sharma is ruled out of the Test series against South Africa," Shah told ANI.

Rohit was hit on his hand while he was training with throwdown specialist Raghavendra on Sunday in Mumbai.

The BCCI has also confirmed that Rohit is indeed ruled out and Priyank Panchal has replaced him for the three-match series.

"Priyank Panchal replaces injured Rohit Sharma in India's Test squad. Rohit sustained a left hamstring injury during his training session here in Mumbai yesterday. He has been ruled out of the upcoming 3-match Test series against South Africa," BCCI tweeted.

Last week, Rohit was named India's Test vice-captain and he was also given the rein of white-ball format. Rohit Sharma, India's new white-ball skipper, lavished praise on Virat Kohli for leading the team from the front.

"He's (Kohli) put the team in the situation where there is no looking back. Those five years



that he has led the team led from the front every time we stepped onto the park. And yeah! there was a clear grit and determination to win every game that was the message to the entire squad," Rohit said in an interview posted

on the BCCI website

"We had a great time playing under him obviously we played I played a lot of cricket under him and enjoyed every moment and I will still continue to do that," he added. **ANI**

FORMULA ONE

Fraternity divided after Verstappen clinches maiden title

ABU DHABI: Formula 1 and sports fraternity is in splits after Red Bull's Max Verstappen claimed his maiden Drivers' Championship title in a dramatic last-lap finish in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Verstappen won out a title decider over rival Lewis Hamilton under the lights at Yas Marina while Mercedes clinched a record eighth consecutive constructors' championship on a historic day. The Dutchman lost the lead at the start but he passed seven-times champion on the very last lap of the race after a Safety Car emerged for Nicholas Latifi's crash five laps from the end of the 58-lap Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Earlier, Hamilton had looked the most likely to take that all-deciding win, enjoying a comfortable lead over Verstappen having commanded the race until the safety car emerged.

Red Bull then called Verstappen into the pits and fitted him with



soft tyres. Hamilton did not pit and remained on 38-lap-old hard tyres. The race resumed with one lap to go, with Verstappen holding a significant tyre advantage. He caught

and passed the Mercedes driver to take the victory.

This maiden F1 triumph of Verstappen created a huge uproar and garnered mixed reactions from all

the sporting world, including footballers and cricketers.

"I guess it was an epic race, epic championship, you know," said two-time Formula 1 champion Fernando Alonso after the race. "To have the two contenders tied on points in the last race and fighting wheel to wheel in the last lap of the last race, this is something unbelievable. So well done to the sport in general and today to Max."

"Hats off to Max...big congrats and respect!!! Also an awesome performance by Lewis...it's been an epic F1 season!" Nico Rosberg, who won the F1 title in 2016, tweeted.

"Max is an absolutely fantastic driver who has had an incredible season and I have nothing but huge respect for him, but what just happened is absolutely unacceptable. I cannot believe what we've just seen," Williams' George Russell, who will join Lewis Hamilton in Mercedes from next season, wrote on Twitter.

"Very happy for everything,

for Max and for my team! In the end, we were able to support and make a difference in the result. A shame not being able to finish the race with another podium in the bag, but happy with the season. Thank you for all your support during this intense season! (Translated from Spanish)" Sergio Perez, who is Verstappen's Red Bull teammate, tweeted.

"A lot of not very happy people. And a lot of very happy people. This is a new way of running the sport where the Race Director can make these ad hoc decisions. Its been a bit too 'guess what I'm going to do now' I think. #f1." 1996 Formula One World Champion, Damon Hill tweeted.

"I'm new to F1 and it's been amazing to watch Lewis and Max battle it out. I'm not expert on it but I feel like there's some bizarre rules that give an unfair advantage like today? Why should Hamilton be penalised for somebody else's

crash? He literally raced the perfect race under the highest pressure and gets the World Championship taken away from him. Seems like common sense to keep the lead that you'd raced so hard to gain. Shame it had to end like that," England football team captain Harry Kane wrote in a series of tweets.

"1 ball 6 required and guess what, Max Verstappen hits it. Unbelievable win," India's ODI and T20I captain Rohit Sharma posted.

"What a race! Congrats to Max for becoming the World Champion for the 1st time & there will be many more. However, my heart goes out to Lewis. What a season he's had too. If not for the safety car, the trophy would've been his. Sheer bad luck. All the best for the next season," Sachin Tendulkar congratulated Verstappen. The Dutchman is now his country's first world champion, Red Bull's first since 2013, and Honda's first since Ayrton Prost in 1991. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by February 2022 reaching \$74.13, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.41 from the price of Friday, which was \$72.72. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,006.64 points, up 0.49 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.49 per cent at 535.40 points. Sohar International Bank up 3.74 per cent, was the top gainer 3.74 per cent while, Muscat Desalinate down 9.18 per cent, was the top loser.

GCC M&A deal value down 47% at \$14 billion in 2021 first half

Despite the ongoing crisis, the impact on M&A deals being made has proven to be temporary, with volume rallying substantially this year following an intense period of difficulty not long ago



Ihab Khalil, Managing Director and Partner BCG



Ronald Maalouf, Managing Director & Partner BCG

Germany's Professor Sönke Sievers of Paderborn University.

Following an unprecedented economic shock caused by the sudden global health crisis, mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity stopped in its tracks in 2020. However, the segment has since rebounded strongly, with deals soaring in volume and value in 2021.

The report, titled Master the Art of Breaking Up, sheds light on both positive and negative scenarios that have transpired across global markets in recent times, including in the GCC. This 18th annual analysis of the GCC's M&A landscape is based on BCG's M&A database of more than 4,500 deals from January 1990 to June 2021. This edition of the report comes after the impact of COVID-19 had been seen on the sector.

"Despite the ongoing crisis, the impact on M&A deals being made has proven to be temporary, with volume rallying substantially this year following an intense period of difficulty not long ago," explained Ronald Maalouf, Managing Director and Partner, BCG.

"The outcome for the region is attributed to a higher volume of transaction, as well as corporate decision-makers, investors, and deal brokers operating across the region. Their adaptability has collectively enabled the M&A segment to rebound favourably generally, although deal value must now follow the volume of deals in rebounding before the re-emergence processes are concluded, which rests with a collective effort from respective local markets," he added.

For example, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), had recorded a decrease in deal value in the first eight months of 2021, albeit an increase in the volume of deals by 13 per cent.

Similarly, in Qatar, deal value decreased in the first eight months of 2021, although the volume of deals had grown by over five times when compared against the first eight months of 2020. Akin to the trends in KSA, Qatar's 2020 figures were propelled by a large merger in 2020 - a \$2.2 billion merger between Masraf Al Rayan and Al Khaliji Commercial Bank propelling overall value in 2020 to

\$4 billion (double the country's \$2 billion deal value average between 2015 to 2020).

Meanwhile, deal value in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has increased sharply alongside the volume of deals in the first eight months of 2021, recording a total of 100 deals amounting to \$11 billion. This is mainly due to a rebound in large deals, with four such transactions valuing over \$1 billion in total, contributing to a 433 per cent increase compared to the first eight months of 2020.

"These examples illustrate that deal value in the GCC will follow a volume of rebounding from the pandemic," said Ihab Khalil, Managing Director and Partner, BCG. "This will stem from several factors that continue unfolding across the region, such as increasingly favourable economic conditions, industrial and regional consolidations, and widespread sustainability efforts. That being said, the coming period is one where value creation can also be attained in other areas, including on the back of divestitures," he added.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The GCC's mergers and acquisition (M&A) deal value in the first half of 2021 has not fully picked up according to a new

report. The total value in 2021 first half was \$14 billion, 47 per cent below the levels of the first half of 2020, the report added.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC's) M&A market is recovering

from the pandemic, with the volume of deals for the first half of 2021 relative to the first half of 2020 increasing by 39 per cent," according to a new report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in collaboration with

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

NESR and HSBC announce first sustainability linked loan for Mena's oilfield services industry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Energy Services Reunited Corp. (NESR), an international, industry-leading provider of integrated energy services in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, has announced that the company has secured a sustainability-linked loan (SLL) with HSBC Bank Middle East, the first SLL of its kind within the Mena Oilfield Services (OFS) sector.

The SLL includes a tranche in Oman that is a first of its kind in the Sultanate and supports NESR's growth aspirations through their subsidiary Gulf Energy.

"At HSBC Oman we are committed to supporting our clients on their transition journeys with sustainable financing and investment to help their businesses develop sustainably," said Ian Johnson,



Head of International Subsidiary Banking, HSBC Oman.

The loan terms are linked to three key performance indicators (KPIs) that are tied to the following environmental, social, and governance (ESG) indicators, and will be tracked within the agreement span:

Environmental - Wastewater Reduction: NESR has set ambitious targets to reduce water

waste, which incorporates both water stewardship in traditional OFS product lines and water treatment projects within the newly formed ESG Impact segment.

Social - HSE Training: NESR will drive growth in employee health, safety & environment (HSE) training hours, which underpins the company's strategy of Mena localisation and the empow-

erment of talent within the region. Training growth is also expected to enhance the safety, quality, and reliability of NESR service delivery.

Governance - Supplier Compliance: NESR will increase its network of local suppliers that qualify with the Company's supplier governance policies. This not only aligns with Mena localisation efforts but also should improve the durability and flexibility of the NESR supply chain.

In addition to the quantitative KPIs above, NESR has also pledged to establish a formal company carbon reduction strategy. As part of its inaugural ESG Report and broader decarbonisation strategy, NESR is currently evaluating a Science-Based Target initiative (SBTi) and expects to finalise targets in the coming year.

"As the National Champion of Mena, we are proud to be the first

of our Mena-centric oilfield services peers to enter into an ambitious, sustainability-linked loan of this type with our valued partner lenders," said Sherif Foda, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of NESR.

"The loan also underscores our commitment to action, not just talk, within the broader framework of upstream decarbonisation and energy transition."

Dan Howlett, Regional Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC Middle East North Africa and Turkey, said: "HSBC is delighted to work with NESR on this sustainability linked loan, the first of its kind in Mena. HSBC is prioritising financing and investment that supports the transition to a net-zero global economy, and NESR's ESG ambitions - as this transaction shows - dovetail with our financing commitments and expertise."

INTEROPERABILITY

Pact signed to facilitate growth in payment activities

DUBAI: The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and Mastercard, announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under the terms of this MoU, Mastercard and Bana (the cross-border and multi-currency payment system owned by the AMF), will seek strategic interoperability between their respective systems to grow and facilitate the exchange of cross-border payments across the Middle East and North Africa region and international markets.

By putting in place a solid foundation of interoperability, Bana and Mastercard Cross Border Services will exploit their capacities and benefit from their agile systems and advanced technology, to offer their participants an efficient and secure reciprocal route.

OXFORD BUSINESS GROUP

Executives are prioritising sustainability in new strategies, OBG study

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A survey carried out by global research and advisory company Oxford Business Group (OBG) assesses the observations of international C-suite executives on a broad range of issues related to environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their decision-making.

Titled "Renewed focus: How the Covid-19 pandemic shaped priorities around ESG principles", this marks the first time the landmark survey has focused on ESG. Results comprise more than 350 respondents from across the regions covered by OBG, with questions concerning their current approach to ESG and incumbent challenges to growth.

In its research, OBG surveyed executives based across the economic sectors, with financial services and energy highest in terms of representation.

The findings are supported by in-depth analysis from OBG's Editor-in-Chief Oliver Cornock and the firm's four Regional Editors, who explore the specific characteristics of the markets they cover and track their ESG journeys.

Significantly, more than 60 per cent of global respondents said the pandemic had moderately or significantly impacted their understanding and/or appetite

for ESG, in a sign that the health crisis had spotlighted vulnerabilities in supply chains and other areas, and encouraged companies to put sustainability at the heart of new strategies.

In his contribution, Patrick Cooke, OBG's Regional Editor for the Middle East, said that the governments of all six Gulf Cooperation Council members have, to varying degrees, formulated their long-term strategies to diversify their economies, reduce public subsidies and stimulate the creation of productive and attractive job opportunities in the private sector.

"It is positive to note that these strategies have increasingly placed an emphasis on environmental sustainability, social progress and good governance as they have evolved over time," he said. "I expect to see further acceleration of corporate ESG adoption in the region over the next few years as a result of public incentives, new regulatory requirements and the growing importance that international investors place on ESG adherence."

In a question about obstacles to ESG adherence, respondents cited insufficient financing and incentives or penalties for non-compliance, was cited as the biggest challenge faced by companies, garnering 20.4 per cent of the response.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Sohar International Bank up 3.74 per cent, was the top gainer 3.74 per cent while, Muscat Desalinate down 9.18 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,006.64 points, up 0.49 per cent from the previous close. The Shar-ia Index ended up by 0.49 per cent at 535.40 points. Sohar International Bank up 3.74 per cent, was the top gainer 3.74 per cent while, Muscat Desalinate down 9.18 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 356 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.87 million, with more than 14.94 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 10 advanced, 14 declined and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were

net buyers for OMR217,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR197,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,410.97 points, up 0.48 per cent. Sohar International Bank, Oman Arab Bank, National Bank Oman, Ominvest and Bank Muscat were up 3.74 per cent, 2.47 per cent, 1.08 per cent, 0.65 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively. The Oman Emirates Holding, Ahli Bank and Al Anwar Investment were down 4.41 per cent, 2.65 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,037.06 points, up 0.26 per cent.

Services Index was down by 1.10 per cent before closing at 1,579.82 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,018.13	3,987.07	4,006.64	3,987.09	19.55	0.49	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,422.75	6,377.52	6,410.97	6,380.23	30.75	0.48	
Industry Index	6,052.77	6,037.06	6,037.06	6,021.14	15.92	0.26	
Services Index	1,601.64	1,578.77	1,579.82	1,597.43	-17.61	-1.10	
MSX Shariah Index	535.80	534.67	535.39	532.78	2.61	0.49	
MSX TR INDEX	4,835.24	4,797.86	4,821.41	4,797.89	23.53	0.49	

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
14,937,501	2,879,969	356	21,967,017,389	10	14	22	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	8,637,603	960,328	54	0.107	0.112	0.107	0.111	0.107	0.004	3.738	0.108	0.108	0.111	0.100	331,896,914
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	15,000	7769	6	0.508	0.520	0.508	0.518	0.500	0.018	3.600	0.520	0.502	0.530	0.100	28,490,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	50,000	38,400	11	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.780	0.008	1.028	0.788	0.712	0.788	0.788	0.100	124,110,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVEST & FIN.	911,237	128,074	23	0.139	0.141	0.139	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.714	0.140	0.141	0.154	0.100	33,417,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	100,000	30,800	3	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.306	0.002	0.654	0.308	0.302	0.314	0.100	248,793,877
OM0000003989	COEDDOO	107,500	37,624	6	0.350	0.350	0.348	0.350	0.348	0.002	0.575	0.350	0.340	0.364	0.100	227,830,481
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,545,100	764,767	49	0.484	0.488	0.482	0.484	0.482	0.002	0.407	0.486	0.484	0.496	0.100	1,765,790,547
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	6,000	330	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.100	16,883,048
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	310	315	1	1.015	1.015	1.015	1.035	1.035	0.000	0.000	1.015	0.940	1.035	0.100	92,838,500
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	5,000	1,175	2	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.235	0.239	0.100	7,775,087
OM0000002226	ALAZEEHA SERVICES	5,000	1,680	1	0.338	0.338	0.338	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.338	0.332	0.338	0.100	20,808,453
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	176,862	124,781	29	0.704	0.708	0.700	0.704	0.704	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.712	0.100	528,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	1,104,500	474,935	13	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.420	0.430	0.100	101,656,300
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	6,000	2,128	2	0.358	0.358	0.354	0.354	0.356	-0.002	-0.562	0.354	0.354	0.358	0.100	44,213,878
OM0000001722	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	127,202	12,027	10	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.942	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	140,800	53,516	7	0.382	0.382	0.380	0.380	0.390	-0.010	-2.564	0.380	0.380	0.410	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	149,999	16,520	8	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.113	-0.003	-2.655	0.110	0.111	0.114	0.100	214,462,321
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	91,995	56,577	13	0.652	0.652	0.608	0.616	0.672	-0.056	-8.333	0.608	0.608	0.644	0.100	42,504,000
Total	18	13,180,238	2,712,755	237												

Parallel Market																
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	10,000	1,680	2	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.162	0.004	2.469	0.166	0.000	0.168	0.100	277,122,060
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	50,000	3,880	4	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.073	0.075	0.100	15,020,997
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	100,000	18,800	2	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.186	0.002	1.075	0.188	0.184	0.190	0.100	305,677,915
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASSES	44,000	7,216	1	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.160	0.180	0.100	4,920,000
OM0000001301	DHOAFAR CATTLE	234	18	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.000	0.078	0.100	6,308,300
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	14,000	1,288	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.094	0.100	184,028,777
OM0000001855	MAJAN GLASS	5,000	730	1	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.146	0.159	0.100	4,807,775
OM0000001889	SALAH MILLS	290	319	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100	1.100	1.050	0.100	54,959,370
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	307	48	1	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.142	0.157	0.100	14,130,000
OM0000002349	BANK DHOAFAR	200,000	25,000	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.124	0.125	0.100	374,543,930
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	60,000	3,600	6	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	20,000	1,420	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	18,004,890
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	550,020	62,552	12	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004768	MAJANA TAKAFUL	50,000	4,750	2	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.096	0.100	16,625,040
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	70,090	3,370	7	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000007407	DHOAFAR GENERATING	3,855	290	2	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.070	0.082	0.100	16,880,240
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	835	79	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.090	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	3,500	298	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.100	53,690,233
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	190,970	17,351	22	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.091	0.092	-0.001	-1.087	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	11,830,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	19,044	3,764	5	0.190	0.200	0.190	0.198	0.201	-0.003	-1.493	0.200	0.188	0.200	0.100	23,760,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	58,123	2,769	10	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000005711	SOHAR POWER	56,790	2,225	9	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.039	0.040	-0.001	-2.500	0.039	0.038	0.038	0.100	2,508,329
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	23,984	1,152	2	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.050	-0.002	-4.009	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	34,291,504
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	25,000	2,800	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.117	-0.005	-4.274	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	10,953,842
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES H.O.	100,000	6,524	6	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.068	-0.003	-4.412	0.065	0.070	0.100	7,920,875	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	70,000	3,010	4	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.047	-0.004	-8.511	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.100	8,584,331
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	31,200	2,779	9	0.091	0.091	0.089	0.089	0.098	-0.009	-9.184	0.089	0.089	0.091	0.100	13,843,986
Total	57	1,757,242	167,193	118												

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NEW WHITE PAPER

Digitalisation key to unlock regional SME growth potential

DUBAI: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region are recognising digitalisation as essential to staying competitive in a transformed business and economic environment. The insight is one of many in a new white paper by payments technology leader Mastercard, which explores the way small businesses are viewing digital payments, online presence and the benefits of an evolving cashless economy.

The white paper, titled "The Digital SME: How Are Small and Medium Enterprises in the Middle East and Africa Embracing

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NEW STUDY

Ride sharing spend to top \$930bn globally

BASINGSTOKE: A new study by Juniper Research has found ride-sharing spending by consumers globally will exceed \$937 billion by 2026, comparable to 50 times the combined annual revenue of Transport for London, New York City's MTA, and Beijing Metro in 2021. This spend represents an increase from \$147 billion in 2021 and total growth of 537 per cent over the next 5 years.

Concepts

The concept of ride-sharing involves users accessing single-occupancy and shared carpool-style services provided by private drivers operating their vehicles; coordinated by platforms such as Lyft and Uber.

The research identified consumers in the US and China as leading global spend on ride-sharing services; accounting for 65 per cent of market value in 2026. It highlighted future government initiatives to reduce private vehicle usage in cities, allied with a strong pandemic recovery, as key to these countries' positions as leaders.

However, the new report, Ride Sharing: Value Chain Analysis, Market Size & Forecasts 2012-2026, cautioned that only 13 per cent of consumers are set to use carpool-style ride-sharing services in 2026.

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- Retrieve cold product samples from the warehouse and proceed with their inspection process at the MOH.
- Keep track of all necessary licenses/ permits both personal and company and keeping them updated as per Governmental requirements (Documentation).

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Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Ducted VRF A/Cs. Free centralize 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

Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-

Fully Furnished Apartment And Transport for Office also available

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

FOR RENT

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

Behind Mazoun Complex, Ruwi

Fully Furnished Apartment Also Available

Contact: 96707247 or 24704141

FOR RENT

Deluxe 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Split A/Cs, Fixed wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, Free Unlimited Broadband WiFi, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system & Secured car park.

Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-

Fully Furnished Apartment And Transport For Office Also Available

Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

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

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SERVICES

Plumbing, Painting & Maintenance. Contact 96191837, 98937266

Part Time, Accounting, VAT Returns & Submission. Contact 95126713

Disinfection & Sterilization Treatments. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289 Email: sales@oceancentre.co

Pest Control Treatments - Cockroaches, Ants, etc. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289 Email: sales@oceancentre.co

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

Cleaning & Pest Control services Contact 93688051, 97178294

Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Mundhir Al Rizaiqi Trading LLC. Contact 24810137, 99450130

MATRIMONIAL

Suitable Bride Required for a 54 year old well educated divorced Malayali Christian gentleman. The groom is a thorough gentleman, smart, tall and jovial. Employed in Oman for more than 30 years. Would prefer a bride with a good heart who will be a friend and lifelong companion. Religion/Caste no bar. Contact 93373691

FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE

AL AZAIBA

PRICE: RO.300 THOUSAND NEGOTIABLE

CONTACT 92042451

Big workshop for sale in Wadi Kabir. Contact 91019420

JOB SEEKERS?

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JOB VACANCIES

SITUATION VACANT

- Manager - Information Technology:** Bachelor Degree in Information Technology with 10+ years of experience in the similar field. Candidate with certification will be preferred (PMP, CISSP, CompTIA Project+, CISM, CCIE & ITIL).
- Project Engineers (Civil/MEP):** Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering or Electrical Engineering with 12 to 15 years of experience in the building projects. Should be capable to handle multiple projects independently.
- Site Engineers (Civil/MEP):** Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering or Electrical Engineering with 5 + years of experience in the building projects.
- Planning Engineer:** Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering with 8 + years of experience in the building projects. Well versed in Primavera P6 and Oman/ GCC experience.

Send your CV to: jobbox247@gmail.com within 7 days.

MORE JOB VACANCIES AND WANTED ON PAGE B4 >

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CONNECT

JOB VACANCIES

URGENT REQUIREMENT MEDICAL

GP, Internist, Dentist, Dermatologist, Nurses (Male & Female), **Lab Technicians & Pharmacist** are required for the leading Medical Centers in Oman.

Contact: 99002172 / 96386388 & recruitmc@yahoo.com

Urgent Job Vacancies in Oman

1. SALES ENGINEER
Qualification - Mechanical or Electrical Engineering. Should have knowledge of Sales / Marketing / Purchase & Procurement with 2 to 4 years Experience.

2. INSURANCE SALES EXECUTIVE
Qualification - Graduate with minimum 2 to 4 years Experience in Insurance Industry.

Send CV to: job.vacancy.hr@outlook.com
Whatsapp +968 93007200

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR A LEADING ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY - BUILDING PROJECT

- **Quantity Surveyor** - 1 No
- **Planning Engineer** - 1 No
- **Fire & Safety Engineer** - 1 No
- **Electrical Engineer** - 1 No

First 03 position experience is above 10 years & Electrical Engineer - 8 years

Email: cmk_pnr@yahoo.co.in

REQUIRED

SALES EXECUTIVE

3-5 years experienced Sales Executive required for building material/ electrical/oilfield/PPE supply company, Muscat - Oman.

Please send your cv to: tradecircle18@gmail.com
<or> **Whatsapp on +968-90252779**

DOMESTIC HELP

Full time Housemaid required for Indian family of 3. Cooking Indian food and washing is the main job. Will be a well treated family member and compensation will include salary, free toiletries, food, accommodation, weekly holiday (subject to COVID safety), free WiFi, etc. Contact: Mr. Jerry 92603674

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently required Stainless Steel Welder/Fabricator (Experience in SS finishing works including cutting, letter making and welding), ACP Worker and Sign Maker. Experience of 3-5 Years in similar field. Contact 99014231
Email: jayakrishnanapk@gmail.com

Looking For **Carpenter and Office Staff**. Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ARCHITECT

Landscape Architect, BLA (Honours), 27, Sri Lankan, experienced in Soft & Hard Landscape Design, Master Planning, 3D Visualizations and Site Inspections, seeks suitable placement in Oman. Contact 9550 7986
Email: duminduudara@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Indian Male, Graphic Designer, 15yrs+ experience. Looking for a suitable placement. Contact +968 98693322. WhatsApp: +968 99029672
Email: shoji074@gmail.com

Freelancer 2D /3D Autocad Revit drafting MEP, Arch, B.Tech. Contact 99506977

MEDICAL

Medical Lab Technician 12 year experience seeks job. Contact 90269108, 91371404

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Diploma Mechanical Engineer & CNC VMC operator exp 3 yrs currently in Oman. NOC available. Contact 94227542.
Email dinithdas@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

7 yrs of Experience in Procurement (Heavy Machineries) plus Accounting, Administration, Logistic Support, Mechanical engineering. Contact +968 93545741

Purchase, Procurement, Logistics & Stores professional, more than 25 years experience having very good knowledge in Construction, Mechanical & Commercial materials, looking for immediate openings. NOC & DL available. Contact 99276414. Email: shettigarthulsidhar@gmail.com

Warehouse Incharge & inventory controller having 6 years experience with Oman D/L seeks suitable job. Contact 97915240

DRIVER

Drivers for Light / SUV personal cars required. 2-3 years of Oman experience. Interested candidates can email: deosil03@gmail.com or Call / WhatsApp: 92569177

IT

A well-established IT company in Oman is looking for **IT Engineers** with at least 3-5 years working experience as an IT Support Engineer. Should have excellent skills on Microsoft Server, Cisco and Aruba Networking, IP Telephony, Software Applications and ready to join immediately. Send your CV to: itreq221130@gmail.com

***Classified Advertisement space booking with text, should be done till 12.00 noon for next day's publication. * Subject to space availability**

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior accountant, 16 yrs experience in Oman. Immediate joining. Contact 91172545

Indian Male accountant B.Com with 10+years of Exp in accounts/stores in Oman.Oman D/L available. Contact 93483691
Email: mohamed.ali581@gmail.com

Indian Male, 15 years' experience in Senior Accountant. Looking for a job. Software knows Tally & MS Office & D/L. Mobile: 96761026
Email: mehreenraiz@gmail.com

ACCA affiliate with 2 years experience. Currently in Muscat, having NOC and D/L. Contact 96595067.
Email: farleymartyres19@gmail.com

Accountant, MBA-Finance and Marketing. With more than 4 yrs Experience in Accounts and Finance.Good working Knowledge of SAP software & Advanced Excel seeks suitable position. Contact +968 92706965
Gmail: ranjuvettom@gmail.com

Indian male, 12Yrs of experience in accounts-payables & receivables + 12Yrs in Sales Administration in a MNC, Oman, seeks suitable placement. Oman D/L. Contact 92116238. Email: ramdas16091970@gmail.com

Multi-skilled Indian male, 25+ years (8 years GCC) well experience in Accounts / Administration / HR available to join immediately with release and D/L. Contact 96251394

Bachelor Degree with 7 years of experience in the Accounting & purchasing field. 4 years of experience in Oman.seeks suitable job Available with Omuni D/L. Contact 79399509
Email: suheb.a27@gmail.com

Young Indian Accountant, B.Com graduate having 3 years experience in Accounts looking for immediate placement. Contact 97092353

Senior Accountant, Indian Male, 12 Years experience in Oman, Having D/L and NOC. GSM 91469060

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 7970 2891
Email: shahoo.mhs@gmail.com

Senior Accountant, Srilankan Certified Business Accountant (CASL) with BBA Degree (Accounting specialized). 6+ years' experience, and capable of handling accounts up to finalization. Contact 79608588.
Email: mmusthaq94@gmail.com

Part time accountant doing upto finalization seeking job. # 79102100

Sudanese male 32 Years, Senior accountant having 6 years experience in Oman. Contact 94050251.
Email: danygalaxy184@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Urgently required well experienced **Nurses**, preferably with MOH license. Email: apexhealth21@gmail.com. whatsapp no: +968 79826868

SALES/MARKETING

Marketing Manager, A leading Insurance broking company in Oman requires a dynamic Techno Marketing Manager. Graduate with Insuring qualification and marketing experience in Oman may send to: info@isc-oman.com

Furniture wholesale leading company requires a Salesperson with experience and Omani driving license. Kindly send CV to: furniture.company2021@gmail.com

Looking urgently for a well experienced building material sales man with computer knowledge. Contact 92525406

Need experience **Sales Executive** for Gas field industry. Dood sales and communication Oman D/L needed. send cv on: osgcfinance@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male, 12 years work experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/HR/Secretary or suitable post. Holding Oman D/L & NOC. Contact 94019955, vinrai99@gmail.com

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

Indian male, 33 yrs old graduate,10 years experience as an Office Assistant with Good English communication skills, is looking for a job in Muscat. Presently in Oman seeks job. Contact 90146616
Email: sranjithraj4@gmail.com

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman driving license and 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. Contact 79256679

DRIVER

Driver (light) with 10 yrs experience. Contact 96313100

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience in Oman looking for job. Contact 79185382, 79141820

MANAGER

Indian male, engineering graduate with 28+ years executive experience in logistics, assets, purchase, disposal, inventory management and Automobile industry in Oman. Seeking managerial/suitable position in reputed firms. Contact 98504774, Email: thomasemte@gmail.com

Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experienced, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & budgeting, auditing etc. Contact 98803439

Plant Manager with 25 years Exp for construction machinery is available for immediate joining. Contact 79724650

MISCELLANEOUS

10 yrs exp. in Accounts receivable plus 7 yrs in purchase, logistics & warehouse exp., Having D/L seeks suitable position. Contact 98531104

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Electronics & Communication

Indian Male looking for a suitable job in Oman. Presently in Oman.

Contact 78644119
E-mail: terancefranklin25@gmail.com

Project Manager - Civil

An Indian, Graduate Civil Engineer having 22+ yrs Exp. in Construction Sector on Buildings, Infrastructure & Electro-Mechanical Projects with Project Management/ Contracts Exp. looking for a Middle Management Position in the Consulting/Contracting Firm. Valid Engineer Visa & D/ L, NOC available/Transferable Visa.

Contact No. 91996650

Mechanical Engineer

Sudanese mechanical engineering with 10 years experience, Firefighting & alarm system, Seeking a position as Mechanical engineer.

WhatsApp and direct phone call +968 94044896

Senior Project Manager / Project Director

Indian National,18Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer; Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Call / WhatsApp +971543499629

OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER

MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Mechanical/MEP engineer, Indian male,26yrs with 2 yrs experience, looking suitable job. Contact 79974535.
Email: safeeralipk7@gmail.com

BE Electrical & Electronics Indian Male looking for a suitable placement in Oman. 5 years India' Exp in Protection/ Testing Engineer Contact +919633154156, Email: vishnuvasudevan11@gmail.com

B.E.Mechanical Engineer, 3yrs experience in India for pipe line. Presently in Oman. Contact 71089758/ Whatsapp +918962292915
Email aadilahmadrits@gmail.co

B.E. Civil Project engineer/Project coordinator (INDIAN) with 8+ years of experience. Qualified Project management (QS & QC) with a knowledge of MS office, Autocad, MS project & estimation. NOC is available, can join immediately. Contact 97389893, mohammadshkaeerm1r@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer 4 yrs experience in factories and car maintenance with DL seeks job. Contact 93521100.

B.Tech Civil Engineer over 20 years experience looking for manager level job. can run medium size company individually. Contact 98036290, cmsarasu@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor Indian 30 yrs. Experience. Strong Exposure in Contracts & QS activities in all type of construction field (Especially in Oil & Gas Projects). Mob & WhatsApp No. 7905 3616

B.Tech Electrical Engineer, currently residing in oman, experienced based on project management, site supervision/renewable energy sector seeking for suitable placement. Contact (mob) 79376313, (wsp) +91 8943932532, Email: adeebalr@gmail.com

Indian male Civil diploma,10 years of Oman experience in Site engg. looking for suitable placement. Contact 79864288

Quantity Surveyor

Srilankan Male Quantity Surveyor (BSc QS (Hons) reading) with 4 years of Civil & ID experience in Oman. Looking for a job.

Contact: 92187572
Email: sifathhasan1995@gmail.com

MANAGER

MANAGER (Accounts / Finance / Real Estate /Admin & HR), **MBA (Finance)**, PG Diploma in HRM, Bcom, 20yrs experience in Muscat. Can join immediately. NOC/RELEASE available.

Please contact: 91245950

Senior Accountant

Indian male M. Com with PG in computers, working as Senior Accountant in Oman with over 12 years with advanced knowledge in MS Dynamics, ODDO, Tally Erp/Prime (Tally customising with developer), looking for suitable position.

Contact on +96871551938

Executive Camp Boss/Logistics/Store/Procurement

Graduate with 10 years experience in Oman as camp administration-in-charge with Oman D/L & 15 yrs experience in Logistics/store/inventory control/ procurement exp in oil and gas field is looking for suitable position. Fully vaccinated, valid Oman gamca medical and ready to join immediately.

Whatsapp 0091 9656724161
Email - rajeshm117821@gmail.com

FINANCE

MBA, Mcom, ICWA (inter) 21 years experience in Oman working as Manager in Business / Accounts / Finance / Operations. Looking for Senior positions in Business / Finance and Operations.

CONTACT: 96211885

SALES / PURCHASE

Indian Male(31), MBA-Finance, 7 years experience as Sales Procurement Specialist, specialized in electrical & lighting for residential and commercial projects. Seeking suitable position. D/L available.

Email: gaisebukhari@gmail.com
Contact: 94560161

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Site Engineer (3 year) experience as a supervisor and site engineer in addition familiar with calculating quantities, BBS, managing sites and budgets. Presently in Oman seeking a job. Contact 72646903, 79566531
Email: mohammedali7p7@gmail.com

Indian, 23, Civil Engineer, fresher with Oman D/L, looking for suitable job. Contact 95257524

Mechanical Engineer, Male, 24yrs (Fresher) with diploma certification course in MEP, HVAC currently in Oman looking to join in any Engineering field. Contact +968 79812894, 99177894
Email: mohdsawadkpl@gmail.com

Electrical engineer, SCADA control operation and maintenance of medium Voltage, 9 years of experience, looking for job. Contact 79142265

Indian Male B.E Civil 3Y experience currently available in Oman with NOC. Ready for Immediate join Looking Job. Contact 72651777

Electrical eng 10 years experience in O&M and projects , PMP, D/L looking for job. Contact 71543379

Civil Engineer having 3 years Indian experience as a site engineer, presently in Oman.Looking for suitable job. Contact 94130276

M. Tech Structural Engineer with 14 years experience in Oman with ministries & consultants seeks suitable placement. NOC & D/L available. Contact 92497704
Email: fahadca@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, Indian, B.E Civil, having 11+ yrs Exp. Looking for a suitable position, valid GCC D/L, Currently in Oman. Contact 95085270
Email: fasee.syed@gmail.com

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian Male (26) 5 years of GCC construction experience in an A grade firm with D/L. NOC available, Immediate joining. Contact +968 94781810

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Indian, 23, (B.E Mechanical), fresher PG Diploma in Oil and Gas Piping and Pipeline, QA/QC, NDT, looking for suitable job.

Contact: 79056363, 99501396
Email: rejiakhil111@gmail.com

OMANI HSE

Bachelor's degree in BA & IOSH.

10 years experience in HSE and O&M.

Contact +968 95555865

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 MANAGER

Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies

Contact Number # 78556829

SENIOR MANAGER SUPPLY CHAIN

Indian Male with +25 years of Experience in Supply Chain, Purchase, Sales & Distribution, MIS, Inventory & Credit Control seeks placement.

CONTACT 94619442

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience with international exposure. Having GCC experience. Also having Experience in the Education Industry (India). Presently in Muscat. D/L Available.

Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER

B.Tech graduate with 1+ years of experience working as a Site Engineer & Quantity Surveyor. Proficient in Quantity Survey, Quality Control, 2D Drafting, 3D Modelling & Project Management. Currently in Oman. Available to join shortly.

92408363
sawad.mohammed@outlook.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

Sales operations coordinator B-com with E-commerce & Various other certifications, 5 years of Dubai and 2 years of Muscat experience, with refined skill set, Looking for new challenges. Contact +968 9676 6702
E-mail: ilyas3299@gmail.com

BE Mech & MBA Marketing with (10 years Exp in Oman Sales) looking for suitable opportunity in manufacturing or trading industry. Contact 9432 4991

Indian B.E Civil 3yrs experience available in Oman with NOC.Looking for Sales/Purchase job. Immediate joining GSM 72651777

Indian, 24 yrs experience in consumer electronics company in Oman, looking for a suitable position. NOC available. Can join immediately. Contact 91163640

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

11 years Oman Experience in Sales Marketing and Business Development. Looking for a suitable position. Contact 91839393

12 years experienced person in FMCG industry, looking for a suitable placement. Holding valid Oman D/L. Contact 92428081

Indian, MBA (Marketing & Finance), with experience of 1year in Sales(India) seeking for a job & presently available in Oman. Contact +968 79858680
Email: hidayathizy49@gmail.com



TIPS FOR TEACHING KIDS EMPATHY



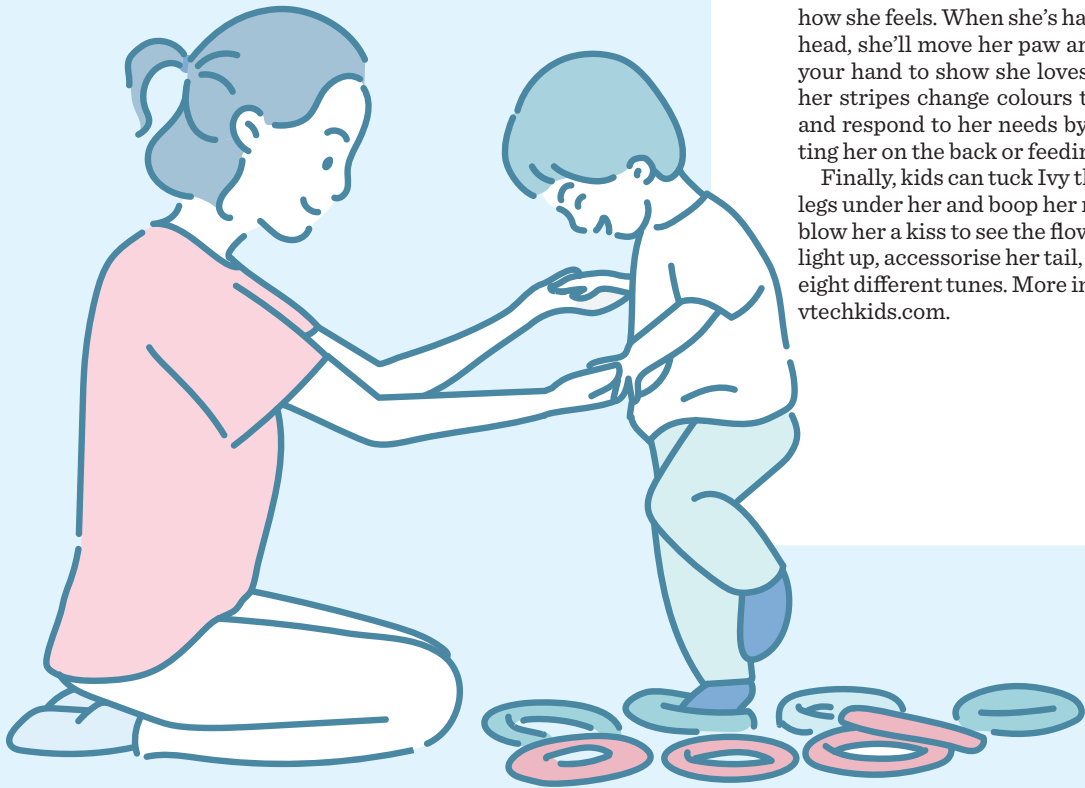
READ TOGETHER

Read to your child when they are young, and encourage them to keep up with the habit when they are older by stocking your shelves with books and by making regular visits to the library. Requiring a leap of imagination as readers put themselves in the shoes of characters, it's no surprise that a love of fiction can actually help build empathy, according to research. After you read together, talk to your child about the stories and ask them what they think each character was thinking or feeling, and why. You can also do this after watching movies and shows together too.

One of the most important skills kids can learn is empathy — the ability to understand how others are feeling. A valuable social skill that's often the mark of a good leader, empathy aids in communication and helps people build connections with others. Here are some ways you can teach your child empathy:

INTRODUCE INTERACTIVE TOYS

Interactive toys can foster your child's nurturing skills. New, fun ones to consider include Hope the Healing Husky, a robotic dog that tells you how she's feeling, and makes different sounds to show if she's hungry, has a cold or fever, has a hurt leg or feels itchy. Kids can check her temperature, give a healing shot, bandage her ouchie and put on her recovery collar to help her heal. The robotic Glitter Me Kitten will also tell kids how she feels. When she's happy or when you press her head, she'll move her paw and place a glitter stamp on your hand to show she loves you. Kids can also watch her stripes change colours to show how she's feeling, and respond to her needs by scratching her head, patting her on the back or feeding her. Finally, kids can tuck Ivy the Bloom Bright Unicorn's legs under her and boop her nose when it's time to rest, blow her a kiss to see the flower in her mane bloom and light up, accessorise her tail, and sing-along with her to eight different tunes. More information can be found at vtechkids.com.



PLAY PRETEND

Whether playing house or playing superheroes, role-play is not only a chance to build worlds and be creative, but also to consider the feelings of someone else and act them out. You can encourage your child to play pretend by suggesting the activity and letting them invent the game. Keep kids inspired with a fun costume trunk full of hats, wigs and other accessories. Empathy may be a social skill, but it's as valuable as the ABCs. The good news is that interactive toys, games and literature can all help to cultivate your child's empathy. - StatePoint



T
ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat’s Children’s Savings Account promotes financial inclusion

Special incentives in the form of an assurance of a financially secure future encourage children and their parents to learn about the importance of savings

AWARENESS

Breast Cancer Awareness at InterContinental Muscat

MUSCAT: InterContinental Muscat is again thinking pink for a purpose of creating awareness on Breast Cancer. To mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the iconic property has partnered with Oman Cancer Association to raise funds by donating OMR 1 for every cake sold at Tr.Eat Cafe throughout the month. Colleagues have also raised money by selling pins and holding a garage sale. “We are delighted and proud to partner with Oman Cancer Association to bring attention to Breast Cancer Awareness,” said Anna-Marie Dowling, Area General Manager, IHG Oman. “With this campaign, we aim to increase awareness of breast cancer and raise funds for research and honour those who have fought against it. We hope that our contributions play a role in spreading awareness which could help to-

MUSCAT: In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and commitment to fostering healthy savings habits amongst children, Bank Muscat’s Children’s Savings Account is designed to promote financial inclusion and help the younger generation learn how to manage their money and prepare for the future. The bank launched this account and developed it further after studying in great detail the needs of this age group. Special incentives in the form of an assurance of a financially secure future encourage children and their parents to learn about the importance of savings. Speaking about the importance

of the bank’s Children’s Accounts, Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, Deputy General Manager - Institutional Sales & Product Development, said: “Bank Muscat is very keen to provide products and benefits in line with the needs of its customers and as a translation of its customer-centric vision. **Unique needs** “The bank is continuously working to develop different banking products and solutions for its customers based on their unique needs. In particular, the bank’s Children’s Account has several features that allow children to learn how to save and manage their money for the future.” All children under the age of 14

are entitled to open a Children’s Account. To open the account, parents/ legal guardians should visit their preferred Bank Muscat branch to submit their applications along with copies of the required documents. **Free insurance coverage** These include a copy of the ID card or passport (for Omanis), a passport with the visa page (for residents) and a birth certificate. The parent or authorised guardian should sign the account opening form on behalf of the child. All customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR50 in their account are eligible for free insurance coverage.



MULTI-SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL

Oman International Hospital receives state of the art Femtosecond laser for eye surgeries

MUSCAT: Oman International Hospital (OIH), Oman’s newest multi-super speciality hospital and a world-class medical institution is pleased to announce the installation of Femtosecond Ziemer Z8 Neo laser, the newest technology in the field of ophthalmology and eye surgery- a first of its kind in the Middle East. OIH, which is already home to several state-of-the-art equipment and facilities including hybrid operation theatres, will now be able to offer high-precision, exceptional ophthalmic treatments for cataracts, LASIK and eye surgeries at the highest degree of safety and comfort of the patient. Dr Ahmed Al Maskari, Cataract, Cornea & Refractive Surgeon and Head of Oman Vision Centre, one of the five Centers of Excellence in OIH stated, “The addition of this laser confirms Oman International Hospital’s commit-



ment to providing the best available technologies for its patients and compete at providing the best medical care at an international level. The Femtosecond Ziemer Z8 Neo laser is a truly unique and highly advanced technology. The latest technology enables very precise treatment with an ultra-fast laser source for patients, even

for the most challenging cases. The Ziemer Z8 Neo laser enables easy, safe and comfortable eye surgeries performed within a short time span.” The equipment will enable surgeons to perform cataract and corneal transplantation at an unparalleled femtosecond laser precision and will open the door to providing

cutting edge refractive surgery at Oman Vision Centre. Furthermore, the equipment with its new design will make it easier and faster to apply laser treatments. Oman International Hospital lately announced the soft opening of Oman Vision Centre within their premium facilities and are expecting to start their eye surgical operations in January 2022. Marcelo Pereira, CEO of Oman International Hospital said, “As the newest and most modern healthcare destination in Oman, we want all our patients to receive world-class treatments and services. The introduction of Ziemer Z8 Neo laser not only offers the latest technology in its specialisation but also raises the bar of our Oman Vision Center’s world-class quality standards.” Oman International Hospital is now ready to schedule apportionments for eye surgeries.

2021 WAFRA PRIZE SCHEME

ahlibank’s Q4 draw of Wafra prize scheme to be held soon

MUSCAT: ahlibank has announced that the fourth quarter draw of its popular 2021 Wafra prize scheme will be conducted in the last week of December. The highly awaited draw will pick 20 lucky winners, with one of them winning the generous ‘Salary for Life’ prize, which carries a grand sum of OMR 250,000, disbursed equally over 250 months. This will be the final draw of the 2021 Wafra scheme, which was launched early this year in a brand new format to encourage a culture of savings among its customers and introduce attractive avenues for financial growth for all account holders. With cash prizes worth over two million Omani rials, awarded through various draws held across the bank’s network of branches, the scheme has proven to be a major milestone in the bank’s customer-first approach to banking. Highlighting the significance of the prize scheme, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM- Head of Retail Distribution at ahlibank, said, “2021 has proven to be a lucky year for more than a thousand account holders who savoured the joys of financial abundance that we promised through our prize scheme Wafra. Our ‘Salary for life’ prize, in particular, has been a game-changer in every sense of the word. The fourth quarter draw of Wafra will further augment chances for more winners, ending the year on a winning note, despite the initial economic slowdown from the pandemic.” “Our intent was, and is to target a wider customer base; we have accomplished the set objectives by adding more categories - with weekly, monthly, quarterly and special event draws - as part of the prize scheme. While this manifests our agenda to engage with our customers regularly, it also amplifies our objective of instilling financial stability and inspiring a culture of saving to secure one’s future. Our effort to enrich more lives with financial incentives and expand our customer base with a



structured growth plan has shown results, making this a win-win year for both our customers and us. Our portfolio of innovative products and services has demonstrated our intent to rise, and stay above the expected.” The last quarter draw will add a fourth winner to the ‘Salary for life’ prize, which saw three lucky customers- in March, June and September - walk home with a windfall of OMR 250,000 each. In addition, the bank had also allocated special quarterly draws to award five lucky winners with a cash prize of OMR 5,000 each, a prize of OMR 25,000 for an exclusive and premium customer,

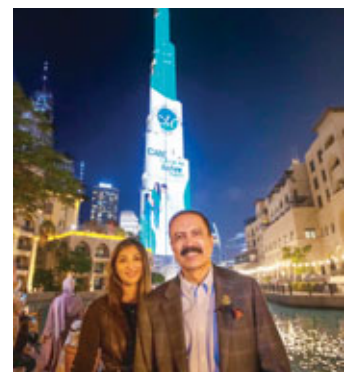
and one winner of the upper mass category of OMR 10,000, in each quarter. With the final draw of the year, ahlibank would have rewarded over 1600 Wafra customers, with prizes worth more than two million rials. While the weekly draw rewarded one lucky winner from each branch of the bank with OMR 500, in addition to another OMR 500 for premium and private customers, and another RO500 for Imtiyaz customers, the monthly draws awarded OMR 1,000 for one winner from each branch; plus OMR 1,000 each for two winners under its ‘Salary Transfer’ draw; OMR 300 each for five winners

in the 18 to 25 years old category; and OMR 200 each for five winners under 18 years of age. This prize list was further augmented through special occasion draws, including National Day and new branch draws. Wafra, which translates as abundance, came as a breath of fresh air for customers who were experiencing the effects of the global economic slowdown. With the onset of the New Year, this buoyancy will be further enhanced with a newer version of the prize scheme. ahlibank promises to exceed all expectations by crafting a novel approach to financial abundance.

HEALTHCARE

Aster announces global growth to 455 facilities

DUBAI: On Aster DM Healthcare’s 35th Foundation Day, the organisation has announced global growth to 455 facilities and thereby emerging as one of the largest integrated healthcare providers in India and GCC. With 27 hospitals, 126 clinics/labs and 302 pharmacies spread across 7 countries serving around 20 million patients annually. In India, with the roll-out of 77 Aster branded pharmacies, 9 Aster Labs, Aster Clinics and Aster Home Care, in addition to the 14 hospitals, the organisation is fast expanding its integrated care network across 5 States. To celebrate its 35 years of service, a new corporate logo identity marking “Aster DM Healthcare since 1987” has been unveiled along with the campaign, “Care is Just an Aster Away” through a grand showcase on Burj Khalifa in Dubai to be seen physically and virtually on Aster’s social media platforms. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Aster DM Healthcare said, “As we look back at the last 35 years of Aster’s existence, we are overwhelmed at what we have been able to achieve with the unwavering trust and faith that our patients and customers have placed in us. The vision with which we set forth to make quality healthcare accessible to the people is being taken up with new vigor through the campaign Care is Just An Aster Away, where we want to be closest to our customers. Going beyond business, giving back to the society through our initiatives under Aster Volunteers has been at the core of our philosophy to make healthcare accessible to the people who need it most. In addition, we have decided to provide jobs to 150 people of determination in the next one year.” In alignment with the organisation’s commitment to support and empower the underprivileged population Aster would continue to provide free and subsidized



treatment to thousands of patients every year. To this aspect 3 more Aster Volunteers Mobile Medical Services (AVMMS) have been launched in Africa, Iraq and India on the Foundation Day, increasing the total number of AVMMVS units to 19 vehicles. Aster has also committed to launch 4 more units in Africa, thereby extending the AVMMV services to 7 African countries where it is highly required. In addition to this, Aster plans to establish 5 Aster Volunteers Telehealth Service Centres in Africa. The two vehicles to Somaliland in Africa and Iraq respectively, were launched in Dubai by Smt. Tadamu Mamou (Press, Information, Culture & Labour), representative of Consul General of India; Hussein Al-Ishaqi, representing the office of VP of Republic of Somaliland; Dr. Zakariya-Dahir, representing Ministry of Health Development of Republic of Somaliland; and Dr.Yaseen Al-Mamouri, President of Iraqi Red Crescent Society; in the presence of Mariam Al Hammadi, Director, The Big Heart Foundation; Ahmed Al Falasi, - Winner of Arab Hope Makers 2020; Dr. Omar Al Sakaf, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, Government of Dubai; Dr Azad Moopen - Founder Chairman and Managing Director, Aster DM Healthcare; Alisha Moopen - Deputy Managing Director, Aster DM Healthcare and T.J Wilson, Executive Director & Group Head Governance & Corporate Affairs, Aster DM Healthcare.

ROUND-UP

Bank Nizwa ‘Masoliyati’ honoured for initiatives geared at serving community

With the aim to continue to promote the spirit of community service amongst its employees, the bank recently conducted a gathering to recognise and honour the efforts of the team members who have played an active role in the various volunteer initiatives conducted throughout the year

MUSCAT: As a bank that is invested in the welfare of the community, Bank Nizwa has been steadfast in implementing meaningful CSR activities that have a long-term, sustainable impact on the lives of the people.

In line with the Islamic value of ‘giving’, the bank’s ‘Masoliyati’ programme has undertaken a number of initiatives to extend a helping hand to those in need. With the aim to continue to promote the spirit of community ser-

vice amongst its employees, the bank recently conducted a gathering to recognise and honour the efforts of the team members who have played an active role in the various volunteer initiatives conducted throughout the year.

The event was attended by the CEO of Bank Nizwa, Khalid Al Kayed, along with other members of the executive management. Members who played exemplary roles and rendered their services for voluntary work in the past year were

handed out appreciation certificates and recognised for their efforts.

“As the leading Islamic bank in the country, Bank Nizwa upholds strong values of philanthropy, public service and community involvement. Our ‘Masoliyati’ team mirrors these values and has shown utmost dedication in going the extra mile to help enrich the lives of those less fortunate. Apart from the ongoing pandemic, the devastating effects of Cyclone Shaheen had also severely impacted the community.

“From offering financial support to providing hands-on services to help alleviate the plight of those affected, our Masoliyati team members have recorded over 900 hours of service to date,” said Al Kayed. “At Bank Nizwa, the values of being of service to society are deeply embedded within day-to-day operations and our employees have been proactive in seeking out opportunities to assist those in need. We are indeed proud of the commendable efforts of our ‘Masoliyati’ team and will continue to encourage them to spearhead yet more initiatives that are geared towards benefiting the community.”



ITALIAN DINING

La Padella: All-new Italian Restaurant opens at Radisson Blu Hotel, Muscat

MUSCAT: La Padella at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Muscat has opened its doors to foodies all over the capital, boasting an array of immaculate Italian fare on the menu; and graceful archways, marble flooring and soft chandelier lighting bringing classic Italian sophistication to its ambience.

Owing to the vast experience of the chef who specializes in Italian cuisine, guests can choose from a selection of exquisite classic Italian dishes which can be paired with premium drinks.

“La Padella is set to be the cosmopolitan destination restaurant to serve authentic Italian dishes from starter to the main course in a casual dining setting, catering to millennials, corporate, groups and individual guests,” confirms Petr Dubsky, General Manager, Radisson Blu Hotel, Muscat.

The restaurant is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm to 11pm. The perfect place to celebrate a special occasion or enjoy a meal with your significant other awaits at La Padella!



VALUE PACKAGES

Mercedes-Benz Car Care packages ensure flawless vehicle with every journey

MUSCAT: Making sure its vehicles stay flawless for every journey, Mercedes-Benz Oman has announced its brand new Car Care packages.

Starting at just OMR 370 incl. VAT, drivers can leave their vehicles confidently in the hands of trusted Mercedes-Benz professionals, who will attend to any minor paintwork damage and dents, applying cutting-edge methods quickly and reliably. With three excellent value packages to choose from depending on individual requirements, customers will have the peace of mind that their Mercedes-Benz car will be restored to pristine condition.

“Mercedes-Benz drivers take pride in their vehicles. We know they don’t want to ignore even



the smallest of flaws, and neither do we. With our Car Care packages, we are ensuring they can get even the minor blemishes seen too quickly and easily, without having to worry about how much its going to cost them each time. It’s just one way we are ensuring our cus-

tomers can continue to enjoy their vehicle to the fullest,” said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman.

Benefiting from the highest standards of care, Mercedes-Benz owners can choose from a variety of options starting with the Lite

Package* at OMR 370 incl. VAT, which is valid for one year and includes three scratch repairs and five paintless dent removals. Also available is the Classic Package for OMR 695 incl. VAT, which is valid for two years and includes six scratch repairs and ten paintless dent removals. Or, for the ultimate protection, customers can choose the OMR 970 incl. VAT three-year Premium Package, which includes 12 scratch repairs and 15 paintless dent removals. Plus, all scratch repairs include a polish. Combining next-level luxury with excellent after-sales care, it’s part of Mercedes-Benz Oman’s commitment to offering a first-class experience for every journey.

PROMOTION



Ford Explorer with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Ford SUV enthusiasts wishing to own the Explorer with an exclusive offer can benefit with Service 3 Years / 60,000 km and 1 Year Registration. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.) The offer is valid until December 30.

The Explorer has more power and space than ever and smart new technologies to help tackle life’s adventures. Improved off-road capability comes courtesy of intelligent four-wheel drive and an available new Terrain Management System that features seven easy-to-engage drive modes. Standard features include a power liftgate, an 8-inch digital touch screen with SYNC 3, and a comprehensive package of driver assist and safety technologies.

Building upon Ford’s push to bring more driver-assist technology to market, the all-new Explorer is packed with the very latest innovations from Ford.

Every Explorer comes standard with Ford Co-Pilot360, a suite of driver-assist technologies including pre-collision assist with automatic emergency braking, which includes pedestrian detection, forward collision warning and dynamic brake support; blind spot information system with cross-traffic alert; lane-keeping system; rearview camera with built-in lens cleaner and auto head-

lamps with auto high-beams.

Other available Ford Co-Pilot360 Assist+ technologies include Evasive Steering Assist, which provides steering support to help avoid a collision; and Post-Impact Braking provides braking after a collision to lessen injury and damage caused by a secondary crash event.

Explorer also is available with Ford’s all-new Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control which automatically slows the vehicle down when traffic ahead slows. It also helps keep the vehicle centred in its lane.

The Explorer’s 8-inch touch screen mounted in the centre of the dash with navigation maps fills the entire screen for easy viewing or splits the space with audio information. The screen provides a quicker, more responsive interaction with the updated SYNC 3 system. Standard SYNC 3’s more intuitive layout gives drivers compatibility with the available Apple CarPlay® feature.

A wireless charging pad is available that allows customers to recharge compatible mobile devices, and up to four USB ports, including new type-C outlets, charge next-generation mobile devices. Up to five 12-volt outlets and a 230-volt outlet are also available. For music lovers, Explorer offers an available 980-watt, 12-speaker B&O premium audio system.

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ROUND-UP

NBO's Sadara Wealth Management honoured at Private Banker awards

The awards also celebrated NBO's Relationship Manager – Private Banking, Jamila Rangaswamy, who was named Female Private Banker of the Year -Middle East



MUSCAT: In recognition of its achievements in pioneering best-in-class banking services, the National Bank of Oman's (NBO) Sadara Wealth Management has been awarded Highly Acclaimed status at the Global Private Banker Innovation Awards 2021.

The awards also celebrated NBO's Relationship Manager – Private Banking, Jamila Rangaswamy, who was named Female Private Banker of the Year -Middle East.

Impressing judges in the Outstanding Wealth Management Offering for Affluent Clients category, the bank's personalised products and services available through Sadara Wealth Management meet the sophisticated needs of high net worth clients. The suite of unique products, including the System-

atic Investment Plan and Yield Enhancement Structured Products, provide customers with better ways to build and manage their wealth. The bank's clients also benefit from personalised advice from dedicated wealth managers like Jamila. As an Omani national and seasoned Private Banker, Jamila joined the bank 5 years ago, after working in several leading European financial institutions where she held senior relationship management roles and has won multiple awards across her private banking career for beating stretch targets on AUM and Revenues.

"We are delighted to have our impressive drive to better serve high net worth clients recognised by the private banking industry. Jamila is well-deserving of this

award, having cemented herself as a valuable member of our Wealth Management team and ensuring that our clients receive outstanding service and sound financial direction year after year," said Wes-sam Al Asfoor, Head of Premier Banking at NBO.

"The products offered by NBO have been well received by our customers since launch and we are always looking at new ways to maximise return and offer higher levels of service and access to investment, wealth management and financial planning opportunities. To be held in such high esteem by senior figures within the financial sector is a great honour and will inspire the bank to continue evolving its products to keep setting the standard for wealth man-

agement in the sector."

NBO's Sadara Wealth Management offers a comprehensive suite of products, tailored service and industry-leading financial advisory to assist with every aspect of private banking. Through personalised investment opportunities, preferential rates, exclusive privileges and benefits, including a dedicated personal relationship manager, NBO is the only bank in Oman to offer such a wide range of wealth management product solutions to meet the banking and investment needs of customers.

The Global Private Banking Innovation Awards are the world's most authoritative and transparently judged private wealth awards, setting global industry benchmarks and standards.

GRAND CELEBRATIONS

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel captures festive season with enchanting experiences



MUSCAT: No one captures the festive season quite like Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Bringing the magic to life, the resort is inviting guests for a host of experiences with delectable menus and lively entertainment. Ritz Kids fun and New Year's glitter. Its lush, tranquil gardens and venues will be transformed with twinkling lights, seasonal decorations along with its majestic Christmas tree accompanied by unparalleled luxury and warm hospitality, making sure every family member is no less than enchanted.

Nabil bin Abdul Wahab Al Zadjali, General Manager at Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, said, "It's one of our favourite times of year again and our ladies and gentleman have been busy combining all of the ingredients for a spectacular festive season. As one of the world's most luxurious destinations, our resort is made for grand celebrations and we look forward to welcoming our guests with more experiences than ever and helping them make incredible memories that will last a lifetime."

Served with a touch of glamour and luxury under the majestic dome of the Atrium Tea Lounge, Festive High Tea remains one of the finest Ritz-Carlton traditions. This seasonal treat features an array of delectable and assorted savouries paired with freshly brewed tea, served every day throughout December. Also happening daily throughout the month is Christmas Jazz at Al Maha Jazz Lounge, where yuletide cheer meets a quaint and intimate setting, and guests can unwind to the smooth sounds of live musicians until late.

On December 17 and 18, the resort's spacious grounds will be transformed into The Palace Wonderland; a winter market, where visitors can pick out special gifts for loved ones while enjoying an open-air cinema, live entertainment, meet-and-greet Santa, Gingerbread decorating and so much more.

A magical occasion deserves a magical location and nothing beats The Pavilion. Indulge in Christmas Eve Dinner with a divine seafood menu and all of the elegance of the beachfront milieu. Alternatively, a sumptuous buffet at Al Khiran Kitchen is not to be missed, complete with live cooking stations and entertainment along with games to keep the kids entertained all evening. On December 25, indulge in a Grand Christmas Brunch, featuring a buffet with live stations and all the traditional trimmings, as well as decadent desserts and of course, a "surprise" visit from Santa.

Those in need of pampering can melt away the tension at Al Bustan Palace Spa by the Ritz-Carlton. From Festive Cheer, with a chocolate scrub, relaxing massage and 24-carat gold age-defying facial, to absolute rejuvenation, with Arabian signature hammam, stress relief massage and immune booster fresh juice, the spa packages make an ideal token of self-care or make a heart-warming gesture like no other. For that extra special gift, exclusive spa vouchers are also available.

The countdown is on for the most awaited night of the year, and where better to celebrate than on the shores of Oman with New Year's Eve dinner at The Pavilion, featuring the most exquisite dishes and scenic views to end the year on a high. Or, gather under the stars for a night of magic with the New Year's Eve Gala dinner. A lavish buffet will be served on the gardens and beachfront complete with an unlimited selection of beverages and live entertainment, as guests release flying lanterns to ring in the new year.

Whether for an intimate gathering or a family celebration, guests will re-discover the wonder and merriment of the season at this timeless inspiring destination.

For bookings and enquiries, call +968 2476 4444, WhatsApp +968 9855 933, or email restaurant.reservation.albustanpalace@ritzcarlton.com.

Festive High Tea

Where: The Atrium
When: December 1st – 31st
Time: 2pm - 5pm

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Where: The Atrium
When: Thursday 9th December
Time: 4pm - 7pm

The Palace Wonderland

Where: Hotel Gardens
When: Friday 17th December and Saturday 18th December
Time: 4pm - 9pm
Price: OMR 1 Entrance Fee (which will be donated to charity)

Christmas Eve Dinner

Where: The Pavilion
When: Friday 24th December
Time: 6:30pm - 11pm
Price: OMR 45 net for adults, OMR 22.500 net for children 6-12 years old, complimentary for children 0-5 years old

Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner

Where: Al Khiran Kitchen
When: Friday 24th December
Time: 6:30pm - 10:30pm
Price: OMR 32 net for adults, OMR 16 net for children 6-12 years old, complimentary for children 0-5 years old

Christmas Jazz

Where: Al Maha Jazz Lounge
When: 1st - 31st December
Time: 6pm - 2am (Live Entertainment: 8:30pm Onwards)

Grand Christmas Brunch

Where: The Pavilion

When: Saturday 25th December
Time: 1pm - 5:30pm
Price: OMR 39 net for adults (buffet & soft beverages), OMR 59 net for adults (buffet & house beverages), OMR 19.500 net for children 6-12 years old, complimentary for children 0-5 years old

New Year's Eve Dinner

Where: The Pavilion
When: Friday 31st December
Time: 6:30pm - 11pm
Price: OMR 55 net for adults, OMR 27.500 net for children 6-12 years old, complimentary for children 0-5 years old

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner

Where: Hotel gardens and beachfront
When: Friday 31st December
Time: 8pm onwards
Price: OMR 125 net for adults, OMR 62.500 for children 6-12 years old, complimentary for children 0-5 years old

Festive Cheer Spa Package

Where: Al Bustan Palace Spa by the Ritz-Carlton
Includes: Chocolate scrub, relaxation massage & 24k gold age-defying facial for 135 minutes
Price: OMR 97

Absolute Rejuvenation Spa Package

Where: Al Bustan Palace Spa by the Ritz-Carlton
Includes: Arabian Signature Hammam, Stress Relief Massage & Immune Booster Fresh Juice for 110 Minutes
Price: OMR 82

CRASH SAFETY TEST



Mazda CX-5: The safest car in this year's IIHS crash test

MUSCAT: Over the past few decades, IIHS has been improving and making its safety tests more difficult to pass. And this time, it has surpassed the rigour of its previous tests by introducing new parameters to its illustrious side crash safety test.

Out of 20 models that participated in this year's test, only Mazda CX-5 was up to the mark of 'Good', the rest were either average or extremely poor in their safety considerations.

The previous tests simulated an SUV or a pickup truck weighing 3,300 pounds hitting a car at 31 mph. However, the new changes in this test included the barrier weighing 4180 pounds hitting a car at 37 mph.

The crash energy received by the vehicle, in the latest test, was evaluated to be 82 per cent more. This rigorous standard of testing has never been used by any other safety company in the USA.

The newly modified side crash test assesses how well the structure of the passenger compartment remains intact following a collision. It also evaluates how well the airbags protect the heads of the dummies with the help of the sensors fitted to dummies present in the driver seat and the rear seat.

Well-known for its brilliant outlook and artistic design, Mazda CX-5 is a combination of the thrill of driving a sports car with the security of an SUV. Great appearance along with comfortable interior sets Mazda CX-5 apart from the rest of the cars.

It is also referred to as the "art that moves"; looking at its structure and features, there is absolutely no doubt about that.

Besides design, CX-5 is just as promising in its safety standards as well. The safety features proved the Mazda CX-5 to be worthy of winning the TOP SAFETY PICK+ award since 2014 for its remarkable safety suite.

The IIHS test score also contributes to proving Mazda's commitment to the safety of its customers throughout the years.

Joe Young, the director of public relations at IIHS, mentioned that the last IIHS test witnessed many "Good" scoring vehicles, but still there were thousands of cases reported of side crashes, 23% of which ended up in deaths. This encouraged IIHS to make its test more difficult this time using higher safety protocols. "We're trying to save lives and prevent injuries," said Young.

David Harkey, the president of IIHS, says that they developed this new test because they presumed that there was room for improvement and these results confirmed their hypothesis.

"The good rating for the Mazda CX-5 shows that robust protection in a more severe side crash is achievable," said Harkey.

With yet another safety stamp under its name now is the time for you to experience the exhilarating drive of the Mazda CX-5.

We have tested it, have you?

Book a test drive here and enjoy this thrilling ride.

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EMI Starting from OMR
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