

**SPACE DEDICATED TO LATE
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS
AT NATIONAL MUSEUM**

The National Museum will inaugurate a corner dedicated to the memory of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour. **>A6**



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**HIS MAJESTY DIRECTS OFFICIALS
TO ENSURE DECENT LIVING
CONDITION FOR CITIZENS**

His Majesty the Sultan reaffirmed that the realisation of decent living for citizens now and in the future is a lofty goal in every government action in different sectors. **>A7**



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HOLY MONTH



Ramadan moon sighting panel to meet tomorrow

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's main committee for the sighting of the moon will meet on Monday to sight the crescent moon, which will determine the start of Ramadan this year.

The meeting, which will be held at the office of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, will be chaired by Abdullah bin Muhammad Al Salmi, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, in the presence of His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalili, Grand Mufti of the Sultanate.

Other members of the committee include Dr. Muhammad bin Said Al Mamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Khalid bin Hilal bin Saud Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, and Dr. Saleh Bin Hamad bin Salem Al Rashdi, Vice President of the Supreme Court.

Also on the committee are Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Sattar bin Ahmed Al Kamali, President of

The Ministry has called on citizens and residents to report the sighting of the crescent moon

the Court of Appeal in Musandam Governorate, Mohammed bin Salem bin Dahman Al Nahdi, Judge of the Court of Appeal, and Dr Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Hashmi, Supreme Court Judge.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has called on citizens and residents to report the sighting of the crescent moon, in cooperation with field teams in the governorates, or by communicating with the sub-committees at the offices of the governors of the country.

The Social Security Scheme has been endorsed by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, said the Ministry of Finance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani citizens have welcomed the Social Security Scheme launched by the Ministry of Finance, with the endorsement of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik.

Hilal Al Amrani, a businessman from Wilayat Sohar in North Al Batinah, said the initiative showed the efforts being taken by the government to help local businesses during the challenging times of the pandemic.

"When you find His Majesty issuing these decisions, you realise that our Sultan and the government have great interest in supporting businesses and SMEs to help them overcome the difficulties we currently face," he said.

"I can only thank His Majesty the Sultan for his support, and his confidence and determination in our ability to overcome all the difficulties we experience currently."

Adding to this, Mohammed Al Badi from Wilayat Saham said, "This has come at a time when many of us who have been affected by the coronavirus are in need



350

Citizens earning less than OMR350 per month are eligible under the Social Security Scheme

of such assistance. These decisions by His Majesty are a message to every citizen that although we might be affected by the pandemic, our Sultan displays a keen interest in the welfare of his citizens, and Omani society.

"This gives us reassurance of His Majesty's closeness to us, and shows us he is aware of the challenges we face in light of the pan-

demic," he added.

"I am very proud of what His Majesty has provided for us. This shows we have a leader who is compassionate, caring, and listens to his people and society,"

Among the plans of the Social Security Scheme (SSS) are improved support to programmes run by the Ministry of Social Development to handle cases relating to insolvency, and the soft housing loans programme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, for citizens who earn less than OMR350 a month.

Two initiatives

All outstanding dues of citizens enrolled under two initiatives – the Sanad Programme and the Livelihood Resources Programme – are also to be written

off. Furthermore, through Oman Development Bank, interest free financial incentives are to be provided to those involved in sales and mobile services, homemakers, taxi owners licensed to operate in hotels and airports, women's empowerment projects, and those employed in the fisheries sector.

Emergency financing

Emergency financing will also be provided to holders of Riyada cards through the SME Development Authority, while those who have applied for the Job Security Benefit scheme and meeting its criteria will receive extended benefits. Applications of people that have been received beyond their deadline will also be considered. This extension is to run until the end of 2021. **>A7**

ECONOMY

Zero VAT on 488 food items

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nearly 500 food products commonly used by people in Oman will be subject to zero taxation under the Value Added Tax, once it comes into effect.

The measure is part of the Social Security Scheme issued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and developed by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, in association with other government bodies. VAT is expected to come into effect across the country on April 16.

Under the scheme, the number of basic food commodities charged a zero rate VAT will be increased to

488 from 93.

Furthermore, all VAT charges related to electricity consumption for citizens who have up to two residential category subscriptions will be paid by the government.

This includes families that were previously eligible for government support for the two connections.

The amount of subsidised fuel that people who have signed up for Fuel Support Cards can buy at reduced prices has also been increased from 200 litres to 400 litres per month.

The government will bear the cost of VAT towards the amount of fuel purchased, so that the cost of fuel stays at 180 baisas per litre.



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

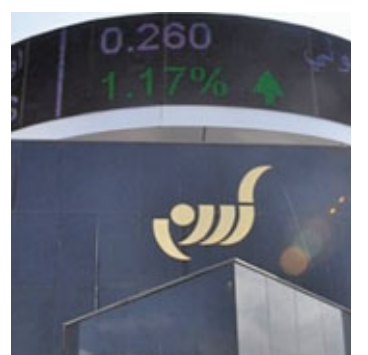
Private firms allowed to reserve vaccines

1 The Ministry of Health (MoH) has allowed the companies operating in the private sector to reserve COVID-19 vaccines for their employees, according to an official from the Capital Market Authority (CMA). **>A6**

WORLD

Tributes paid to Prince Philip of UK

2 Gun salutes were fired across the UK on Saturday to honour the life of Prince Philip. **>A8**



MARKET

Muscat Stock Exchange formed

3 An Omani closed joint stock company has been set up under the name of Muscat Stock Exchange. **>B1**

SAILING

Four Indian sailors seal Olympic berths during Mussanah qualifiers



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nethra Kumanan became the first Indian woman sailor to book her spot at the Tokyo Olympics, where she will represent her nation along with three of her countrymen, all of whom qualified for the prestigious event during the recently-held qualifiers in Mussanah.

Kumanan will be joined by Vishnu Saravanan, who secured qualification in the Laser Std. class, while Ganapathy Kelapanda Chengappa and Varun Thakkar succeeded in the 49er class.

Congratulating their sailors on their achievements, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said it was proud of its athletes for "conquering the ocean waters! Indian sailors are going to set historic sail for Tokyo Olympics."

The IOA added, "Nethra Kumanan secures a trailblazing qualification for Tokyo 2020, becom-



ing the first Indian woman sailor at the Olympic Games and the first Indian to qualify directly! Congratulations."

Vishnu Saravanan, who serves in the Madras Engineer Group of the Indian Army, also received congratulations from the coun-

try's armed forces.

"Subedar Vishnu Saravanan, Madras Engineer Group, Indian Army, qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in the Laser Std. Class sailing event at the Mussanah Championship, Oman," said a statement from the army's Addi-

tional Directorate General of Public Information.

Kumanan also received praise from the Olympic Council of Asia, which said, "Our heartiest congratulations to India's Nethra Kumanan as she became the first sailor from her country to book a spot at the Olympics directly."

Originally scheduled to be held between 24 July and 9 August, 2020, in the Japanese capital, the Tokyo Olympics were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will now be held between 23 July and 8 August this year.

Rajiv Kumar, the Vice Chairman of India's NITI Aayog initiative, also praised Kumanan. "Heartiest congratulations to Nethra Kumanan for becoming the first-ever Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics! Nethra joins the new brigade of many talented, young women in sports who are transforming the story of New India."

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سائل لغسل الصحون (لوكس) ٧٥٠ مل Lux dishwashing liquid 750ml SAVE 38.89% 1 RIAL .620 0 RIAL .990	ماء للشرب (مسافي) ١.٥ لتر Masafi drinking water 1.5L 12 Pieces SAVE 51.72% 1 RIAL .740 0 RIAL .840	أبو عويس Refine Sugar سكر مكرر (أبو عويس) ٥ كيلو Abu Awais refine sugar 5kg SAVE 36.13% 1 RIAL .550 0 RIAL .990	زيت دوار الشمس (نور) ١.٥ لتر Noor sunflower 1.5L 2 Pieces SAVE 39.70% 3 RIAL .300 1 RIAL .990
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لبنه بالزيت متنوعة Labneh with oil assorted PER KG DISCOUNT 37% 2 RIAL .990 1 RIAL .890	سجق مصري Sausage Egypt PER KG DISCOUNT 36% 3 RIAL .400 2 RIAL .190	موزاديليا جيش متنوعة (طولكرم)، الأردن Tulkarm Smoked turkey assorted, Jordan PER KG DISCOUNT 39% 2 RIAL .790 1 RIAL .690	كفتة لحم بقر Beef kofta PER KG DISCOUNT 32% 3 RIAL .200 2 RIAL .190
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Mazoon College Receives American International Accreditation

35 nationalities
hold Mazoon
Degree with
the highest
employment rate

MUSCAT: Mazoon College, under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education since 1997, affiliated with Missouri S&T and Purdue University Northwest, USA attains “Full accreditation status” from American International Accreditation Association of Schools and Colleges (AIAASC) on 30th March 2021. Mazoon College is also accredited by ASIC (Accreditation Service for International Colleges), UK based accreditation agency (Premier Class) in 2019 and is a member of AACSB since 2019.

As an academic leader, it's a matter of pride that the Mazoon College once again steps forward as a leader in quality education and academic innovation. Mazoon is the first ever academic institution in middle east which received an approval of Accreditation from AIAASC. AIAASC Founded in 1992 by American Educational Consulting Associates or American European Community Association.

“The accreditation process took place for the 8 standard; which includes 116 indicators all together. The assessment was based on the review of the application, documents (supportive evidences) provided, focus group interview and individual interviews for the higher management and governance level” said Dr. Ronald Kovach, Executive Director, AIAASC.

Dr. Kovach also said that AIAASC standards are set or designed based on the European American Regional Accreditation standard and Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) in US”.

Accreditation Team

The accreditation team consisted of members Dr. Scott Blair (PhD, University of Paris), AIAASC, Team Leader, Dr. John Aziz, Associate Director, AIAASC, Dr. Ronald Kovach, Executive Director, AIAASC & an alumni of Harvard University, Dr. John Rogers (Ph. D. Economic Development, Johns Hopkins University & Professor of Economics at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts) AIAASC, Board Member and Leadership, and Ms. Rosanne Samir, Director of Accreditation & Quality Assurance,



Prof. Juma Saleh Al Ghailani, Founder & Chairman of Mazoon College

- AIAASC granted Full Accreditation Status for a period of five years.
- First HEI to get AIAASC Full Accreditation with 5-star rating in the Middle East.
- Accreditation process took place for 8 standards; which includes 116 indicators allowed in premises.



Dr. Ronald Kovach, Executive Director, AIAASC



Dr. Scott Blair, Team Leader



Dr. John Rogers, Board Member

zoon College with rich academic standard, extremely qualified and skilled faculties offer programs (Post Graduate, Graduate, Associate Degree & Foundation) in the discipline of Economics & Business Studies, Computer and Informatics, English literature & Humanities and certainly is the first multi-disciplinary College in Sultanate to be assessed and accredited with such a highest American honors.

tional Integrity and overall analysis to guarantee the teaching and learning process is effective and result oriented.

Interview with accreditation panel

In an exclusive interview with the Executive Director of the American International Accreditation Association of Schools and Colleges (AIAA) Dr. Ronald Kovach said that Mazoon College did well

practices in academic institutions in Europe and US hence making Mazoon as one of the academic institutions in the Middle East to attain universal standards.

“At Mazoon College, there is consistence in maintaining academic standards that is benchmarked with international best practices in teaching and learning and consistence in seeking further improvement at.” Said Dr. Rogers

He revealed that the College's

cation Institutions.

In the accreditation process, the panel members, meticulously analysed and reviewed the resourceful measure benefiting the students and faculty, Mazoon College approach towards the academic integrity and research, the quality of teaching content and most importantly, the COVID-19 Protocol, the scheduled interaction sessions with the students, faculty members and non-academic staff were highly appreciated by the Accreditation team members.

The panel members like, Dr. Ronald Kovach, Executive Director, AIAASC & an alumni of Harvard University said in the interview that, “the Mazoon College is quite up-to the mark in all academic standards, undoubtedly, one of the premier academic institution in Oman”. Other comments from Dr. Scott Blair, Team Leader, AIAASC and Dr. John Rogers, Board Member, AIAASC were pointing out the features of the Mazoon College like the facilities and infrastructure, assessment criteria, contribution and responsibilities towards the society, academic research and above all enhancing the skill based teaching pedagogy, specifically.

All the comments clearly specify the performance of the Mazoon College in maintaining the high academic standard in the country and producing skilled graduates to serve the Omani society. Dr. Blair pointed out that International student's community at Mazoon act as a point of reference on cross-cultural and multicultural studies as an important aspect of the curriculum in Higher Education Institutions as these students bring in their diverse and stimulating experiences in international teaching and learning.

“In addition to the highest grade achieved by Mazoon College in AIAASC accreditation, Mazoon College also well maintains the diverse culture and also emphasis on the recruitment and support to the Omani citizens by providing job opportunities and being a part of higher education system. At the

same time the College maintained a high degree of academic integrity while virtual teaching”, QAO office.

On this occasion, the senior management of Mazoon College congratulates the efforts of staff, faculty members, students and parents and alumni of Mazoon College and said: “We have every reason to be pleased with the confirmation of accreditation”. This accreditation is proof that the Mazoon College is committed to providing high quality education to its students.

According to the official from the College, Mazoon College has students of different nationalities coming from countries such as China, India, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE among others. The diversity in the student community at Mazoon College was specifically identified as an attribute that contributes to student learning outcomes of diversity and tolerance in a global learning environment.

Mazoon College is a private academic institution that has operated under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education since 1997. It was established to provide higher education nationally and internationally in different fields. At present, it has thirteen programs at undergraduate level.

“The College gives high school graduates, international students, and employees the chance to gain the educational skills and the high technology to cope with the ever-changing modern development. The College, from its first establishment, has made firm steps towards the qualitative development of its performance to provide prestigious services. It is also aware of the need to conduct full review and continuous evaluation of its progression. It always seeks to provide itself with high quality academic and administrative staff and the addition of new majors required by the community and to develop its already existing capabilities”, as per the website.



AIAASC. The achievement patently indicates that the Mazoon College is bearing a quality standard in specific categories of Teaching, Academic Research, Employability and Inclusiveness.

It's truly a feather to Mazoon's cap as it prides over being awarded the prestigious ranking given to colleges. In the accreditation process, the highest priority was given to qualitative indicators. The College was called to upload the evidences which were subsequently verified by the accreditation team of experts. Ma-

Accreditation Standards

AIAASC assessment process took place on the basis of a diverse standards such as Standard 1: Vision, Mission and Values. Standard 2: Student Learning, Development, and Achievement. Standard 3: Instructional Design, Delivery and Assessment. Standard 4: Students Support Services. Standard 5: Leadership, Governance, and Administration. Standard 6: Facilities, Safety and Maintenance. Standard 7: Quality Assurance and Institutional Effectiveness and Standard 8: Ethics and Institu-

in ensuring the implementation of the 116 criteria set by AIAA on best practices in Higher Education Institutions.

He also added that AIAA is a not-for-profit organization that accredits schools and colleges across the globe and its accreditation helps schools and colleges focus their improvement on areas that have the greatest impact on student improvement.

According to Dr. Kovach, it was found that the academic standards of Mazoon College is in line with the required international best

research culture was rated highly because of a research management plan and policies that encourage both the faculty staff and students to engage in research and professional development.

Dr. Rogers also hailed Mazoon College's integration of technology for teaching and learning as a 21st Century requirement in Higher Education Institutions.

According to Dr. Scott Blair one of the panellists in AIAA diversity and tolerance is an important cultural value that enhances the richness of the quality of Higher Edu-

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES

Adequate stock of livestocks being imported into Oman

MUSCAT: Dr Yahya bin Amer Abdullah Al Ma'wali, Director General of Animal Wealth at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources said that 60,000 sheep and 6,700 cattle were expected to arrive in the Sultanate in the next two weeks.

The import of sheep and cattle comes at the advent of the month of Ramadan and Eid. Thirty-eight permits have been issued since April 1, he said, adding that the number of live sheep and cattle imported since the beginning of April amounted to 57,120 sheep and 1,970 cattle mainly from Somalia, Sudan and Australia.

He said that the Ministry has taken a number of steps and measures to maintain food security and making available adequate resources of food items to ensure smooth food supply chain.

The Ministry is also working on offering a number of incentives and facilities to ensure the steady inflow of food items to the local markets, he said.



The percentage of local production's contribution in animal products in the Sultanate amounted to 51 per cent of red meat, 54 per cent of poultry and 57 per cent of table egg and 67 per cent in dairy products, he added.

The Ministry in coordination with the national companies operating in import of sheep and cattle is working on offering all facilities to such companies in order to meet the requirements of the local market, he added. —ONA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH

Electronic system for membership of clubs launched

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, represented by the Directorate General of Sports Activities, held a meeting with representatives of the clubs to unveil the initial trial presentation of the electronic system for management of the membership of clubs. It is aimed to regulate membership records of the clubs and to facilitate membership procedures and its renewal. —ONA

tion of the electronic system for management of the membership of clubs. It is aimed to regulate membership records of the clubs and to facilitate membership procedures and its renewal. —ONA



CELEBRATE Rose Season

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ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS

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

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

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

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

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

HELP MAKE OMAN CLEAN AND GREEN.







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Tender Announcement

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel invites interested Companies to quote for following sealed Bid Tender.

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1. Remodeling bathrooms of tower rooms	April 21, 2021	Project 1&2 – OMR 50/- per Document
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3. Supply of Minibars	Project 3&4 – OMR 25/- per Document	
4. Supply of glass washing machines		

Companies of excellent grade having proven track record in this area may obtain detailed Scope of Work from Finance Department by Paying the Tender Fee and collect documents from Sunday, April 11, 2021 onwards between 10:00 – 14:00 hours.

For site visit, please contact Mr. Ehab Zaki, Director of Engineering @ 9808 9037, the site visit is scheduled on Wednesday, 14.04.2021 @ 11.00AM

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HERITAGE

National Museum to have space dedicated to late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Museum will inaugurate a corner dedicated to the memory of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour.

ing this year the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the House of “Al-Amani” Museum. It’s the first Omani museum housing the cultural heritage in Zanzibar. Jamal bin Hassan Al Mousawi, Secretary General of the National Museum, said: “The museum will inaugurate a corner in the memory

of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and a number of old houses in Muscat will be renovated to form an integrated cultural and tourism hub.” Al Mousawi added: “Oman’s cultural diplomacy contributed to the borrowing of the original manuscript of Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi, from the Institute of

Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences which is more than 500 years old. The original manuscripts of Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi from the Al Assad Library in Syria was also borrowed and a corner of the Sultanate was inaugurated in the ancient Winter Palace in Russia.”



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Private firms can reserve vaccines for their staff: CMA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) has allowed the companies operating in the private sector to reserve COVID-19 vaccines for their employees, according to an official from the Capital Market Authority (CMA). Speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*, an official from the CMA confirmed on April 5, 2021, that the Authority issued a circular addressed to the CEOs and Directors General of companies and insurance brokers stating, “An extension of the initiatives of companies operating in the insurance sector to enhance the societal efforts made to deal with coronavirus and the effects resulting from it, we would like to inform you that we have received a letter from the Ministry of Health to address the companies operating in the sector if they wish to reserve quantities of vaccine for their employees.”



The companies will have to bear the cost of the vaccine which is OMR20 per person, including all fees for the Pfizer vaccine, according to the ministry.

The circular added, “However, the companies will have to bear the cost of the vaccine which is OMR20 per person, including all fees for the Pfizer vaccine, according to the ministry.” The circular pointed out, “It should be noted that the Ministry of Health is making great effort

to provide the vaccine in light of the great international competition to obtain it. The ministry has concluded agreements with specialised international companies and the International Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) in coordination with the World Health Organization and UNICEF to obtain adequate quantities of it.” The circular added, “We hope that the companies that want to benefit from this programme will email their data with the number of targeted employees to the Directorate General of Medical Supplies’ official email address - dgms-office@moh.gov.om.”



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Gun salutes fired to pay tribute to Prince Philip

The Duke of Edinburgh, the longest-serving royal consort in British history, died on Friday, aged 99, at Windsor Castle

LONDON: Gun salutes were fired across the UK on Saturday to honor the life of Prince Philip as people laid cards and bouquets outside Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle to pay their respects. British armed forces marked Philip's death at noon (1100 GMT) with a Death Gun Salute. Artillery units in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and Gibraltar, while several navy warships fired their guns.

The Duke of Edinburgh, the longest-serving royal consort in British history, died on Friday, aged 99, at Windsor Castle.

Queen Elizabeth II, 94, had once described her husband of 73 years as her "strength and stay" throughout her reign. He had been a constant presence at her side for decades.

What was the response to Prince Philip's death?

The royal family had issued a request to the public to adhere to COVID-19 social distancing rules and avoid visits to their homes. Nevertheless, people lined up outside royal residences to lay flowers. "What a life! Thank you for serving our country," read one tribute outside Buckingham Palace. "We're all weeping with you, Ma'am," read the front page of British tabloid The Sun. The



GUN SALUTE: British armed forces marked Philip's death at noon (1100 GMT) with a Death Gun Salute.

Daily Mail ran a 144-page tribute to Philip, Philip, who had been ill for some time, spent more than a month in hospital from February 16, being treated for a preexisting heart condition and an infection. He was later released on March 16. The queen announced Philip's passing "with deep sorrow" after he died peacefully on Friday.

What do we know about the funeral?

Buckingham Palace is expected to announce details of Philip's funeral, code-named Operation Fourth Bridge, later on Saturday. It is likely to be a small and private event due to coronavirus restrictions and in accordance with Philip's personal wishes for a scaled-back event.

"During the coronavirus pandemic, and in light of current

government advice and social distancing guidelines, modified funeral and ceremonial arrangements for His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh are being considered by Her Majesty The Queen," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. "Details will be confirmed in due course." Philip would have normally been entitled to a state funeral.

Under the UK's current coronavirus restrictions, up to 30 guests might be permitted to attend the funeral, DW correspondent Charlotte Chelsom-Pill says.

Where are Harry and Meghan?

Some UK media outlets say Philip's grandson Prince Harry is likely to make his first return to the UK since he moved to the US last year with his LA-born wife, Meghan.

"Thank you for your service... you will be greatly missed," the couple wrote on the website of their Archewell charitable foundation. Chelsom-Pill told DW that "a lot of people" are wondering if the couple would attend the funeral.

Their interview with Oprah Winfrey last month had triggered a flurry of debates including reports of racist comments at Buckingham Palace.

"We are expecting that Prince Harry will attend the funeral, though he is likely expected to go through COVID-19 measures such as quarantine... or present a COVID-19 negative test," Chelsom-Pill told DW, adding that there is stronger uncertainty about whether Markle, who is pregnant, would return to the UK under pandemic circumstances. **DW**

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CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Pfizer and BioNTech ask for emergency approval to vaccinate US adolescents

NEW YORK: Pfizer and BioNTech requested the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday for an amendment to its emergency use authorisation of its COVID-19 vaccine, to expand its use for children ages 12 to 15 in the United States.

According to The Hill, the move would expand the FDA's emergency approval for the vaccine, which is currently only available for those 16 and older. The two companies said they plan to request similar age extensions from other regulatory authorities worldwide in the coming days. Pfizer and BioNTech cited research unveiled last month that found its vaccine is 100 per cent effective in children ages 12 to 15.

"The companies plan to request similar rulings by other regulatory authorities worldwide in coming days. These requests are based on data from the pivotal Phase 3 trial in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age with or without prior evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection, which demonstrated 100 per cent efficacy and robust antibody response after vaccination with the COVID-19 Vaccine, an official statement from the two companies read.

Topline results from an efficacy analysis on 12 to 15-year-old participants through cases accrued by March 31, 2021, from the Phase 3 trial were recently announced. In this analysis, the



companies said that its vaccine "was well tolerated with side effects generally consistent with those observed in participants 16 to 25 years of age."

It also stated that all participants in the trial will continue to be monitored for long-term protection and safety for an additional two years after their second dose. Pfizer and BioNTech previously said they would file for emergency use authorization as soon as possible, and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said he hoped to start vaccinating 12- to 15-year-olds before the start of the next school year.

As per The Hill, last month, Moderna announced that it started testing its vaccine on children between the ages of six months and 12 years old in a study in the U.S. and Canada. More than 90.2 million Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine doses have been administered in the U.S., more than the almost 80 million Moderna vaccine doses and the nearly 5 million Johnson & Johnson doses, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data. **ANI**

SHAN STATE

10 policemen killed in attack by Myanmar ethnic armies



POLICE ATTACKED: Fighters from the Arakan Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army attacked Naungmon police station.

NAYPYITAW: An alliance of ethnic armies in Myanmar on Saturday attacked a police station in northeastern Shan state, killing at least 10 officers, local media reported.

Fighters from the Arakan Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, who oppose the country's military crackdown on anti-coup protests, attacked Naungmon police station. Shan News reported that at least 10 policemen were killed, while the Shwe Phye Myay news agency put the death toll at 14.

About a dozen armed groups have condemned Myanmar's military as illegitimate and pledged to stand with the country's protesters as violence intensifies, opening up the prospect of a much deadlier civil war. The militias have waged separate insurgencies against the junta since the end of British rule in 1948.

Death toll surges in junta crackdown

Reports also emerged Saturday of deadly violence in the city of Bago, 65 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of Yangon. A daylong crackdown by government troops and police in the city forced many residents to flee to nearby villages.

About 10 people were killed, the Bago Weekly Journal Online reported, citing a local source.

Other media reports have put the death toll in Bago far higher.

A resident told French news agency AFP that at least 40 protesters were killed in the crackdown. "They piled up all the dead bodies, loaded them into their army truck and drove it away," he said, adding that authorities then arrested several people around the community. AFP-verified footage shot Friday showed protesters hiding behind sandbag barricades with homemade rifles as explosions could be heard in

the background.

Military violence was also reported Friday in several other areas, including Loikaw, the capital of Kayah state in the east, where live ammunition was said to have been deployed.

UN ambassador urges concrete action

In response to the uptick in violence, Myanmar's ambassador to the UN appealed for a no-fly zone, an arms embargo and more targeted sanctions against junta members and their families.

"Your collective, strong action is needed immediately," Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun told the UN Security Council meeting on Friday. "Time is of the essence for us," he said. "Please, please take action."

The International Crisis Group also warned the council that Myanmar was "at the brink of state failure." **DW**

VIOLENT UNREST

Police attacked during fresh violence in Northern Ireland

DUBLIN: Appeals for calm from Ireland, the United States and the European Union have so far fallen on deaf ears in Northern Ireland as it endured its eighth night of violent unrest on Friday.

The Belfast Telegraph reported that Molotov cocktails, bricks and other items were thrown at police in the Tiger's Bay area in the north of the city, while several bins and a car were set on fire. A large number of police vehicles gathered with officers in riot gear and police dogs.

Local media also reported that stones were thrown at police in the nearby New Lodge area.

Police urged the public to avoid the scene, whilst also calling for calm.

Marches halted due to Prince Philip's death

The most significant unrest in recent years in the British-ruled province has mainly stemmed from its pro-UK unionist contingent, angry over apparent economic hardship due to Brexit and building on existing tensions with pro-Irish nationalist communities.

On Friday, marches had been planned in unionist communities in Belfast — but they were canceled after hearing that Prince Philip had died.



A hastily erected placard in one unionist neighborhood said that "protests are postponed as a mark of respect to the Queen and the Royal Family."

The placard promised "opposition" to the consequences of Brexit "and all the other injustices" would continue "after a period of mourning."

Crowds of hooded youths and young men have taken to the streets nightly since the beginning of the month, injuring at least 55 police officers and setting fire to a moving bus earlier this week.

Escalation fears

Concerns arose that the lull in violence may only be temporary after a man living in the unionist com-

munity in Belfast showed news agency AFP a message in circulation calling for "a major escalation over the weekend."

"I'm worried about the weekend ahead," said Michelle O'Neill, Northern Ireland's deputy first minister and leader of nationalist party Sinn Féin, to reporters on Friday.

"I do think it's really incumbent upon us all to be very conscious of the fact that we need to be respectful of each other."

The UK's Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis has met officials, including unionist First Minister Arlene Foster and O'Neill, in Belfast — but political appeals have so far failed to stymie the unrest. **DW**

INGENUITY MARS HELICOPTER

NASA's Mars Helicopter to make first flight attempt on Sunday

WASHINGTON: NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter is two days away from making humanity's first attempt at powered, controlled flight of an aircraft on another planet. If all proceeds as planned, the 4-pound (1.8-kg) rotorcraft is expected to take off from Mars' Jezero Crater on Sunday at 12:30 pm local Mars solar time, hovering 10 feet (3 metres) above the surface for up to 30 seconds.

Mission control specialists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

in Southern California expect to receive the first data from the first flight attempt the following morning at around 4:15 a.m. EDT (1:15 a.m. PDT).

NASA TV will air live coverage of the team as they receive the data, with commentary beginning at 3:30 a.m. EDT (12:30 a.m. PDT).

"While Ingenuity carries no science instruments, the little helicopter is already making its presence felt across the world, as future

leaders follow its progress toward an unprecedented first flight," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for science at NASA Headquarters. "We do tech demos like this to push the envelope of our experience and provide something on which the next missions and the next generation can build. Just as Ingenuity was inspired by the Wright brothers, future explorers will take off using both the data and inspiration from this mission." **ANI**

INDIA'S EXPORTS RISE

India's goods exports posted a 297.2 per cent increase (year-on-year) in the first seven days of this fiscal to \$6.79 billion and by 8.42 per cent (YoY) over the corresponding period of 2019-20.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



KHEDMAH APP

Oman Investment and Finance Company's (OIFC) Khedmah mobile app has accomplished a new milestone by surpassing half a million downloads within a short period.

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Muscat Stock Exchange formed, will undertake all MSM activities

The Muscat Stock Exchange will operate under the umbrella of the Oman Investment Authority, which has been established to provide financial solutions to the Sultanate's diverse and growing economic demands



INCREASING FDIS: The MSX with the support of OIA will work to increase Oman's Foreign Direct Investments.

Sultanate's national economy.

The transformation of the market to a closed Omani joint stock company will enhance the investment development process, both by providing an effective platform full of opportunities for listing and trading securities, as well as supporting diversity in economic development plans and ensuring the sustainability of financial instruments.

Leading role

With this transformation, MSX aspires to take a leading role in the regional as well international securities arena through various innovative initiatives aimed at developing the stock exchange with transparency, governance, improved companies performance, increased operational effectiveness and the issuance of new investment opportunities and instruments, for the benefit of both local and international investors.

On this occasion, Sheikh Abdullah bin Salem Al Salmi, Executive President of the Capital Market Authority (CMA), expressed that the decision has been a momentous declaration and a monumental step in the development of the Omani capital market.

He also expressed that today's date will be recorded in history as an important milestone in Oman's capital market journey.

"Creating of MSX as an independent institution owned by the OIA, is a step that represents a qualitative leap that shall bring upon us a new era of development followed by the developments in the entire economic framework of the Sultanate," he said.

This step is also in line with the global best practices of governance, which include providing exchanges with independent legislative structure in order for them to perform better and in a more professional and transparent manner.

Al Salmi expressed that the transformation of the Exchange into an independent company, comes at an important stage that the Sultanate is going through in light of the Renewed Renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and the renewed vision of Oman 2040.

"We are certain that this step will help improve the market further and provide a platform for market forces to flourish in order to derive desired results necessary for the development of our investment climate and provide us with a more diversified market," he added.

Al Salmi said that this is the first step towards the transition of MSX into becoming a public listed company on our securities platform, in future, keeping in line with the global best practices.

"We are optimistic that this step will achieve the goals set for it, and allow the exchange sufficient freedom, necessary to manage its affairs with improved and faster decision-making powers. In addition to being able to adapt innovative marketing practices for the promotion of its products and services," he further added.

The performance of the stock exchange will be subject to the standards of good governance, regulations and legislation that ensure its good performance and enhance its ability in the face of re-

OIA announces Board of Directors of MSX



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) announced on Thursday (April 8, 2021) the formation of the Board of Directors of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).

The meeting was chaired by Mohammed bin Mahfood Al Ardhi, Executive Chairman of Investcorp, a global financial institution specialising in alternative investment, Abdullah bin Saleh Al-Suwailmy, former CEO of the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul), Ronald Schwinn, the Managing Director and Shareholder at Sygnum Bank, Singapore and Zurich, Imad Kamal Sultan, Imad

progressed in various position within the WJ Towell Group and its subsidiaries and is currently the Groups Vice Chairman, Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Dr Hatim bin Bakhit Al Shanfari, a faculty member in the Department of Economics and Finance at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), in addition to two representatives of the authority Samra Bint Sulaiman Al Harthy, Director of investment and Economic Research at Oman Investment authority and Mathla Bint Saleh Al Shaqsi, is a senior Associate, Investments at Oman Investment Authority.

gional and global competitiveness, Al Salmi said.

This independence also enhances the role of CMA as a regulator and as a supervisory body in a way that leads to protecting investors by raising the efficiency of the stock exchange and trading operations, while achieving more transparency, making the market more efficient and more accountable which will in turn lead to enhancing investor confidence in the market. This will create a cycle of trust and attractiveness in the

global investment arena for the local capital market, he said.

Vital role

Al Salmi affirmed that the stock market plays a vital role in contemporary economies, as it is the benchmark of the country's financial and economic systems, and an effective engine for economic growth through its ability to employ domestic savings and other financial surpluses to finance projects and investment initiatives offered by the private sector or

cover the government's financing needs to implement comprehensive development projects and programmes.

"Ideally, it's the country's exchange that leads the economic activity by providing liquidity, capital allocation and enhancement of future economic growth prospects," he added.

Mohammed bin Mahfood Al Ardhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the MSX, stated that this day is a historic milestone in the march of the securities sector in the Sultanate of Oman, a new start for its financial market and a next stage of growth and development.

To reach a solid and sober ground that enables this renewable institution to move forward towards prosperity, providing its services efficiently and following the best practices and international standards, he said.

The chairman of the Board of Directors affirmed that the MSX has sufficient resources that it will work on to develop the stock market sector by offering and presenting new investment products and services that meet the aspirations of investors, and working with all relevant parties to overcome obstacles and turn challenges into opportunities that enhance the stock's position on the investment map.

Al Ardhi said, "The stock exchanges are one of the basic infrastructure institutions for economies and their presence as companies gives them the independence and flexibility they need to organise their business and follow the profit-based commercial approach without prejudice to the main principles and the provision of all services with high efficiency and effectiveness."

He also added that in the light of the changes taking place in the Oman economy and the direction of the government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, through Oman 2040 Vision, to further empower the private sector to take its real role in leading the national economy, and the existence of a fully-fledged stock exchange will contribute in one way or another to Enhancing the hoped-for role of the private sector.

MADAYN INITIATIVE

Sur Industrial City reveals prospects for nanotechnology-related industries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry visited recently Sur Industrial City, which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn.

The visit aimed at highlighting the efforts made to link the academic and industrial sectors, bridge the outputs of higher education institutions with the needs of the investing companies in the industrial cities of Madayn, encourage cooperation in the fields of scientific research and innovation



between the ministry and the industrial cities and facilitate training opportunities for higher education students in the companies and factories based in Madayn's industrial cities.

During the visit, Eng. Abdulqadir bin Salim Al Balushi, Director General of Sur Industrial City, stated that the industrial city is situated on a strategic location on a total

area of 36,100,000 million sqm and is home to major projects as well as Small and Medium Enterprises in various sectors. Sur Industrial City also enjoys the presence of several service projects such as Sur Gate, Hay Al Sharooq Residential Complex, and Hay Al Sharooq International School. "The masterplan of Sur Industrial City comprises key sectors and projects such as the

commercial port (5 million sqm), warehouse and logistics sector (2.63 million sqm), heavy industries sector (2.65 million sqm), light and medium industries sector (2.61 million sqm), commercial activities sector (0.9 million sqm), residential sector (3.26 million sqm), and IT sector (1.10 million sqm)," Al Balushi pointed out.

The delegation was introduced to the Nano City project which will comprise nanotechnology-related industries on an area of one million sqm focusing on 11 sectors which are cosmetics and personal care; raw materials and chemicals; agriculture, pesticides and biocides; electrical and electronic equipment; healthcare; recycling and waste; textile industry; polymer industry; food industries; building materials; and machinery and metrology, in addition to commercial and residential projects.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

National Detergent Co. reports 44% rise in profit after tax

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Detergent Company announced strong financial results with profit after tax rising 44 per cent. The diluted earnings per share increased from 36 baisas to 52 baisas.

Drug products

Net cash flow from operating profit also increased to OMR2.5 million. With the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the company produced its first Ministry of Health-registered drug products and is positioned to support the needs of the citizens and residents of Oman.

NDC is leading the way to producing products in Oman for Omanis, local residents and tour-

ists. When Omani people demand products like Farah hand sanitiser versus products made in other countries, the country benefits in numerous ways, says Bill Hunt, Chief Executive Officer of NDC. "Omanis responded very well to Farah hand sanitiser due to its highly favoured rose fragrance and noting the high quality of the product that is registered and approved by MOH and carries a "Drug Facts" label. Consumers move towards a healthier tomorrow when they choose and use sanitisers with the drug facts label on the back," says Hunt.

NDC is the home of Oman's most trusted brand "Bahar" laundry detergent, washing powder and other "Made in Oman" products.

MARKET

Khedmah app surpasses half a million downloads

This benchmark underscores the trust bestowed upon OIFC by the beneficiaries due to the variety of its seamless and top-notch services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Investment and Finance Company's (OIFC) Khedmah mobile app has accomplished a new milestone by surpassing half a million downloads within a short period.

This benchmark underscores the trust bestowed upon the company by the beneficiaries due to the variety of its seamless and top-notch services. It also reinstates the company's leading position in the field of billing, collection and debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services.

During the past period, the number of Khedmah users witnessed a noticeable rise due to the increased societal awareness about the application's various effective and beneficial services. Ease of use, flexibility, along with paying all bills at the push of a button through a mobile phone, were paramount factors for the growing demand. Furthermore, it is considered a safe option to pay bills using the app instead of visiting the branch during these unprecedented times in the Sultanate.

The company's constant effort to employ technologies in its services resonates with the Sultanate's objectives to encourage digital transformation within the



“

We are delighted to achieve this milestone which serves as a testament to our continuous endeavours toward providing full-fledged and user-friendly services

Said Ahmed Safrar
Chief Executive Officer of OIFC

community, government and private entities. Adopting such an approach would be necessary to keep up with the latest technological advancement emerging in the world. Digital transformation is an essential requirement for modern lifestyles as it will improve the operational efficiency of companies and facilitate the services provided to beneficiaries in all fields.

Speaking on the achievement, Said Ahmed Safrar, Chief Executive Officer of OIFC said, “We are delighted to achieve this milestone which serves as a testament to our continuous endeavours toward providing full-fledged and user-friendly services that are in line with the latest developments in the sector. This accomplishment will certainly reinforce our determination to continue our journey toward excellence and

development through the utilisation of the best technological advancement in this field.”

“Our desired objective is to provide a unique experience to our clients that meets their expectations. This is by improving the efficiency of our operations and enhancing the effectiveness of the provided services by making them safe, fast and easy. In the near future, a number of effective services will be further introduced to enrich the user's experience and cement the company's prestigious position in the market,” he further stated.

Khedmah app was launched in 2016 as part of OIFC efforts to enhance its services and deliver an easy experience for all stakeholders across the Sultanate. The application provides an integrated and seamless platform that offer

electronic payment solutions for establishments, citizens and residents. Through the application, users can pay and check electricity, water and telecommunications bills as well as making payment to the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI). Additionally, top-up phone, pre-paid electricity, and other services, through smartphones without the need to visit the company's branches to pay or follow up on monthly bills.

Established in 1979, OIFC is one of the leading Investment and Services Company and specialises in billing, collection & debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services in the Sultanate of Oman. The company's various payment channels allow customers to easily pay their electricity, water and telecommunications bills.

L&T Construction wins major EPC order in Saudi Arabia

Times News Service

RIYADH: The Renewables arm of Larsen & Toubro's Power Transmission & Distribution Business has secured a turnkey EPC Contract, from the consortium of ACWA Power and the Water and Electricity Holding Company (a subsidiary of the Public Investments Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF)), for Sudair Solar PV Project of 1.5GW capacity. This project is considered the largest solar plant in Saudi Arabia with PPA signed. It is also one of the largest such plants in the world.

The project that is coming up in Riyadh Province has a 30.8 square kilometre land parcel available to install a total capacity of 1.5GW PV Solar modules with associated single axial tracker and inverters.

The ambitions of Saudi Arabia's National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) are on track. As part of the NREP, Sudair Solar PV Project is awarded to PIF and its partner, ACWA Power. This project is part of the 70% of the target capacity of 58.7 GW of the Kingdom assigned to Public Investment Fund (PIF), while Renewable Energy Project Development Office (REPDO) would undertake competitive tendering for the remaining 30 per cent, as announced by the Ministry of Energy in 2019.

“With several GWs of solar EPC experience, L&T has emerged as a global technology player for solar plants, said S. N. Subrahmanyam, CEO & Managing Director, Larsen & Toubro. “L&T has been a provider of EPC services for several green projects in recent years. We are India's largest EPC company to build hydel power plants, the largest market player to build nuclear power plants with a total capability of 9360 MWe, including some ongoing projects, on an EPC turnkey basis with the capacity to



S. N. Subrahmanyam

make important critical components like steam turbines, generators, end shields and other critical equipment. We have the largest market share of the Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) units for fossil fuel power plants. L&T has over 2.1 GW of Utility Scale Solar projects commissioned and are also operating and maintaining several of them. We have a diversified renewable portfolio of 32MW Floating Solar Power Plants, 135 MWH of Battery Energy Storage projects, 500 Micro Grids and 14000 Solar Water Pumps. L&T is also working on potential solutions related to Green Hydrogen and Carbon Capture & Storage technologies. Securing this project is a major milestone in our clean and green energy path to fight the climate crisis that the world faces,” he added.

Commenting on the development, T. Madhava Das, Whole-Time Director & Senior Executive Vice President (Utilities), L&T said “KSA aims to become a pioneer in Renewable Energy and we are happy to be a part of this journey. We have been building efficient power transmission and distribution networks with modern substations and transmission lines in this region for more than 2 decades. This is yet another recognition of our capabilities to construct mega projects to speed and scale.”

WEBINAR

World Security expands its service offerings

DUBAI: DP World, UAE Region's next-generation service provider, World Security hosted key customers and stakeholders on a webinar to educate customers about the services provided by the entity and the numerous advantages of operating in Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza). The virtual event was organised following the success of the first webinar that took place last year.

Held on April 7, the webinar highlighted World Security's journey since its inception in 1975, with a primary focus on the expansion of a wide range of services including, AYDI Manpower Solutions introduced in 2018 and Soft Services – Facility Management (FM) launched in 2020. Through their newest offerings, World Security will provide cleaning and disinfection ser-

vices, sterilisation, housekeeping, and other outsourced services.

Maintaining maximum safety and adhering to the guidelines put forth by the local authorities has always been a top priority for the entity. However, taking into account the rapidly increasing demand for cleaning and disinfection services in recent times, the entity has heavily invested in providing top-notch services.

GOODS EXPORTS

India's exports rise by 297% in first week of April

NEW DELHI: India's goods exports posted a 297.2 per cent increase (year-on-year) in the first seven days of this fiscal to \$6.79 billion and by 8.42 per cent (YoY) over the corresponding period of 2019-20.

Imports in the first week of 2021-22 (April 1-7) increased 244.2 per cent to \$ 9.66 billion and decreased by 0.65 per cent (year-on-year) over 2019-20 during the week.

The data showed that the export of engineering goods showed an increase of 209.65 per cent (year-on-year) over 2020-21 and of 8.4 per cent year-on-year over 2019-20.

Exports of gems and jewellery and petroleum products also increased.

The US and China accounted for most of the rise in exports during the seven-day period.

The imports included petroleum crude and products and electronic goods.

UAE and China accounted for a large part of the increase in imports.

Data

The data showed that some of the increase was offset by the decrease in imports of silver, fertilisers, crude and newsprint.

The country's exports and imports in April last year were impacted by the situation created by COVID-19. -ANI

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Indian male fresh MBA graduate in finance seeking entry level placement as accountant/admin. D/L available. Contact 91209360
Email amxrasad@gmail.com

Finance / Accounts - Male M.com, CFA Level One, DTM with 24 Years of experience in Oman. Accounting, Finance, Banking, Insurance, Logistics, Taxation, ERP. Join shortly by release. Contact 99668649,
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Indian Male, B.Com, MBA, 10 Yrs experience in accounts & export co-ordination with Focus, Oracle & Tally seeks suitable placement. NOC, D/L available. Mob : 98747867

Senior Accountant Sri Lankan 20+years Oman experience.Looking for suitable placement. Contact 99630192

Indian Male, MBA Finance*, 10+yrs. Exp (Oman & India) in Accounts. Good command over Tally & VAT. Contact 94775716,
Email abm815@gmail.com

Indian MBA finance with 3 yrs Oman experience in accounting.NOC available. Contact 79396446.
Email sheroofsabu@gmail.com

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

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Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

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alya_alsiyabi93@outlook.com

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Contact No. 92180869
E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

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

MEP Mechanical engineer with 2 year exp. Contact 79027224

Civil Engineer, 10 years in Muscat, Client Meeting, AutoCAD, Quotation, Tender, High-rise Com/Res, Villas Maintenance. Having D/L and NOC. Contact 97431611

Indian Male, Diploma in Computer Engineering, 3 years' experience Worked as a System administrator & Support Engineer looking for a suitable job. Presently on visit. Contact 94243856/93894634 rashadmuhammed20@gmail.com

Indian BE civil Engineer, 26, male, 2yrs exp in building construction with Oman D/L looking for a suitable opportunity. Contact 96512025

Electrical engineer, 7 years experience, HV/LV Projects, safety courses, approved by MEDC Tanweer, O&G experience,D/L, GSM: 79474387

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

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

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

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

Civil engineer with 9 years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

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

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian B.Tech Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/ MEP engineer. NOC available. Contact 99873092 Email ranjithr17@gmail.com

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

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

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male procurement, purchase officer having Bachelor degree in Mechanical engineering, 5 yrs experience in UAE in Electrical & Construction company & having UAE D/L. Looking for suitable job. Contact 98227904
Email nrangra@rediffmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

SALES / MARKETING

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

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

Indian Male, having over 20 years experience in sales support and Arabic English translation in Automotive industry seeks suitable placement. Contact 968 99776201. Email ajmal.aleem@gmail.com

Indian male (30) MBA with oman Experience (FMCG and other) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on Visit. Contact +968 7975 5795

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

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

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

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

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

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SPORTS



Kail, Shakeel win premier awards as cricket season comes to an end

The Supreme Committee had suspended sports activities due to rise in coronavirus cases in the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Super bat Kail Khalid of Al Turki NMC was adjudged best batsman while left arm spinner Shakeel Ahmad of IT Works bagged the best bowler award as Oman Cricket (OC) drew curtains on 2020-21 season after Supreme Committee suspended sports activities last month, the second time in a year, due to rise in coronavirus cases in the country. Before announcing the season's toppers, OC called off the A Division's T20 League as well as the Ramadan T10 Bash Softball Tournament. The game's governing body also called off senior and junior knockout finals, declaring Orient Travels and Maniz Azad as



WINNERS: (Left) Khalid Kail of Al Turki NMC, best batsman of Premier League, ARTT players Zeeshan Siddiqui and Aqil Khan.



pressive average of 9.1. D Division's top performer Rahul Chadha of Vanderlande won a dream double for his exploits with bat and ball, claiming the D Division's best bowler and best all-rounder awards. He was very impressive with the ball, taking 14 wickets in 7 matches at 9.4 and scoring 271 runs at an average of 45.2. Many Omani players made their presence felt during the season, especially star all-rounder Shoaib Ismail who did well playing for two teams – OCT Ruwi and Maniz Azad. He was adjudged best all-rounder for scoring 204 runs in 7 games for OCT Ruwi and taking 10 wickets. His exploits for Maniz Azad included 170 runs in 4 matches at an average of 56.7 and 9 wickets at an outstanding average of 9.4. Rafeeq Mohammed (OCT Al Nahdha and Orient Travels) and Zubair Ali Akbar (OCT Ruwi and Y Horizon) won awards for best batsman and best bowler respectively in a category of an Omani national playing for two teams. Other award-winning Omani nationals playing for one team included OCT Al Hail B's Khalid Rahim (best batsman), Samir Faizu of OCT Al Hail B (best bowler) and best all-rounders Warith Al Balushi of OCT Mabela and Suhaib Abdul Ghani of OCT Al Hail A.

IPL 2021

DC shares video of Pant chatting with Dhoni on eve of CSK game

MUMBAI: It is set to be a battle worth watching when Delhi Capitals take on Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday. And DC skipper Rishabh Pant spent some quality time with CSK skipper and his mentor MS Dhoni on Friday. Delhi Capitals shared a video on Twitter in which Pant can be seen having conversations with Dhoni, Suresh Raina, and Cheteshwar Pujara. In fact, Pant and Dhoni can be seen discussing the pitch in a longish conversation. "A day ahead of the #CSKvDC clash, @RishabhPant17 caught up with some of his mates from @ChennaiIPL. It's not gonna be quite as friendly tonight," the franchise tweeted. Earlier in the day, Team India head coach Ravi Shastri expressed excitement to witness the clash between CSK and Delhi Capitals. As the newly-appointed Delhi Capitals skipper, Pant, in his first game as captain will face former India skipper Dhoni, Shastri is excited for the 'Guru vs Chela (Master versus Dis-



ciple)' show in the IPL match. "Guru vs Chela. Bahot Maza aayega aaj. Stump Mic suniyega zaroor #DhoniReturns #Pant #IPL2021," Shastri tweeted. Pant is also looking forward to leading the team for the first time and the wicket-keeper bats-

man had said it will be "extra special to walk out for the toss with Dhoni". "It will be extra special to walk out for the toss with MS Dhoni tomorrow. This will be the first time that I will be leading an IPL team and the first match is against Mahi bhai. I have learned a lot from him, and I have gained a lot of experience from him. Hopefully, I can use this experience against him, and we can win this match. That's what I am looking forward to," Pant said in a statement on Friday. Pant added that the Delhi Capitals squad, for the IPL, 2021, has a great mix of experience and youth. "I have been talking to the senior players like Shikhar Dhanwan, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ajinkya Rahane about the fields we can set and other strategic decisions for the team. I have been talking to Ricky and our bowling coach James Hopes as well. There's a good mix of seniors and juniors in our squad and I think with the help of Ricky, we can do something different this year," the skipper had said. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

El Clasico is the biggest match in world football: Patrick Kluivert

BARCELONA: Barcelona's Director of Youth Football Patrick Kluivert has said that El Clasico is the "biggest match in world football." Barcelona will take on Real Madrid in the La Liga on Sunday. The former Barcelona player said it is really amazing to be a part of an El Clasico. "For me, El Clasico is the biggest match in world football, absolutely. You have two teams who are that important not only in Spain but across the world. I played a few great 'Clasicos' -- Inter vs Milan, Ajax vs Feyenoord, they're very nice games to play, but El Clasico is amazing to play in and to be part of such a global match. It's not just a Spanish match, people live it in all over the world. It's really amazing to be part of that game," Kluivert said in a statement, as released by La Liga. "My best El Clasico moments were the times I scored. I think I scored three or four goals in those games. Especially when you score away. From the moment you enter the Santiago Bernabeu people are whistling, your ears are just flapping around! It's just amazing to score in that atmosphere. Then



you see a little corner at the top with Barcelona fans cheering so hard. If you win at that stadium, it's just amazing," he added. In the La Liga, Barcelona holds the second spot on the table with 65 points while Real Madrid is in the third position with 63 points. Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane on Friday said his team is preparing for the game in the

same manner as they do for other games before admitting that it will be a difficult game. "We're preparing for it in the same way as the other day. We know it's going to be a difficult game, very demanding, but we're ready. We've had a few days to recover and we're ready for the game," the club's official website had quoted Zidane as saying. **ANI**

PRAISES

Kane is one of the best in the world: Maguire

MANCHESTER: Ahead of the match against Tottenham, Manchester United's Harry Maguire praised oppositions player Harry Kane, terming him "one of the best in the world" and said he is ready for the battle against his England teammate. Manchester United will take on Tottenham in the Premier League on Sunday. "I want to play in the biggest games possible against the best players; that's why I joined this club. Harry [Kane] is one of those. I know him from England really well. He's a top striker, one of the best in the world and he does it season after season, scores goals after goals," the club's official website quoted Maguire as saying. Maguire also said: "He'll be ready for battle and I'll be ready for battle. May the best man win. It's not just individuals; it's a team effort. As a defensive unit we've got to be strong, go there and get a clean sheet and give the team the best opportunity to win the game." MU currently holds the second position on the Premier League table while Tottenham is placed in the sixth position. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

How to stop Mumbai Indians in their tracks



Anis Sajan, Group-Vice Chairman, Danube Group

WITH THE 14TH edition of the IPL began on Friday, the big question on everyone's mind is how does one stop the rampaging Mumbai Indians from winning three titles in a row after their wins in 2020 last year in the UAE and in 2019 in Hyderabad. Mumbai Indians are the only team to have won five IPL titles, they stumbled to wins in their first four titles but the way they bossed the 2020 IPL title in the UAE which got over last November and hardly any time for other franchises to change their teams because of the mini auction, it's going to be challenging for the rest of the seven franchises to turn around their fortunes against a confident and power packed Mumbai Indians. Mumbai Indians have the most destructive batting line up with power packed players right from the top till number 7 with an average strike rate of 140 is indeed very frightening for most of the bowlers. The right and left combination of their openers of Captain Rohit Sharma and Quinton De Kock followed by Pocket size Bish Bash Kishan and their most consistent batsman for the last three years Surya Kumar Yadav, all play a fearless brand of cricket from the word go. And then to finish off their innings in style, they have Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya who can destroy the good work done initially by the opposition with an assault that dents the confidence of the whole team. Considering the pandemic restrictions, Mumbai Indians play five matches in Chennai, four in Delhi, three in Bengaluru and two in Kolkata this year and will not have home advantage of playing their minimum seven games in Mumbai where their pacers like Bumrah, Boult, Nathan Coulter Nile come in to play because of the bounce the red soil of Wankhede pitch offers. Chennai and Delhi traditionally help spinners and if there is a chink in their bowling, it's their spinners with Rahul Chahar and Jayant Yadav lacking the experience and can be put under the pump if opposition team attack them. Even Mumbai have got in Piyush Chawla, the experienced spinner in their line up, he looked a distant far from the bowler during his peak days. Moreover, teams who are spin healthy can target batsman like Rohit Sharma, Quinton De Kock so that they don't get a rollicking start to their innings. Easier said than done but the best way to beat Mumbai Indians is to play the same brand of cricket that Mumbai Indians played last year, the England style of fearless and attacking brand of cricket. There is a common saying that goes, if you can't beat the opposition, join them and play their style and I am sure captains like Eoin Morgan of KKR, Virat Kohli of RCB and Thala Dhoni of CSK would have done their homework well to tame the Big Elephant Mumbai Indians this time around. Time will tell whether Mumbai Indians Express can be stopped in their tracks and which will be the team that derails them? Your guess is as good as mine.



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OAB receives K2 Middle East Workflow Hero Award 2020

The award is a testament to the bank's efforts towards ensuring continuous dedication towards its key objective of enhancing overall customer experience and overcoming challenges within its business environment through innovative platforms

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) was recently bestowed with K2 Middle East Workflow Hero Award 2020. The award is a testament to the bank's efforts towards ensuring continuous dedication towards its key objective of enhancing overall

customer experience and overcoming challenges within its business environment through innovative platforms, such as K2. Commenting on receiving the award, Asma Al Zadjali, Head of Banking Operations Group, said, "OAB has always strived to main-



tain itself as pioneers within the industry, by keeping up to date with the latest financial trends and constantly adapting to meet the needs of the market. With the onset of the pandemic last year, we decided to make our products and services

available on our OAB online app, to provide customers with convenient banking options. On behalf of the OAB management, I would like to thank the organisers of the event for awarding us with this accolade, which further affirms our commit-

ment towards continuously developing innovative solutions and ensuring a high-quality customer experience."

Launched in the last quarter of 2020, OAB's 'Step to the Future 3.0' set the stage for the bank's next level of digital evolution. It included various AI-driven e-payment solutions and facilities, aimed at providing superior customer experience and convenience within the local banking industry.

"While many of our internal processes were already automated, the prevalence of the pandemic brought in new challenges like 'work from home'. With the combination of our transformation journey using Agile methodology, robust K2 system and people skills set we possess in this area, we were able to launch many new services in a very short timeframe taking the level of automation of

our internal processes to a new level which in turn facilitated work from home and bringing in further efficiencies and productivity improvements. We also launched an array of new services for our customers to facilitate them to interact with the bank from the convenience of their homes, including a loan deferment and digital onboarding facility, making us the first bank to do so. This reduced the need to be physically present at the Bank and submit paper-based forms," Asma added.

The K2 Awards identify outstanding achievements of entities and organisations that have delivered world-class automation solutions via its K2 platform. Despite the challenging year and dynamic conditions, several businesses in the region have risen to the task to operate efficiently and maintain business continuity.

MAKING RESPONSIBLE



Grooming the next generation

MUSCAT: Life is full of surprises, both good and bad. Teaching your children how to enjoy life is a parent's responsibility. It means teaching them to be flexible and open to the changes in life's blueprint. It also means weaving gratitude and what matters most into the fabric of their thinking: health, family and friends above all else. This helps with being able to put life into perspective in the face of setbacks, professional or other.

The onus of keeping their children Azhar (23) and Sahil (20) grounded despite being part of such a prominent family completely lay on the Vice-chairman of Danube Group Anis Sajan and his wife Rubina Sajan.

The Sajan's though an influential family had humble beginnings and have not forgotten their roots and family values. The struggle and difficulties faced by the senior Sajan's (Rizwan and Anis) are known by one and all. The way they survived the Kuwait war and then building the empire here in UAE from scratch is highly commendable. Their biggest strength through all of these has been the bond shared by Rizwan and Anis Sajan. The same values have reflected in the bond shared by Adel (Rizwan Sajan's son), Azhar and Sahil. "Any relationship can't be forced, it has to come from within the heart and I see a reflection of me and my brother's bond in the bond shared by all our 3 children, something I am very proud of," says Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group.

He happily attributes the modesty of his sons to his wife Rubina Sajan. He says "Sons are generally close to their mothers and my family is no exception. I am proud of the way Ruby has brought them up and blessed to have her by my side in this journey of parenthood."

The kids of the family are

blessed that they did not have to venture out to gain experience, as Danube Group is a big learning academy in itself. Azhar and Sahil both have spent a large part of their holidays in the Danube offices learning the company's day to day operations. Azhar who graduated a year ago set up and successfully manages UAE's premier luxury sanitary ware showroom Casa Milano, which features more than 40 of the world's top-notch brands like Versace, Roberto Cavalli, etc. His prior stints with the group have helped him to manage the business alongside his last year of college. Whereas the younger one who is still in college, religiously goes to the Danube Head office with his father alongside attending his virtual classes and interacts with all the stakeholders, be it the suppliers or the customers and shares his inputs as well. This practice is helping him learn the tricks of the trade by the time he joins the Milano division post his graduation this year.

Anis Sajan says, "Life today is very unpredictable and it is very important that your children are not left stranded if something happens to the head of the family." He recalls that he was only 8 when he lost his father, making his elder brother Rizwan Sajan responsible for the whole family. He has seen many families where the children are caught unaware when they lose the head of the family and hence insists on preparing the children early on.

Sajan adds, "Today I'm 49 and my children are only 23 and 20, but I can say with conviction that my children are ready to take on life."

In a nutshell, grooming and educating children from a younger age will help them become drivers of their own destiny and help them face the world and pass life's hurdles with ease and composure.

FESTIVE COLLECTION

Celebrate vibrant colours, festive accents of Ramadan with Splash collection

MUSCAT: Splash, the Middle East's largest high-street fashion retailer, unveils a stunning festive collection for the celebration of Ramadan and Eid.

Whether you're looking for an effortlessly chic outfit to enjoy your Iftar with family at home or thinking of surprising your loved ones with a stylish Eid gift, Splash is your place as the brand is offering a wide range to celebrate the festive season with your family in style.

Women's collection

The womenswear festive edit is an elegant reinterpretation of traditional Arabic silhouettes. Summer bright is a colour pop story inclusive of bright tropical, Pastel shades, Festive green which includes a range of beautiful dress have been combined with beautiful jewel tones of jade green and black.

White and Blue dresses story includes blue floral prints on crisp white grounds look fresh, updating traditional designs inspired by antique porcelain and toile de Jouy patterns, while and nod is made to



tropical landscape.

Minimalist Modest is a timeless classic and Easy shapes. Think sequinned kaftans Edits, tops with embellished and elegant dresses in modest styles.

Dress to impress with Splash Eid Edit collection and enjoy the festive vibes with Splash Couture dresses that feature maxi dresses

to kaftans and sequins to lace, Splash's festive edit is all about simplicity and feminine chic.

Men's collection

Splash's new men's festive collection reflects a smart yet relaxed dressing vibe.

Ramadan summer-Pop resort: The Pop Resort collection in-

cludes bright colours, new shapes, new prints, Pop colour jersey. Comfort Eden collection includes classic polo t-shirts and dressy shirts to stripe denim and coordinate sets. There is a myriad of easy-to-wear styles top and bottom to flatter anyone's taste.

Fresh shades of Tropical resort

This collection very inspirational for Eid, it is dressy styles, specially designed of monochrome and natural summer shades, sky blue and white are the most popular colours on the palette alongside earthy neutral tones of beige and brown.

ISLAMIC BANKING

Meethaq offers waiver of first year annual fees on all primary, supplementary credit cards

MUSCAT: In line with the bank's vision 'To serve you better, everyday', Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has announced that customers can avail of a special offer of waiver of annual fees on all primary and supplementary credit cards for the first year.

The offer will be available for a limited time only and is open to all current and new customers who would like to apply for primary and supplementary credit cards for their family members. Meethaq presently offers 4 different credit cards to its customers including the Hafawa Visa Signature credit card, the Titanium Mastercard credit card, Meethaq-LuLu co-branded credit card and the Standard Mastercard credit card.

All Meethaq credit cards are based on the concept of Ujrah as per Shari'a rules and principles. These cards have a number of features and benefits, which include wide acceptance, contactless pay-



ments, 24/7 customer service, OTP service for online transactions, SMS alerts for transactions and up to 52 days of the payment grace period.

Meethaq credit cards have proven to be an attractive option for customers who seek banking products based on Islamic principles and at the same time provide convenience and flexibility in

making day-to-day transactions at shopping malls, restaurants or international destinations.

Apart from its credit cards, Meethaq is also a pioneer in offering innovative digital banking products and services that are aligned to the best practices of Islamic banking and finance worldwide. Its robust Internet Banking and Mobile Banking platforms

along with the extended reach of 764 Meethaq and Bank Muscat ATMs and CDMs across the Sultanate make daily financial transactions a breeze for Meethaq customers. Notably, Meethaq has recently debuted a new online account opening process for savings accounts wherein customers can submit the completed account opening form together with supporting documents by email and visit the selected branch only to collect their debit cards. The digitisation of a large part of the account opening process minimises customer visits to branches and waiting times

Meethaq adopts the highest standards of professionalism conforming to Sharia principles. Every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia compliance certification by the Shari'a Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

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