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

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Total security is offered as the Bonds are registered and transferable only by means of a document evidencing the transaction between a buyer and a seller through Muscat Securities Market. The Bonds are direct and unconditional obligations of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

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

Liquidity

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

Collateral Advantage

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

Who Can Invest?

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

How to Apply?

Prospectus and Application Forms can be obtained from any commercial licensed bank operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Completed applications can be submitted through any commercial licensed bank.

MSM Investor Code

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

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

Tel: +968 24822222 / 24822280

Fax: +968 24810555, E-mail: mcd.support@mcd.gov.om

Bank Account Details

An investor must provide the same Bank Account details registered with MCD.



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CONTACT THE CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN (MONETARY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT) OR ANY COMMERCIAL LICENSED BANK FOR DETAILS.

MINISTER OF ECONOMY RECEIVES INDIAN ENVOY

The Minister of Economy, Dr. Said bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Sagri, received Mnu Mahawar, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to discuss economic ties between the two countries and ways to enhance them, a statement issued by the Ministry of Economy said. **>A2**



OMAN, UAE REVIEW COVID-19 SITUATION

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, received in his office on Monday H.E. Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. The meeting saw an exchange of cordial conversation and reviewed means of cooperation between the two countries. **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 31 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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HOLY MONTH

Ramadan working hours announced

MUSCAT: It was decided that official working hours at units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities during the holy month of Ramadan for 1442 AH will be from 9 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, working hours at the private sector's companies and establishments for Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan will be reduced to six hours per day, equivalent to 30 hours per week. **-OMA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Clean energy a priority for Sultanate

1 An agency set up in the Sultanate of Oman to attract more investment into the country is seeking funds for renewable energy projects. **>A3**

OMAN

1,117 new COVID-19 cases recorded

2 As many as 1,117 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in Oman yesterday, in addition to 10 new COVID-19-related deaths. **>A2**

SPORTS

Zaman's 193-run knock in vain

3 Fakhar Zaman's knock of 193 runs went in vain as Pakistan suffered a 17-run defeat at the hands of South Africa in the second ODI here on Sunday. **>A8**

SUPREME COMMITTEE TAKES TOUGH MEASURES AHEAD OF HOLY MONTH



The Committee sent heartfelt greetings to His Majesty and best wishes to citizens

MUSCAT: People are free to venture out of their homes after 8 April until the first of Ramadan, but commercial activities across the governorates will remain closed at night, according to the Supreme Committee.

The night-time ban on all commercial activities and curbs on the movement of people and vehicles between 9 pm and 4 am will continue throughout Ramadan.

The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic held a meeting on Monday under the chairmanship of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of In-

terior, to discuss updates on the pandemic, protection procedures and measures to curb the spread of the virus and deal with its different impacts.

On the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Supreme Committee sent heartfelt greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and expressed its best wishes to Omani people and the Arab and Islamic nations. It prayed to the Almighty Allah to bestow plentiful health, bounty and blessings on Oman and the whole world.

During the meeting, the Supreme Committee noted the widespread prevalence of the pan-

dem in different governorates of the Sultanate and the outcome of daily statistical reports during the current period, indicating that the health sector is undergoing heavy pressure from the sharp rise in number of infections and cases of patients admitted to hospital wards and intensive care units (ICUs).

To limit the scope of gatherings, which proved to be a basic factor in the spread and intensity of the pandemic, the Supreme Committee has taken a number of decisions.

The Supreme Committee advised all citizens and residents to avoid travelling abroad during the coming period, except under extreme necessity, bearing in mind that many countries are likely to restrict movement and travel.

It also recommended limiting travel for official missions abroad or for participation in external events.

The Committee will assess and

revise these decisions in accordance with developments in the general situation of the pandemic in the Sultanate during the holy month of Ramadan.

In pursuance of the Supreme Committee's efforts to protect society from this pandemic and the risks it entails and, to stem the spread of the virus in the workplace, the Supreme Committee urges private sector companies and establishments to implement plans that guarantee the accomplishment of tasks through online work and to downsize the number of employees needed to attend at the workplace, taking the example of units of the State's Administrative Apparatus in this respect.

The Supreme Committee would like to stress that all the procedures undertaken so far have been made, in the first place, to protect society and alleviate COVID-19 patients' health impacts that might lead to death.

>A3

DECISIONS

- Closure of all commercial activities while allowing the people, vehicles' movement in all governorates between 8 pm and 5 am from 8 April 2021, till the morning of the first day of Ramadan
- Night-time ban on all commercial activities and prohibiting the movement of people and vehicles between 9 pm and 4 am throughout Ramadan
- Prohibiting the performance of Taraweeh congregational prayers in mosques
- Imposing a total ban on all types of gatherings, like Iftar-Sa'im, in mosques, tents or public assembling places
- Imposing a ban on all social, sports and cultural activities and any other group activities throughout the Holy Month
- Restricting entry to the Sultanate only to Omanis and residency holders with effect from 12 PM on Thursday, 8 April 2021



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PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12.14pm
Asr.....	3.42pm
Maghrib.....	6.29pm
Isha.....	7.41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4.38am



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MEETING

Oman, UAE review COVID-19 situation



REVIEW COOPERATION: Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, with H.E. Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, received in his office on Monday H.E. Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting saw an exchange of cordial conversation and reviewed means of cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the UAE ambassador handed a letter from

the UAE Minister of Health & Prevention H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Oweis to Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi.

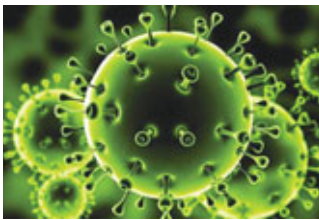
The meeting further reviewed the developments of COVID-19 worldwide and the international efforts exerted in combating the pandemic.

His Excellency the Emirati Ambassador commended the Sultanate's efforts in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

A number of MoH's senior officials attended the meeting.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

1,117 new COVID cases, 10 deaths recorded



MUSCAT: As many as 1,117 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in Oman on Monday, in addition to 10 new COVID-19-related deaths.

This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 164,274 in the Sultanate.

The total number of COVID-19-related death cases reached 1,722, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry also pointed out that 862 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number to 147,539 recoveries.

The Ministry also pointed out that 98 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, adding that the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 606, of them 198 are in intensive care units (ICUs). -ONA

CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Cybersecurity event aims at boosting entrepreneurs' skills

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A virtual cybersecurity programme aimed at supporting fresh entrepreneurs' ideation by equipping them with the necessary commercial and technological knowledge to go through the business market efficiently concluded on Monday.

The SAS Accelerator for Cybersecurity's 2nd cohort, was organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and IT through its SAS Centre for Entrepreneurship and partnership with the UK-Oman Digital Hub CyLon Spark, PDO, and Oman National CERT.

The 2nd cohort saw six ideas; their owners participated over 12 weeks, starting from January 18, 2021, until April 5, 2021.

They saw 25 sessions and lectures, which stressed the best approaches for startup growth. Additionally, the participants benefited from 60 hours of virtual individual consultation sessions given by 15 speakers and mentors specialised in cybersecurity consisted of 12 international ones and three from the Sultanate.

The final day for the 2nd cohort included an investment demo. The participants show-



cased their projects, varying from security risks assessment tools, cyber threat detection tools, and security exploits fix commonly known in software, content creation in cybersecurity to training platform for preventing phishing.

Cylon Spark is an initiative established by Cylon accelerator for ideas generated by individuals, not current companies.

Cylon is also a global Cybersecurity accelerator. It is based on developing and investing in the best cybersecurity new projects

around the world.

Additionally, Cylon works in many parts of the world, from London to Singapore, and joint connecting between cybersecurity companies and a Major community of clients, investors, and experts.

Since its establishment in 2015, "the 400-million-pounds market value" Cylon accelerator has supported more than 100 companies.

The companies graduating from this accelerator earned more than 150 million pounds from continuous financing.

Additionally, it generated more than 350 jobs.

UK-Oman Digital Hub

The partnership between SAS centre for entrepreneurship and the UK-Oman Digital Hub is based on the growing reputation of Oman in Cybersecurity and the prominent role of Cylon Spark in the cybersecurity industry.

This programme connects the SAS centre for entrepreneurship with a Global accelerator in cybersecurity and accessing a selection of international mentors and experts to encourage the fabrication of cybersecurity products locally and globally.



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ECONOMIC TIES

Minister meets Indian envoy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Minister of Economy, Dr. Said bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Sagri, received Munu Mahawar, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to discuss economic ties between the two countries and ways to enhance

them, a statement issued by the Ministry of Economy said.

The Indian ambassador said he had wide-ranging discussion on prospects for enhancing India-Oman economic partnership and was looking forward to working together closely in this endeavour.





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Clean energy investment a priority for Sultanate

A number of solar and wind energy projects, scientifically proven to be effective in the country, are under implementation

Times News Service

ABU DHABI: An agency set up in Oman to attract more investment into the country has made securing funding for renewable energy projects among its priorities, a senior official at the Environment Authority has said.

Speaking at the Regional Climate Dialogue, a meeting which has been organised in the United Arab Emirates to discuss plans countries have towards tackling climate change and related issues, Dr Abdullah bin Ali Al Omari, the chairman of the Environment Authority, said developing renewable



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE: The Regional Climate Dialogue has been organised in the United Arab Emirates to discuss plans countries have towards tackling climate change.

energy is part of the country's Vision 2040 plan.

"The Sultanate has embarked on implementing its plans to invest in clean and renewable energy through a number of projects in the field of solar and wind, which scientific studies have proven to be effective in the country," he said.

"In 2019, The National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change was approved, while Oman Vision 2040 also includes clear goals for the implementation of that strategy."

"The Sultanate is also ready to into regional and international investments and partnerships whenever the appropriate incentives and opportunities become available," added Al Omari.

The chairman also affirmed that Oman supports the common goals of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the field of clean and renewable energy. The GCC consists of six member states: Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

The conference began on April 4, 2021, and also saw the participation of John Kerry, the US Presidential Envoy for Climate Affairs.

The first Regional Climate Dialogue focuses on national and regional preparations for the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), set to run in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland. COP26 President Alok Sharma, and Francesco La Camera, the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) also attended the event.

Core themes included accelerating the deployment of renewable energy solutions, exploring the potential of new zero-carbon energy sources, such as green and blue hydrogen, maximising the impact of mitigation technologies, including carbon capture, and reducing the carbon emission intensity of hydrocarbon fuels, on which the world will still rely during the energy transition.

The conversation discussed policies for adaptation to the impacts of accelerating climate change trends that are of particular concern to the region, such as food and water security, desertification mitigation and environmental conservation.

Duqm integrated power, water plant trial operations start

MUSCAT: The integrated power and water plant at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD) started trial production after receiving the first consignment of liquefied natural gas to operate it.

The station is considered a centralised utilities facility being set up by Marafiq company at the SEZAD. It includes 326 megawatt power generation unit, a desalination plant with a daily output capacity of 36,000 cubic metres, sea water suction units with supply capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres a daily and a 132 kilovolt electricity transmission line from the plant to the oil storage tanks at Ras Markaz, 80 kilometres from the heavy industries area at the SEZAD.

Quoting Eng. Abdullah Mohammed Al Hashmi, CEO of Marafiq company, "Duqm Economist" magazine said in its new edition this month that the arrival of the first consignment of gas to liquefied natural gas to the SEZAD is major news in the area.

"The company began preparations for this event by late 2020 when all LNG-reception tasks were finalised in close coordina-

tion with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and OQ gas networks team.

Al Hashmi explained that, by the end of March 2021, Marafiq completed 90 per cent of its strategic project at OQ, said that the supply of gas to the Duqm zone reflects the government's commitment to establishing necessary infrastructure to attract heavy industries.

The arrival of gas to the SEZAD is considered a quantum leap in constructing a gas pipes grid run by the company in the Sultanate at 4,000 km, sufficient to provide gas needs for energy projects and industrial projects. -ONA

Trending
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

45,563 REACH of Oman

21h

Firefighting teams were able to put out a fire that broke out in a number of vehicles



TIMESOFOMAN.COM
Several vehicles destroyed in fire in Baushar, no injuries reported | Times of Oman



Story about vehicle catching fire
A vehicle fire story reached 45,563 people and had 3,874 engagements on Facebook.

 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

3,973 VIEWS





Maghrib Minute
news in
Hindi

The Maghrib Minute newswrap in Hindi got 3,973 views and reached 13,566 people on Facebook.

 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,403 VIEWS





Morning Minute video
on frankincense
plantation

The Morning Minute video on frankincense saplings planted in Oman had 1,403 views and 77 likes on Instagram.

GREEN INITIATIVE

Environment Authority plans seed plantation campaign

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority plans to plant seeds of wild trees and spread them in pastoral areas in the governorate to take advantage of the frequent rains in the Khareef season.

Dr. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Sairi, Director General of the General Directorate of Environment in Dhofar Governorate, said: "The seed dispersal initiative was launched by the authority in conjunction with the national initiative project to "cultivate 10 million trees of Omani wild plants" to benefit from the amount of rainwater that the region witnesses during the Khareef season."

PANDEMIC

FROM A1 Compliance holds key to success in COVID-19 control

The Supreme Committee hereby reaffirms that the above-mentioned procedures will not achieve the desired success unless all—individuals and establishments—abide by the instructions.

Full compliance, the Committee said, will diminish, in medium term and long term, the negative impacts of the pandemic on public health and commercial activities. At the conclusion of its statement, the Supreme Committee prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect everyone against all harm. -ONA

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WHAT TO DO DURING
NIGHT LOCKDOWN

TIME TO PLAY SOME CLASSIC BOARD GAMES

When we talk of board games the first thing that comes to our mind is Monopoly. The timeless game of Monopoly is a popular trading game where players buy, sell, and play their best to become rich.



If you have had enough of watching Netflix and reading books why not play a board game or two with your family during the evening hours when you are cooped up inside your home? While there are several online board games that are widely played these days, there is no better way to pass the time than by physically playing some of the classic board games with one's family.

When we talk of board games the first thing that comes to our mind is Monopoly. The timeless game of Monopoly is a popular trading game where players buy, sell, and scheme their way to be-

come rich and wealthy. Played since 1935, there is a newer version and it is cashless. So you'll no longer need a banker when you play Monopoly as it now uses electronic banking.

Clue is a mystery game meant for the whole family where one has to find out who is responsible for murdering the host at a millionaire's mansion or a boardwalk. A combination of the Telephone game and Pictionary, Telestrations needs six players where you need to draw some quick sketches and make guesses based on others' drawings.

Scrabble has always been people's most favoured board game where players are given a set

number of wooden letter tiles to begin, and each letter is assigned a different point value. Don't forget to keep a pen and paper nearby to keep track of your scores. When the player has used all the tiles the game ends and then points are calculated. The person who has the highest points is the winner.

Chess lovers can make the best use of this time. In this classic game there are two players with 16 pieces each side on a 64-square game board. The ultimate goal is to checkmate the opponent's king piece. Pawns, rooks, bishops, knights, a queen, and a king are some of the pieces, each one having different rules different rules.

Search your store room and you are sure to find a Chinese Checkers board, a game that you can play with your whole family. In this game the first player to move all 10 of their pegs or marbles into the star point is the winner. Players take turns moving one of their pieces at a time.

Another popular family game is Uno. An Uno deck contains 108 cards – 25 cards each in one of four colours, plus 8 special action cards. Players take turns to match a card from their hand by number or colour to the card in the middle of the game. When a player has just one card left they get to call out "Uno!" as a warning to the other players.





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TWO-DAY VISIT

Swiss official arrives in Sultanate for talks

MUSCAT: Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), arrived on an official two-day visit to the Sultanate on Monday. The guest will meet with a number of state officials. He will also conduct an official session of talks. He was received upon his arrival by Dr. Khalid Said Al Jaradi, Head of the Protocols Department at the Foreign Ministry. -ONA



INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

Young Omani entrepreneur's turban venture wins praise

SALALAH: Omamaty (my turban), a project for ready made turbans, is one of the small and medium enterprise sectors' successful projects in the Wilayat of Salalah that has received appreciation and prizes at the Sultanate's level. Young entrepreneur, Hamad bin Ahmed Suwailm, owner of Rawabi Al Khaleej Establishment (Omamaty), said that he started his project in 2015 by designing a ready made Omani turban for all age categories, which is produced in different colours and textile. He said that the idea behind the project has turned into a well-planned work and from there into the production stage, thanks to the support of the Authority for SMEs Development (former Al Raffid Fund). The success of the project has encouraged me to open three branches at the Sultanate's level, he said, adding, he registered 'Omamaty' as a trademark, intellectual property and industrial innovation certificate with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. He also pointed to that "it is important for the project owner to carefully study all aspects of the project and to avail all the facilities and finance that are being offered by the concerned authorities." The factors behind the success of any project were planning, determination on providing new



and innovative products, establishing constructive relations and the ability to manage risks and challenges that may face the project, he said. Hamad has participated in a number of exhibitions and competitions in the field of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and his project 'Omamaty' has received several awards including Salalah Award of Excellence and Innovation 2018 and Riyadh Award for the Best Small Business 2020. -ONA



SWISS OFFICIAL VISITS SULTAN QABOOS GRAND MOSQUE

Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) on Monday visited the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, within the framework of his current visit to the Sultanate. The guest was briefed on designs in which the mosque was built, its facilities, such as Institute of Islamic Sciences, the library and lectures hall. -ONA

Tender Announcement

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MEDC-03/2021	Replacement of Power Transformer from 2x16MVA to 2x20MVA and 33kV Switchgear at Qurum 01 Primary Substation (P093)	15/04/2021	04/05/2021	DCRP Grad (A)	150	19/04/2021 at 9:00 MEDC Head Office
MEDC-04/2021	Load Shifting To Al Khoud Grid	15/04/2021	04/05/2021	DCRP Grad (A)	1,500	Nil
MEDC-05/2021	Wadi Adai Grid (G22) - 33kv Switchgear Replacement	15/04/2021	04/05/2021	DCRP Grad (A)	150	20/04/2021 at 9:00 MEDC Head Office

The table below shows the instructions for participation: -

Participation	- Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender documents online. - Against the amount specified above. Non-Refundable payment - For fees payment procedure and to obtain the tender document, please contact us via e-mail Contract@medcoman.com 24588600 – Ext: 8577 - 8726
Purchase timing	Tender documents can be purchased at the official working time between 08:00 – 13:00 hours
Enquiries	Any inquiry can be sent using clarification available in the tender documents, one week before bid submission date
Tender Submission	- Tenders should be submitted in a sealed and stamped envelope addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CO. marked only with tender number and the subject - Please follow SUBMISSION OF TENDER mentioned in clause 20.0 in Prime Document
Guarantee	- The Tender should enclose a bank guarantee or a certified cheque issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman Unconditional and irrevocable and shall be disbursement as soon as it is submitted for the value of (1%) of the tender value valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission and addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C. - Any bid that does not meet the bank guarantee will not be considered
Terms and Conditions	- The name of the bidder, other marks or any reference must not be specified on the envelope - Tenders received after the deadline stated in the Invitation to Tender, including any extension thereof, for any reason whatsoever will not be considered - The Tender shall be valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission - If the submission date extended, the bank guarantee or a certified cheque shall be extended in accordance with the bid extension date - MEDC is not bound to consent the lowest Bid or any other Tenders. - Preference of awarding the tender will be given to those bidders who achieved a high percentage of purchasing from Local Products and have a High-level percentage of Omanization
Bid Placement	The Completed Tender should be deposited in the Tender Box No. 1 in the ground floor of MEDC Head Office building at Airport Heights, before 10 a.m. on the assigned date of tender submission

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

India records biggest daily COVID-19 spike with more than 100,000 cases

NEW DELHI: Hitting a grim milestone, India recorded over 1 lakh COVID-19 cases in a span of 24 hours, the highest single daily spike in infections since the pandemic started last year.

With this, India has become the third country after the US and Brazil to register a six-figure addition in COVID-19 cases in a single day. On January 8, the United States surpassed 300,000 daily coronavirus cases, reported the Washington Post. On March 25, Brazil recorded 100,158 new coronavirus cases and 2,777 new deaths, the country's Health Ministry said. India is ranked at the third position in the cumulative count of COVID-19 cases by the Worldometers. The US stood at the top with 31,420,331 cases and 568,777 deaths, Brazil at second with 12,984,956 cases and 331,530 deaths and India has 12,589,067 cases and 165,132 deaths.

According to the Union Health Ministry and Family Welfare (MoHFW), as many as 1,03,844 people were tested positive for the virus in the past 24 hours, led by a massive spike in the pandemic in Maharashtra, which added a record 57,074 fresh infections. The national capital logged 4,033 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, which is the highest single-day



spike since December 4 last year. Besides Delhi and Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh (4,164 cases), Madhya Pradesh (3,178 cases) and Gujarat (2,875) also recorded their highest-daily surge in COVID-19 infections.

The previous high was registered on September 17 last year, when the country reported 97,894 positive cases. However, the COVID-19 tally had started witnessing a gradual decline, which continued for five months before a surge, described as the "second wave". It is to mention that a total of 771 cases of coronavirus variants detected across 18 states in the country, said the Union Health Ministry.

With these additional cases, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has reached 1,25,89,067. As many as 478 people succumbed to the virus in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll in the country to 1,65,101. There are 7,41,830 active cases in the nation as of now, of which over 4.3 lakh is in Maharashtra alone.

Furthermore, 52,847 people were discharged after recovery on Sunday, taking the nationwide recovery tally to 1,16,82,136. As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 8,93,749 samples were tested on Sunday. A total of 24,90,19,657 samples have been tested so far.

In comparison between 2020 and 2021, the total number of positive cases of coronavirus in India stood at 258 including 39 foreigners on March 20 last year, while 43,846 new infections were reported in the country this year on the same date.

In terms of the death toll, 714 fatalities were reported on April 2, the highest in over 6 months. The daily toll of 336 was the highest last year on December 25.

India's active COVID-19 tally has Maharashtra (43,1896) at the top, followed by Chhattisgarh (38,450), Karnataka (39,111), Kerala (28,206), Tamil Nadu (21,958) and Punjab (25,314). While Arunachal Pradesh stood the lowest in the tally with just 8 active cases, followed by Lakshadweep (36), Mizoram (41), Sikkim (51) and Andaman and Nicobar (57).

As India continues to witness a spike in COVID-19 cases, the last one week data of new COVID-19 cases and deaths in the country is as followed --- on March 30 (56,211 cases and 271 deaths), March 31 (53,480 cases and 354 deaths), April 1 (72,330 new cases and 459 deaths), April 2 (81,466 cases and 469 deaths), April 3 (89,129 cases and 714 deaths) and April 4 (93,249 cases and 513 deaths). **ANI**



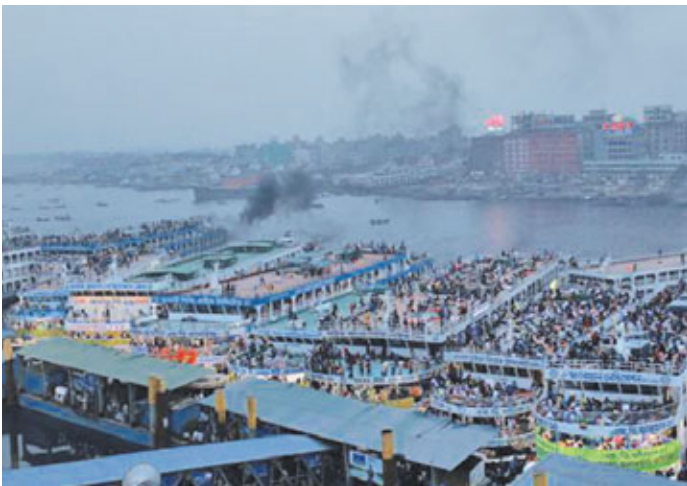
Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

COLLISION

Dozens dead, several missing after ferry sinks in Bangladesh



DHAKA: Emergency crews recovered at least 25 bodies after a passenger ferry sank, officials said on Monday. Nine people remain missing, said fire and civil defence official Ershad Hossain.

The small ferry packed was packed with more than 50 passengers when it collided with another boat in central Bangladesh on Sunday evening.

The double-decker ferry was hit by a cargo vessel from the rear and immediately sank in the Shitalakhsya River, near the capital Dhaka, said Mobarak Hossain, an official at the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

The accident took place around 6 p.m. local time (1200 GMT/UTC), soon after the boat left the city of Narayanganj for the neighboring Munshiganj district on a 45-minute journey.

Pre-lockdown panic

The ferry was packed with passengers rushing to leave the industrial district after the government confirmed a nationwide lockdown for seven days starting Monday in a bid to control the rising COVID-19 cases.

During the seven-day lockdown, all domestic travel services including flights would be

suspended, and malls and shops shuttered.

Banks would be allowed to open for just 2.5 hours on weekdays, while public and private sector businesses were told to only have a skeleton crew in their offices.

Rescue operation underway

Rescuers, including divers from the fire brigade, recovered five bodies during late-night searches.

By Monday afternoon, another 20 bodies were recovered.

The rescue operation was hampered by a powerful storm that hit after the accident.

Some 11 survivors were pulled from the water while other passengers may have swum to safety on the other side of the river, Abdullah al Arefin, Narayanganj's fire brigade chief told news agency AFP on Sunday.

Eight of the survivors were given first aid, while three others were hospitalised, the Daily Star newspaper reported.

Such accidents are not uncommon in Bangladesh where millions depend on the ferries for transport, particularly in the country's southern coastal region. **DW**

UNITED STATES

Florida governor urgently working to prevent flood in Tampa area

FLORIDA: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said on Sunday his administration is working urgently to prevent a "catastrophic flood" near the major city of Tampa, following the leak of a toxic wastewater reservoir in the region. The pond at the Piney Point phosphate plant in central Florida could potentially release 340 million gallons (1.3 billion liters) of toxic water within minutes, threatening nearby homes and causing a potential environmental crisis in the area.

"What we are looking at now is trying to prevent and respond to, if need be, a real catastrophic flood situation," DeSantis said during a press conference, after surveying the site by air. The Florida governor declared a state of emergency on Saturday for Manatee County, where the plant is located.

How are local officials describing the situation?
Manatee County Administrator Scott Hopes said this week the reservoir holds "waste less

conductive to life on land... and in sea." Manatee County officials had ordered the evacuation of around 300 homes in the area on Saturday, due to "further collapse of phosphogypsum stacks." Phosphogypsum is a byproduct of fertilizer from phosphate rock, and is considered to be weakly radioactive.

Why is the reservoir leaking?

The large reservoir at the Piney Point plant is leaking most likely due to a tear in the pond's liner. Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nicole Fried has said there were previous problems with the reservoir's liner and claimed the Piney Point plant has a troublesome history.

"For more than 50 years, this central Florida mining operation has caused numerous human health and environmental disasters and incidents," she wrote DeSantis in a letter about the Piney Point plant, which was originally constructed by Borden Chemical Company in 1966. **DW**



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NO	Tender Ref	Tender Title	Tender Fee OMR
1	SIPC 21/077	Landscaping Maintenance Services	RO 25/-
2	SIPC 21/026	Bathymetric Survey of basin and approach channels	RO 25/-
3	SIPC 21/016 A	Rip-Rap Protection of Flood Protection Channel (FPC)	RO 100/-
4	SIPC 2021/016 B	Sea Water Channel Enhancement at SIPC (SWC)	RO 250/-

Tenderers can request to receive the electronic tender documents from 9:00 am on Tuesday, 6/04/2021 until 4:00 pm on Sunday, 18/04/2021.

Tenderers to follow the below procedures and steps to obtain the electronic tender documents:

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Account Name	Sohar Industrial Port Co
Account Number	3101-007970-500
Bank Name	Oman Arab bank SAOC – Main Br
SWIT	OMABOMRUXXX
Note: Bank transfers is the only mode of payment accepted	

Step 2: Tenderers to send the following documents:

- A request for the electronic tender documents
- Scanned bank transfer
- The firm's commercial registration documents
- All shall be communicated to the following e-mail address:
sipc.procurement@soharportandfreezone.com

Step 3: Tenderers will receive the electronic tender documents

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the below procedure is still valid as of today for the submission of the bids.

The Technical and Commercial proposals must be in separate, marked "Technical and Commercial" addressed to:
SOHAR Port and Freezone
Secretary of Tender committee
Tender Reference No. **2021/**
Tender Name:

- SOHAR reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reasons.
- All SMES are requested to provide their Green Card along with the required documents.
- For any clarification regarding the tenders please send an e-mail to:
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TAIPEI: Taiwanese Transportation Minister Lin Chia-lung on Sunday offered to step down after a rail accident last week near the eastern city of Hualien left 48 people dead and nearly 200 injured. In a statement on his Facebook page, Lin said he took “full responsibility” for the catastrophe, which occurred after the train carrying nearly 500 passengers hit an er-



"I should have accepted all the criticism over the past few days, but we have not done well enough," Lin said in a Facebook post. He said he would leave his position once rescue operations had come to an end. 'I am deeply remorseful,' truck owner behind crash says

"I am deeply remorseful and want to express my most sincere apologies," Lee Yi-hsiang, the driver of the truck said in a statement in front of reporters. "I will cooperate with the investigation by police and prosecutors."

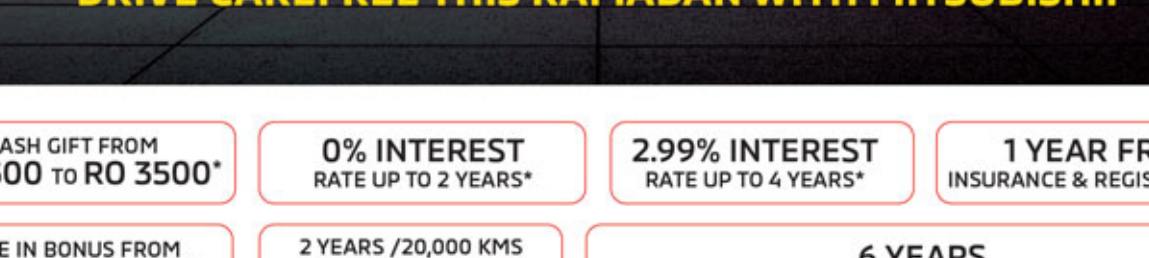
Lee is accused of causing death by negligence after he was questioned by a judge and prosecutors in a Hualien court. The court had previously ordered Lee be detained for two months, due to the belief that he may destroy evidence in the case. **pw**

"I understand the deep sorrow suffered by our brothers and sisters because of this disaster," he said in an address streamed online. **DW**



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SECOND DAY OF SAILING

Olympic hopefuls battle for the lead in Mussanah Open Championship

MUSCAT: It was all-change at the top of the rankings after a pulsating second day of sailing in Mussanah with the early leaders in the 49er, Laser Radial and Laser unable to maintain their advantage. Consistency was key over the three rounds of racing, and in good conditions with clear skies, temperatures between 31c and 35c, and wind between 15-16 knots throughout the day, several sailors were able to put their disappointing starts behind them and surge up the rankings heading into a crucial third day.

In the 49er class, Omani duo of Musab Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi notched two victories and a second place to end the day in top spot with yesterday's second placed team, the Chinese crew of Hong Wei and Chao Xiang retaining second and the Indian team of



Ganapathy Chengappa and Varun Thakkar finishing third.

Hashim Al Rashdi, coach of the Oman 49er team, said "Today was a very good day for us, after a difficult day yesterday, and the performance puts us back in contention. There are still four more days to go and we are looking forward to

racing again tomorrow."

Musab Al Hadi, Oman's 49er team Helmsman, said, "Our goal is to remain competitive until the last second of the last race on the last day. It will be test of mental strength and tough for all teams and close right to the end with a lot of racing still to take place and

we must stay calm and safe, on and off the water."

The 49er FX class saw China's Ye Jin and Chen Shasha remain in first position with the team of Molly Highfield and Sandy Wing Chi Choi from Hong Kong taking second and the Thai pair of Kamonchanok Klahan and Nichapa Waiwai claiming third.

The Laser class has seen four different round winners so far as Singapore's Ryan Lo Jun Han leads Keerati Bualong of Thailand and India's Vishnu Saravanan at the end of racing today.

Laser Radial has been dominated by the Indian sailors, who occupy three of the top four spots. Nethra Kumanan leads Dutch sailor Emma Savelon with Indian teammates Ramya Saravanan and Harshita Tomar in third and fourth respectively.



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PAKISTAN VS SA

Zaman's 193-run knock in vain as SA level series

SANDTON: Fakhar Zaman's magnificent knock of 193 runs went in vain as Pakistan suffered a 17-run defeat at the hands of South Africa in the second ODI here on Sunday.

With this win, South Africa has levelled the three-match ODI series 1-1 and the series decider will take place on April 7. After being asked to bat first, South Africa got off to a good start with openers Quinton de Kock and Aiden Markram scoring regular boundaries. Faheem Ashraf provided Pakistan with the first breakthrough

as he dismissed Markram (39) in the 10th over.

Temba Bavuma then took the field and played brilliantly along with De Kock. The duo formed a 114-run partnership before Haris Rauf got hold of De Kock (80). Rassie van der Dussen then came out to bat and played with an aggressive mindset. He completed his half-century off just 34 balls.

Bavuma and Van der Dussen took the team over the 250-run mark but soon after that, the latter got out. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

Incredible Premier League that has changed the face of cricket in India

PULLING IN MORE CASH, cricket has evolved from an amateur sport to a multimillion-dollar industry. Exponentially growing, today the IPL is a mega profitable business. When India won the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup in 2007, we saw the Indian Board getting inclined towards the shortest format of the game. Cricket has been around for centuries and has turned out to be one of the world's most popular sports. Cricket in India has always been a skyrocketing success but it was only after the 1983 World Cup that this success got a further boost and stepped the ladder of development.

The rise

IPL or the Indian Premier League was a project of Lalit Modi, a businessman who first arrived in BCCI and came up with the idea of starting a one-of-a-kind Indian league similar to the football leagues happening all around the world.

Surrounding the controversies with the ongoing ICL Indian Cricket League back then made BCCI step in and ban all the cricketers who participated in the ICL.



Anis Sajan, Managing Director, Danube Group .

History has revealed the 3 major things that people value the most and work successfully in India are politics, Bollywood and cricket. Lalit Modi roping the Bollywood stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta and Shilpa Shetty further made them garner the interest of investors in this cash-rich league. This was an instant hit with eight franchises having teams in the names of different cities/states like Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Earlier as the IPL started in

2008 the teams were auctioned to various corporates who brought a huge amount by bidding into the cricket business. At that time BCCI sold the teams for a total of INR 3.2 crores (USD 0.43 million). However, the team price was payable for a period of 10 years as the annual fee. Each franchise paid INR 400 crores (USD 54.48 million) over 10 years and every franchise had to bear the cost of players' fees, support staff fees, travel fees as well as logistics.

Unfolding a stronger value as well perception the IPL has a

brand value of INR 475 billion and it contributes INR 11.5 billion (USD 3,131 million) to the Indian GDP and impacts the Indian economy with INR 26.5 billion (USD 360 million) according to the reports shared by the KPMG sports advisory board.

The biggest revenue for the IPL league comes from broadcaster 'Star Sports' paying a whopping amount of INR 16, 347 crores (USD 2.22 million) to the BCCI from 2018-2022. The other main revenue for the IPL league comes from the title sponsor partner 'Vivo' paying INR 4.4 billion (USD 59.9 million) per year and many other support sponsors in the line.

How does a team owner recover from the invested money?

The foremost revenue for a team owner is via sponsorship for their jersey. Over the years the spots on the jerseys have increased and teams charge a huge amount to get a spot on the jersey.

The other revenue for the team owner is through the central sponsorship which the BCCI shares to every franchise in equal

ratio. Most of the matches go full house in India and hereby paves a way for another source of revenue-through ticket sales. Besides that advertisements done on the boundary lines and the banners also go with the home team. The teams also make considerable revenue by selling merchandise like T-shirts, caps which are purchased largely by the fans.

Whenever IPL happens in India, no Bollywood movies are released as every fan is glued to the television, watching their favourite players and franchise doing well. Because of the colossal success of IPL over the last 13 editions, even the pandemic has not stopped it from successfully running in the UAE. At the same time the TRP of watching the IPL game had reached its highest levels with 269 million viewers across 86 million households watching the game.

So big is the IPL that since majority of the cricketing nations' players participate, there is a 2 months window free for IPL to happen with no cricketing event happening during this period. The cricketers who have been doing well for their respective countries get picked up in

the auction by the franchise and also get paid quite heavily. Indian players like Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma are all paid around INR 17 crores (USD 2.31 million) per year.

It's no different with foreign players like Pat Cummins getting 15 crores, Chris Morris from South Africa getting INR 16 crores (USD 2.18 million), Glen Maxwell getting INR 14 crores (USD 1.90 million).

Even a young fast bowler "Kyle Jamieson" from New Zealand got INR 15 crores (USD 2.04mn) in his debut year. Most of the players have made a fortune in this cash-rich IPL. When the league is so popular, the opportunity to earn more depends on the performance and franchises leave no stones unturned.

Today with the advent of IPL, Indian cricket is at its peak as players get to rub shoulders with international cricketers around the world. Even the pressure of playing IPL is as good as international cricket making it a life-changing game. Old generation or new generation, the brand of IPL has taken the world by a storm, which is growing bigger every year.





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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has declined, with prices for delivery by June 2021 reaching \$62.07, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil declined by 37 cents from the price of Thursday, which was \$62.44. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER

Oman's benchmark MSM 30 Index closed on Monday at 3,699.78 registering an increase of 37.5 points, or 1.024 per cent, compared to the last trading session.

Non-oil activities to contribute 37% of government revenues

These revenues will help achieve diversification of income and reduce dependence on oil

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Non-oil revenues will represent approximately 37 per cent of total government revenues in the 10th Five-Year Plan.

"The 10th Five-Year Plan has a special significance and an exceptional plan that came in such difficult circumstances due to the unprecedented economic changes the world is going through, such as

the ongoing COVID-19 that has hit the global economy with growth rates having retreated," His Excellency Dr Nasser bin Rashid Al Maawali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy said.

He said that there are several criteria that have been used in choosing the sectors that the Ministry was focused on in achieving the 10th Five-Year Plan.

"These include, among others,

the competitiveness of the sector, it's ability to provide job opportunities for citizens, the sector's sustainability and its ability to support other sectors, were the main sectors that were chosen," he added.

His Excellency Abdullah bin Salem Al Harthi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, affirmed that financial sustainability is important to achieve this vision, indicating that this comes through a balance between government revenues and expenditures.

"There are a number of initiatives on which this budget is based, including stimulating and diversifying government revenues and raising the efficiency of government spending and setting its priorities," he added.

The Undersecretary of the Min-

istry of Finance added, "Non-oil revenues will represent approximately 37 per cent of total government revenues, indicating that these revenues will contribute to increasing the base of government revenues, thus will achieve diversification of income and reduce dependence on oil."

Al Harithi said, "There is a financial system that will be implemented soon, to be a source of financial information by government agencies and to clarify all expenditures and revenues for the Ministry of Finance."

This came within the 17th commercial week organised at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) for the second day in a row, by holding a dialogue session on Oman Vision 2040 and the 10th Five-Year Plan.



GOVERNMENT REVENUE: several criteria have been used in choosing the sectors that the Ministry was focused on in achieving the 10th Five-Year Plan. - **File picture**

EDUCATION

Finnish education system one of the best in world

FINNISH education system is internationally ranked as one of the top education systems in the world. Finland has also been rated as having the world's best education system as a whole according to studies by the International Student Assessment Programme, organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Education is prioritised by the Finnish by spending 11 to 12% of public spending as well as 6% of the GDP on education. This covers free education, pre-school, nurseries and kindergartens, basic, secondary, technical and higher education and continuing education. It also funds free adult education, which is part of their lifelong education system. Finland has 3,000 schools and a population of 5.6 million, so it is known for its quality of education and output efficiency Finland schools have 20 to 30 students in each class and all teachers have a master's degree. In addition, great respect is afforded to the teaching profession. Finnish teachers are entrusted with the responsibility to choose the most appropriate teaching methods based on skills and content.

The Finnish education system promotes the well-being of the school community and ensures a safe and attractive environment that encourages students to enjoy the learning process. Students go to school every day. This happy environment is the basis for outstanding learning and enhances the ability and provides opportunities for discovery and innovation. The well-being of students is the basic pillar. Many aspects are taken into account to ensure the achievement of this well-being. For example, the care team is an integral part of the educational



process which supports both the teacher and the student.

Since well-being is pivotal for every student to keep pace with the educational process, Finland Oman School, located on the German University Campus, has followed the Finnish education system to provide a distinct education for people with special needs in conjunction with Finnish educational practices and to integrate this student group into the school community.

One of the most important aspects of the Finnish education system and thus Finland Oman School is the determination to take special care to observe the principle of unique education. The Finnish education approach considers each student unique and considers the educational process to be student-centric; accordingly, it celebrates the differences between students and is determined to develop their strengths.

The Finnish education approach, as practised at Finland Oman School, focuses on empowering all students with the skills that make them independent learners who start learning at an early age. Making students lifelong

learners is more about developing student skills than giving them knowledge.

In the Finnish educational system, individual skill subjects such as fine arts, school sports and musical skills are regarded as of equal importance to other academic subjects. The Finnish educational approach also takes into account the integrative approach of all subjects and in accordance with this approach, teachers at Finland Oman School identify each student's needs and subjects are presented in joint cooperative sessions that help the student understand a concept in its entirety, thus, students are able to see the full picture.

In the Finnish approach, a calendar is an essential tool of the teacher's daily routine which allows the regular scheduling of assessments of each student. This, in turn, contributes to the formation of a clear and comprehensive vision of the progress of student learning. In addition, these assessments reveal students' strengths and preferences, helping them to realize their preferred paths of interest early.



Since well-being and learning pleasure are key to success in Finnish education, education itself needs to be fun, attractive and interactive, combining classroom learning with active practical learning outside.

It employs active learning strategies, various educational programs, and large-scale game learning. It takes into account the periods of breaks included in the school day. Education is delivered through the joy of learning.

Finland Oman School provides large areas and attractive facilities that allow these goals to be achieved. Finland Oman School was established in 2018 as the result of a collaboration between Oman Educational Services Company, the owner of the German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) and the Finnish Education Cluster Foundation, an educational quality organisation of the Finnish University of Jyväskylä, which is one of the most famous universities in the field of education with more than 150 years of experience in the field of teacher training.

Finland Oman School is registering students from KG to Grade 11 for the 2021/2022 academic school year and is located at the German University campus on the Muscat Expressway.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bank Nizwa AGM approves distribution of cash dividend for shareholders

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's leading and most trusted Islamic bank, Bank Nizwa, held its Annual Ordinary General Meeting on March 28 via the electronic platform for general meetings on Muscat Clearing and Depository Company's website.

The Board of Directors of the Sultanate's flagship Islamic bank disclosed and approved critical material and information for the year 2020, including its exceptional financial performance. Bank Nizwa's conscious and consistent efforts rightfully manifest its most trusted position within Oman's Islamic banking sector. The AGM, chaired by Sheikh Khalid Abdullah Ali Al Khalili, Chairman, Bank Nizwa, approved the Director's Report for the financial year ending December 31, 2020, the bank's corporate governance report, and the bank's audited financial statements, including the balance sheet and profit and loss account, for the same fiscal year. The AGM also disclosed the Sharia Supervisory Board's Report for the year ending December 31, 2020. The shareholders also approved the distribution of cash dividend for the shareholders of 1.25 baisas per share.

Sharing details of the AGM, Sheikh Khalid Al Khalili highlighted, "Bank Nizwa has demonstrated utmost resilience in one of the most challenging years for world economies. I am proud to say that the bank has exhibited exceptional performance across all its departments even in the face of unprecedented challeng-



es, recording consistent growth. Backed by digitalised processes and undeterred service to its customers, Bank Nizwa has been able to cement its position as the most trusted Islamic bank in Oman."

"In line with the bank's five years strategy up to 2025, to support the next phase of growth, and increase returns for the shareholders, the bank shall increase its capital by OMR75 million, by way of a right issue in 2021. The bank is committed to further grow in the coming years, supporting Oman's Vision 2040, thereby contributing to the development and recovery of the economy," he added.

In 2020, Bank Nizwa recorded the highest growth in the financial sector in Oman and is widely acknowledged as the nation's leading and most trusted Islamic bank. The bank has played a very visible role in Oman's path to economic recovery has partnered with a number of significant government programmes and initiatives.

'KNOW YOUR VAT'

Zubair SEC partners with Ominvest to train SMEs on managing VAT

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) be ready to manage the new Value Added Tax (VAT), Zubair Small Enterprises Centre, has partnered with the Omani International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest), in organising a comprehensive programme for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises entitled 'Know your VAT'.

This initiative is considered to be the first initiative from the private sector to cover new value-added tax laws and procedures towards small and medium-sized enterprises, as the initiative aims to help entrepreneurs and small and medium-enterprises to develop their businesses through guiding them to be complied with the new VAT-related legislation and preparing them to be able to have smooth progress and introduction to the new value-added tax laws.

It is worth noting that, the Sultanate will implement the value-added tax law as of current April

16, according to Royal Decree No. 121/2020 issued on October 21 of last year approving the implementation of the value-added tax law, and it applies to companies whose taxable turnover exceeds OMR38,500, which includes the majority of the small and medium enterprises. This matter will require an effort to spread the value-added tax culture and handhold entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises on complying with VAT, plus avoiding any implications.

Zubair Small Enterprises Centre, in partnership with Ominvest, seeks to provide an approach for its members to prepare them for compliance with the new value-added tax system through an integrated programme entitled 'Know Your VAT'. Ominvest has been an important key partner of Zubair Small Enterprises Centre for several years, as they have cooperated in many entrepreneurial and SMEs related programs and initiatives.

Rashad bin Mohammad Al-Zubair, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Zubair Corpora-



PARTNERSHIP: This initiative is considered to be the first initiative from the private sector to cover new value-added tax laws and procedures towards small and medium-sized enterprises.

tion, pointed out that the value-added tax is new legislation that will be applied during this month on private sector enterprises. There is no doubt that it will include small and medium enterprises whose sales volume exceeds OMR38,500, hence entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises must be fully aware of the requirements of VAT, whether financial or a process related to

their business, and the importance of timely registration and application. He explained that small and medium enterprises in most cases will not be ready to introduce the value-added tax in their commercial projects and will need support and guidance to deal with it.

AbdulAziz Al Balushi, Group CEO, Ominvest said, "The implementation of VAT is expected to help the economy by generating

revenue of around OMR400 million per annum. While larger companies have the teams and systems in place to seamlessly manage their VAT, SMEs may not be as well-equipped for that. Our partnership with Zubair SEC through this new initiative aligns very well with Ominvest's purpose of "Transforming Businesses to Enrich Societies" - by having a more resilient SME sector, our chances for economic recover get better in the short and long-run".

He added, "We have been strategic partners of Zubair SEC's Direct Support Programme since 2017 and due to the significant impact that the Centre has managed to create by supporting small businesses in the country, we've renewed our support year on year. We are proud to be working with Zubair SEC on this new initiative, which will add value and help young entrepreneurs have better control of the sustainability of their businesses."

He added, "The 'Know Your VAT' programme is a first-of-a-kind pri-

ivate sector initiative launched by us. Both Ominvest and Zubair SEC are happy to work together to introduce the new VAT laws and procedures to members and SMEs. The participants should benefit greatly through this programme and they would be better prepared to handle the new VAT rules."

The 'Know Your VAT' programme is planned to deliver comprehensive training to help SMEs understand VAT and its implementation. It includes three integrated modules as webinars, animated videos and VAT document booklet.

The webinars will explain and educate on VAT law, compliance issues and implementation. The animated videos in Arabic should explain the VAT concept such as how to obtain registration, how to raise a proper tax invoice under VAT among other topics. The VAT document booklet includes templates that were designed in a digital format which will be available online for Zubair SEC members to download and print.

MARKET

MSM index ends higher

The total value of traded securities reached OMR3.256 million with an increase of 103.0 per cent compared to the last trading session



MUSCAT: Oman's benchmark MSM 30 Index closed on Monday at 3,699.78 registering an increase of 37.5 points, or 1.024 per cent, compared to the last trading session.

The MSM Sharia Index ended lower and closed at 536.27 points.

The total value of traded securities reached OMR3.256 million with an increase of 103.0 per cent compared to the last trading session when it was reported OMR1.554 million.

The Market Capitalisation increased by 0.192 per cent against the last trading day reaching around OMR20.62 billion.

It is worth mentioning that the value of shares bought by non-Omanis investors reached OMR661,000 while the value of shares sold by non-Omanis investors reached OMR498,000.

The net foreign investment on the stock market on Monday increased to OMR163,000. - Times News Service

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

Trading Summary	Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
	19,466,857	3,256,243	915	20,620,570,985	25	5	18	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, APRIL 5

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	324,783	68,504	64	0.206	0.213	0.206	0.211	0.206	0.005	2.427	0.212	0.212	0.213	0.100	28,353,470
OM0000001772 ALANWAH INVESTMENT	6,120,013	545,048	144	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.087	0.002	2.299	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	187,186	8,409	14	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.045	0.045	0.047	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSUR.	203,259	78,258	8	0.378	0.400	0.378	0.386	0.378	0.008	2.116	0.384	0.384	0.400	0.100	38,600,000
OM0000002440 AL SHARGIA INV	898,170	66,265	33	0.074	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.	28,450	9,958	4	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.346	0.004	1.156	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.100	82,745,500
OM0000001438 BANSUIT CEMENT	25,000	6,548	3	0.267	0.269	0.267	0.268	0.265	0.003	1.107	0.268	0.267	0.265	0.100	58,600,000
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	716,291	280,516	44	0.390	0.396	0.390	0.392	0.390	0.002	0.513	0.390	0.390	0.392	0.100	1,401,194,118
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	50,245	20,178	4	0.400	0.402	0.400	0.402	0.400	0.002	0.500	0.402	0.396	0.400	0.100	261,679,580
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	171,550	41,164	11	0.240	0.240	0.239	0.240	0.239	0.001	0.418	0.239	0.239	0.240	0.100	79,409,450
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	70,204	9,676	12	0.138	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.000	0.138	0.135	0.138	0.100	11,730,000
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST & FIN.	301,836	24,159	16	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	18,960,000
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	22,133	6,686	6	0.302	0.304	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.304	0.302	0.304	0.100	243,947,243
OM0000002077 AL OMANITA FIN.	46,000	3,256	7	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	20,435,462
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT. BANK	415,382	37,386	12	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	219,105,606
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	80,207	59,034	12	0.736	0.740	0.736	0.736	0.740	-0.004	-0.541	0.740	0.736	0.740	0.100	552,000,000
Total	16	9,657,709	1,265,026	394											
Parallel Market															
OM0000003521 GULFAR ENGINEER	2,206,401	110,576	95	0.048	0.051	0.048	0.050	0.048	0.002	4.167	0.050	0.049	0.052	0.100	14,486,032
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	7,000	686	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.095	0.003	3.158	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	196,039,653
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	103,658	10,972	7	0.106	0.106	0.104	0.106	0.103	0.003	2.913	0.104	0.104	0.106	0.100	206,663,691
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	253,000	26,818	9	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.103	0.003	2.913	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	317,613,252
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	1,340,000	60,080	35	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.100	15,711,498
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	186,104	8,670	12	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.046	0.001	2.174	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.100	68,742,269
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	130,000	6,540	18	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.050	0.053	0.100	6,093,750
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	564,382	30,561	27	0.054	0.055	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.100	36,443,921
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	274,354	15,056	13	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.001	1.852	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.100	39,292,349
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,078,827	168,619	34	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.154	0.152	0.002	1.316	0.155	0.155	0.160	0.100	250,395,739
OM0000007084 MCT DESALINATE	221,809	19,963	10	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.089	0.092	0.100	13,969,536
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	46,667	4,468	6	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	617,299	71,903	72	0.115	0.118	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.117	0.115	0.118	0.100	3,894,288
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,516,089	474,397	112	0.310	0.320	0.310	0.312	0.310	0.002	0.645	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.100	92,418,669
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR.	36,000	17,980	2	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.000	0.000	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.100	44,850,000
OM0000001962 AL MADINA INV.	300	7	1	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.022	0.025	0.100	4,764,482
OM0000003000 AI MAHA MARKTING	2,172	1,210	2	0.554	0.560	0.554	0.550	0.550	0.000	0.000	0.560	0.554	0.600	0.100	37,950,000
OM0000004669 SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	3,140	389	3	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.000	0.124	0.124	0.128	0.100	12,127,468
OM0000004735 SEMBROP SALALAH	80,100	6,508	6	0.079	0.083	0.079	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.082	0.100	77,230,328
OM0000002890 OMAN ARAB BANK	3,167	475	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.165	0.100	230,431,500
OM0000006912 AHLIA INSURANCE	2,000	632	2	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.316	0.312	0.316	0.100	31,600,000
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	2,000	312	1	0.156	0.156	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.100	34,447,200
OM0000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE	105	10	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.101	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	12,000	1,126	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	61,547,000
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	170,335	51,873	16	0.304	0.312	0.302	0.304	0.306	-0.002	-0.654	0.312	0.310	0.312	0.100	18,006,099
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	129,712	11,318	14	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	15,225,000
OM0000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	200,900	21,697	11	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.100	8,791,497
OM0000002028 GULF INT. CHEMI.	12,272	1,276	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.107	-0.003	-2.804	0.104	0.102	0.000	0.100	2,184,000
Total	26	9,202,653	1,122,126	513											

UAE

Pact signed to handle livestock logistics

ABU DHABI: Fujairah Terminals, a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, and Al Mayya Group, announced the signing of an agreement to handle the livestock logistics for the annual import of more than a million sheep, goat and cattle into the UAE.

In one of the largest contracts of its kind in the UAE, Fujairah Terminals will grant Al Mayya

Group exclusive rights to service livestock at a specially designated quarantine and berth area situated within its terminal facilities at the Port of Fujairah. Fujairah's strategic location on the UAE's eastern seaboard ensures a much shorter sailing time to and from key destinations including East Africa. Thanks to the country's highly advanced road network, it will eas-

ily connect Al Mayya Group's al-located port-side area to its other inland facilities across the UAE.

AbdulAziz Al Balooshi, CEO at Fujairah Terminals, said, "Fujairah Terminals' landmark agreement with Al Mayya Group demonstrates our ability to tailor customer-centric solutions that enable the streamlining and enhancement of global trade."

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VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Prominent speakers from Oman to take part in sustainability forum

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Centre for Governance and Sustainability will organise, in collaboration with be'ah authority, is organising the second Sustainability Conference on April 7 through video conferencing under the patronage of Dr Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development with the participation of prominent speakers from the various sectors in Oman.

Green economy

The conference aims to introduce a green economy and its importance to preserving the environment and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development linked with the 2040 Oman Vision.

The conference will discuss the various approaches to applying local added value and emphasising the circular economy in the operations of institutions as well

as introducing certain experiments and environmentally sustainable projects in Oman beside industrial innovations and the trials of private sector companies in environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development

Sayyid Hamid Sultan Al Busaidi, Executive Director of OCGS, said "The conference aims to strengthen the role of OCGS in enhancing the partnership between the public and private sectors and to highlight the importance of implementation of the objects on sustainable development by 2030 in line with the objects and strategies of Oman Vision 2040. The conference will discuss the voluntary national review on sustainable development object prepared by the Sultanate of Oman as well as discussions between the public and private sectors to achieve the objects of the sustainable development

adopted by the United Nations beside dissemination of awareness on the sustainability concept and its importance in the business environment to reach clear policies and guidelines in sustainability in Oman."

Al Busaidi added, "The conference will shed light on the areas of the green economy such as green buildings, renewable energy, sustainable transport, water management, land management and waste management. Implementation of the green economy can be seen in the emerging industries such as renewable energy, wind, solar and geothermal energy as such energy can be used to assist in providing energy for green buildings and sustainable transport for better efficiency, water management through purification, waste management through recycling and land management through protecting the gardens wildlife habitats and natural reserves."

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

India's FDI inflows total \$72 billion from April to January

NEW DELHI: India attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows of \$72.12 billion from April to January, the government said. It is the highest ever for the first 10 months of a financial year and 15 per cent higher as compared to the first 10 months of 2019-20 (\$62.72 billion).

Policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business resulted in the jump in FDI inflows, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The trends show that the FDI equity inflows grew by 28 per cent in the first 10 months of FY 2020-21 (\$54.18 billion) compared to the year-ago period (\$42.34 billion).

In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the apex with 30.28 per cent of total FDI equity inflow followed by the United States (24.28 per cent) and the United Arab Emirates (7.31 per cent). Japan has been leading the list of investor countries to invest in India with 29.09 per cent of the total FDI equity inflows during January followed by Singapore (25.46 per cent) and the United States (12.06 per cent).

The computer software and hardware emerged as the top sector during the first 10 months of FY 2020-21. -ANI

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We are one of the leading distributors of mobile devices in Oman and represent various reputed brands. To meet our expansion plans and enhance our professional team, we are on the lookout for qualified, young and energetic professionals having experience in telecommunication/FMCG for the following areas:

Sl.	Position
1.	Marketing Manager
2.	Warehouse Manager
3.	Showroom Salesman
4.	Multi-brand Mobile Technician

Interested candidates may forward their resume to email:
vacantjobsme@gmail.com

A leading construction and design company is looking for candidates for Purchase / Procurement Engineer

Procurement Engineer (1no.) - 5+ years of experience in construction company (Minimum of 3 years in Oman) with strong knowledge in supply chain management.

Responsibilities: Timely procurement of materials, careful review of prices, quantity and material specifications, Organize, Control and monitor all Contract and Procurement activities, Develop & implement strategies, methods, processes & systems to optimize and get the lowest overall cost, tracking of the purchase orders.

Education & other skills: Candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, excellent spoken and written English is a must, knowledge in excel & word.

Eligible candidates may forward their resume to: **vacanciespec@gmail.com**

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Essentials: valid omani driving license for heavy vehicle with valid labor card.

Capable of driving transit mixers, 2/3 axle tipper trailers, concrete pump and block crane.

Salary will be as per company standards and all other facilities as per company rule.

Intrested candidates will contact on following address:
alajmi@kunoozreadymix.com / Contact no: **93210107**
parmender@kunoozreadymix.com / Contact no: **99299840**

Urgent Requirement

Muscat - Sultanate of Oman

Dentist – Female

Minimum 5 year's practice experience, With or without MOH License, Arabic speaker preferable, Must be in Oman.

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 Email sales@oceancentre.co

Pest Control Treatments - Cockroaches, Ants, etc. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 99329289
 Email sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning - Offices, Villas & Flats. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 99329289
 Email sales@oceancentre.co

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JOB VACANCIES

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MANAGER

An Excellent grade construction company is looking for the following candidates - **Construction Manager**, minimum 15 years of GCC experience. Interested candidates send your CV to iblitauited@gmail.com

General Manager for a reputed GCC logistics operator. Minimum 5yrs experience in logistics, at least 2yrs in similar capacity. Proficient in strategic thinking, team building, financials and operations. Email logsjobsom@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Consultancy firm urgently requires following candidates having min 5 yrs experience in Oman well versed with arabic language (speaking) & holder of Oman driving license. — **Architect & Civil engineer** for site supervision. Send CV to: info@abdullamukadam.com

Required Consultants having Degree in Marketing/Finance or Engineering with 2 - 5 years' experience working for Consultancy/ Advisory Firms. Email advance@omantel.net.om

MEDICAL

Urgently required pathologist/microbiologist with PHD, GP doctors, nurses, x-ray technicians, Arab speaking gynecologist, pediatrician, dentist & orthodontist for Salalah, Oman. MOH license holders are preferred. Whatsapp +968 98899345 Email hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com

Wanted lady dentist in Ruwi. Contact 99357612

Wanted a Indian GP doctor, urgently with/without MOH licence for a running clinic in the capital area. Contact 93807107 Email syedyakub71@gmail.com

Needed urgently female Lab technician for a private clinic in Salalah. Contact 99082092

Urgently required Gynecologist with DGO/MD, Pediatrician, Specialist Orthopedic, Physiotherapist, Nurse for reputed clinic in Wadikabir Area. Email info@wmc.om

Wanted Female GP preferably with MOH license for a well established Medical Centre. Contact 98115439

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Technicians duct pi A/c. Contact 99723585, 97159292

SALES / MARKETING

Required young diploma Civil Engineer/graduate with Oman driving license for Sales in construction material. Having good contacts with consultants & contractors. Contact 92888337

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Sr Accountant, Semi qualified CMA US, MBA finance, 18 years exp, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92539913

Indan male 29 yrs with 7+ yrs experience working in finance expertise in MIS,accounting,finalization,budgeting,VAT,advance excel & handling audits. Contact 94028831. Email financervd@gmail.com

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, Email pac_3rd@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

DESIGNER / AUTOCAD D/MAN

AutoCAD / Revit (2d/3d), MEP freelancer, shop drawing works. Contact: 95828353 / 79037728 (WA)

CAD Draughtsman looking for a job. Release available Contact 95157045

20+ yrs Exp. Architectural, Structural & ELV Draftsman Looking freelance job. Contact 99718163, Email: riyasoka@gmail.com

Srilankan, looking for MEP draftsman / Const supervisor. Dip in MEP draftsman with 3-4 yrs experience. Contact 93988825. Email amenulas@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. 97947214

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

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

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

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Masters, Male, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience - Airport Projects, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate. NOC. # 99283938

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

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

Business administration graduate MBA holder, with 3 years experience looking for suitable vacancy.. Contact 968-79387444 Email m.mukhtar2t4@gmail.com

COOK

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

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. Contact 96224920

Looking for driving job. # 99141165

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

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

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

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

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

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HOSPITALITY

BSc Hospitality Management Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia.Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry. Contact 94575782 Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

IT

Indian female MCA, 4 yrs experience in TCS as a software testing engineer seeking suitable position. Contact 95249883 Email rejaaramdas@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

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

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

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926. mubashirosman89@gmail.com

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

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

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

Tower crane operator. NOC available. Contact 91519095

MANAGER

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

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

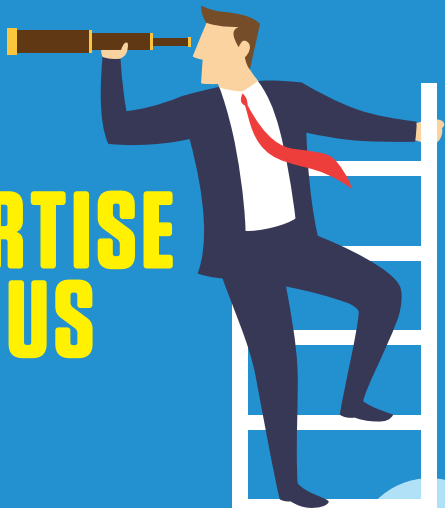
Expert in oil and gas supply chain, operation and commercial management 18 years of Oman experience as mid level executive looking for immediate placement.# 95148237

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

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

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Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER

Indian Male, Degree in Civil Engineer, 24 yrs Exp, with 15 yrs Gulf experience in handling Grid stations, OHL, Hospital Buildings, Road, MEP. Worked with (Ray International, L & T, ONEK), under , OETC, Mazan, Mazon, DPC. Having Oman D/L. Looking for suitable position. Immediate available for join, NOC available.

Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774 Wts - 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Logistics and Operations

Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.

Contact: 79639093
Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

Sr. Sales HVAC/MEP/Industrial Products

With 10 + years of experience in Sales and Business development of HVAC / Mechanical / Industrial products in Oman market. Hold DL and available immediately.

Contact: 93843068; mabcoman@yahoo.com

ENGINEER / DEPUTE PM

BE 15 yrs Exp Seeking job roles of Engineer - Sr.planning/Sr.cost control/Dep.PM in Building Construction/Infrastructure Utilities Projects/Consulting Firms of a growth oriented organization.

Contact 97464768

Administration

Pakistani Female with 13 years of experience in Academic Administration with excellent communication skills, on family visa. Part time also willing.

Contact 79285929

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.

aminol2424@gmail.com
79417515

HR / Admin

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

Contact 99653715

Omani Information Technology Field

Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.

Contact: 71771213
Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

ENGINEER

Omani female looking for a job, BSc in Process engineering (Done four different internships in process engineering), marketing experience as well.

Contact: 95119284
alya_alsiyabi93@outlook.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.

Contact: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator

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

Please contact -- 78022980

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

WANTED PART TIME OR CONTRACT BASIS ACCOUNTING JOB UPTO FINALISATION.

CONTACT: 91720776

Mechanical Engineer

Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 5+years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.

Call 97015841
Email: khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

ASST. FINANCE MANAGER

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, ODDO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer

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

Contact/ Whatsapp No.: 95051103,
Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

INDIAN MALE, FINANCE MANAGER WITH OVER 20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH NBFC, IT, MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES. GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS. SEEKING SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES. LOCAL RELEASE CAN BE ARRANGED.

CONTACT +968 95808315 / 94411825

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Contact 94953826 / 92824146

ACCOUNTANT

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

Contact 71990782

CIVIL ENGINEER

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL.

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

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.

GSM: 78259755

IT PROFESSIONAL

With 15+years of experience. Currently working as Head Of IT Support for a reputed company in Muscat for last 7 years. MCSA, CCNA, ITIL certified. Experience in IT infrastructure, IT project management, Resource Management & Service Desk seeks suitable placement as IT Manager/System Admin.

Contact 92514687 Email: hi.binu@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer, having 8 yrs of Oman experience in all types of building constructions & having Oman D/L & NOC available. Ready to join immediately. Contact 71267309, 96742402 (whatsapp), Email vmanand92@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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 ranjithbr17@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

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

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

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

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

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

TOUR / TRAVEL

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

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

SALES / MARKETING

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

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

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

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 8 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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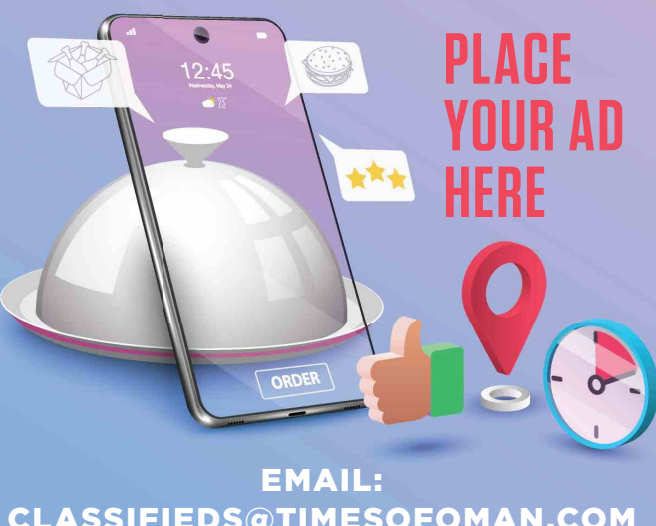
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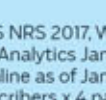
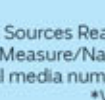
116,203
Electronic direct mailers



240,486
APP downloads

117,335
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123,151
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Data Sources Readership: IPSOS NRS 2017, Web reach:
Effective Measure/Narrative, Google Analytics January 2020;
Social media numbers verified online as of January 2020;
*Whatsapp subscribers x 4 pass-on rate

Mercedes-Benz Oman announces its latest offer on brake pads

Available from April 11 until May 13 at the Authorised Service Centres in Muscat, Sohar and Salalah, customers can put their car in the safe hands of Mercedes-Benz certified technicians

MUSCAT: Ensuring cars are at their very best this Ramadan, Mercedes-Benz Oman has announced its latest offer on brake pads which includes up to 60% off on changes.

Available from April 11 until May 13 at the Authorised Service Centres in Muscat, Sohar and Salalah, customers can put their car in the safe hands of Mercedes-

Benz certified technicians, who will also carry out an inspection of the vehicle braking system, including brake fluid condition and testing, in addition, to a complimentary vehicle wash.

“At Mercedes-Benz, we want our customers to enjoy their cars to the fullest and that’s why our commitment to after-sales care is second-to-none. Our Brake Pads campaign makes sure that vehicles stay in the best possible condition and because we use Mercedes-Benz GenuineParts, it means our customers are not only getting the value they deserve but are protecting their wellbeing,” said Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer at Mercedes-Benz Oman.

Scientifically proven to out-perform all alternatives in the market, Mercedes-Benz genuine brake pads go up to 17,000 km further than the second-best substitute, keeping drivers safer for longer. Perfectly designed for Mercedes-Benz genuine brake discs, ensure high braking power, short stopping distances, lower wear and tear when compared to non-genuine parts. This is how Mercedes-Benz genuine brake components contribute to a safer driving experience.

The Mercedes-Benz Brake Pads campaign is available to owners of models registered after January 30, 2017. Customers are requested to book an appointment early to avoid missing out on the offer.



BRANDED LUXURY APARTMENTS



The Residences at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat appoints Oman Sotheby’s International Realty as its exclusive sales agency

MUSCAT: The Residences at The St.Regis Al Mouj Muscat has announced the appointment of Oman Sotheby’s International Realty (OSIR) as its exclusive sales agency for its branded luxury apartments resting on the shores of Oman.

Recently launched by Alfardan Group, OSIR falls under the umbrella of leading high-end property international brokerage firms around the globe, Sotheby’s International Realty. The OSIR office is located on the 2nd floor at Finaa Alfardan and will be headed by Faisal Al Shanfari as the Country Manager.

Boasting an exclusive and robust portfolio of luxury real estate properties across the world’s most premium addresses and locations, the realty will manage the portfolio for The Residences at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat marking a key milestone towards the launch of the exclusive property.

Commenting on its appointment, Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alfardan Group, stated: “Marking our latest foray into the real estate market, Alfardan Group is delighted to take on The Residences at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat with Oman Sotheby’s International Realty. The international realtor brings world-class services and extensive agency experience that leads globally with a proven track

record in luxury real estate to connect local and international investors with the rich Omani real estate market. Backed by a network of experts, the brokerage firm opens up The Residences at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat to a global clientele of luxury connoisseurs seeking an exceptional home, exclusive privileges, and unparalleled luxury living.”

The Residences at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat feature 170 luxury abodes spanning an array of one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments, as an ideal real estate investment opportunity in Oman. The project will entitle its residents to a freehold title deed upon purchase.

A beachfront address running along an incredible 360-metre-long coastline enters its occupants into a world of new experiences at The St. Regis branded residences that have arrived for the first time in Oman. Under the signature brand, residents have access to The St. Regis signature lifestyle and first-class amenities ranging from private butler service, 24-hour concierge and à la carte services at distinct hotel apartments. In addition, the project will be the destination for a number of speciality restaurants along the coast. All facilities are specifically curated to match the needs of its residents, boasting an unmatched lifestyle and exceptional privileges.

PROMOTION

Celebrate Ramadan with unbeatable offers and cash gifts from Mitsubishi

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributors of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has announced the launch of their highly anticipated Ramadan offer.

This year, GAC will be offering its customers a wide range of benefits that include cash gifts of up to OMR 3,500, 0% financing for up to two years, special trade-in bonuses of up to OMR 500 and more. In addition, GAC will be offering six years/unlimited kilometres warranty and roadside assistance and free registration.

Commenting on the new Ramadan Offer, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, “As with every Ramadan our new offer has been designed to offer our customers a real sense of value with an extra special deal, one they certainly



warding purchase.”

Customers who purchase any Mitsubishi during the Ramadan Offer period, before it comes to a close on June 3, will enjoy the benefits of the range of benefits including cash gifts ranging from a minimum of OMR 1,300 up to OMR 3,500 and 0% interest financing for up-to two years. Select models will also be available with trade-in bonuses ranging from OMR 200 to OMR 500, free Insurance for one year, and a 2-year/20,000km free service package. Select variants of the L200 will also be available with a 4-year financing option at an attractive interest rate of just 2.99%. All vehicles will also come with free registration for the first year together with six years/unlimited kilometres warranty and roadside assistance.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE

Renault Dokker: Functional utility vehicle with great design amazes customers

MUSCAT: A functional commercial vehicle, Renault Dokker combines the best features of space, comfort, and dynamic performance. Its functional utility vehicle and great design have found Renault Dokker many a fan in Oman.

Businessman Saeed Al Hinai from Nizwa says, “Renault Dokker Van competently rises to the challenge of meeting my day-to-day needs. Its 750 kg payload is invaluable for a businessman like me.”

Saeed Al Hinai also likes its easy loading feature. “The Dokker Van comes with one or two sliding side doors and the loading width stands at 703 mm! The asymmetrical rear doors, meanwhile, open to a width of 1.08 m which is especially useful. Its lashing rings on the floor hold fragile items perfectly in place,” he says.

Mahmood Al Jaafari from Sur is



impressed with its generous loading space which does not compromise comfort.

“The ‘Easy Seat’ is foldable and removable; the passenger seat shows its full ingenuity when the backrest folds down to form a temporary desk. When fully re-

moved, it frees up extra space, increasing the loading volume to 3.9 m3,” he explains.

Zaid Al Balushi from Muscat enjoys the relaxed and safe drive Renault Dokker offers.

“It is sturdy and reliable, and the best part is Renault Dokker adapts

to all circumstances. Its features including ABS & BA, ESP, TPMS, dual airbags make it a top-range car,” he says.

Sulieaman Al Jabri from Ibra appreciated the strong performance of the vehicle’s engine.

“The 1.6L 85hp Euro 4 engine that powers Dokker shows consumption levels among the lowest in its class, without having to resort to expensive and complex technologies or sacrificing performance,” he says.

A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “Renault Dokker is a very efficient and dynamic vehicle. That is why it has found so many fans. Its 1.6 MPI 85 hp engine is efficient both in consumption and cost of usage. The engine allows for very dynamic driving at a cost that is amongst the most frugal.”

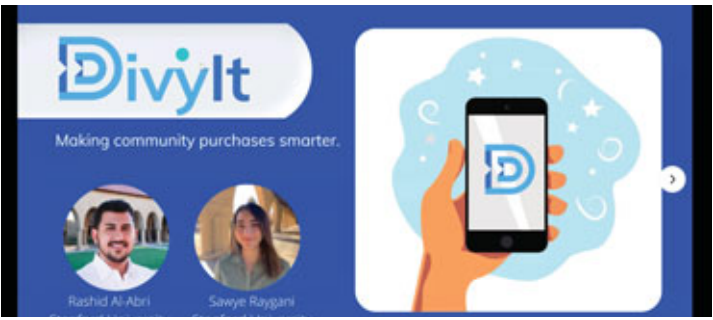
VIRTUAL HACKATHON

OAB declares Innovation Hub 2.0 results

MUSCAT: Upon the completion of the 24-hour virtual hackathon, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced the final results of the Innovation Hub 2.0, which was organised virtually, for the first time in Oman. The hackathon saw the participation of over 550 participants, who were divided into three categories, students, Fintech/professionals and OAB employees. Each of them had to present innovative solutions under the three main themes; Fintech, tourism, and cybersecurity.

Rashad Al Musafir, CEO of OAB, said, “Each of the participants showcased immense passion for innovation and were eager to take part, despite the circumstances. We are extremely proud of their determination and innovative spirit. I strongly believe that many of the participants will play a significant role in shaping the future of the banking sector in the Sultanate. We, are delighted to pave the way for them to shape the future.”

The virtual Innovation Hub 2.0



kicked off at 12 pm on Friday, April 2nd and continued until 5pm on Saturday, April 3, with the names of the winners being announced by the judges at the event. Team ‘DivyIT’ achieved first place in the student category, winning a cash prize of OMR2,500, an innovation internship programme at the bank and the opportunity to be employed by the bank in the future. In the fintech/professionals category, team ‘Ebina’, came in first place and won an OMR 2,500 cash prize as well as an opportunity to potentially collaborate with the Bank to

implement the solution. The OAB staff winners were team ‘Digital Artist’, which included four employees from the Retail Banking Division. They were awarded a cash prize of OMR 2,500 and will be able to join the Innovation Lab to work on their innovative ideas.

Leen Al Atassi, Head of Innovation at OAB said, “The competition was intense, but we were truly amazed by the talent, passion for innovation and the immense potential that our youth and young professionals demonstrated during the 24-hr challenge.”

FINANCIAL INCLUSIVITY

Bank Muscat strengthens its e-channel network across Oman

MUSCAT: In line with its vision “To serve you better, everyday”, and commitment to promoting financial inclusion across the Sultanate, including the remotest parts of the country, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, is continuously undertaking new measures to improve financial inclusivity amongst all demographic segments. This drive for financial inclusion is closely aligned with national growth and development goals as envisaged by Oman Vision 2040. The bank’s electronic and digital channels are playing a key role in facilitating this.

As the largest financial services provider in the country, Bank Muscat had 173 branches and 794 devices including 469 Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), 129 Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs), 167 Full Function Machines (FFMs), 19 statement

printers and 10 Business Cash Deposit Machines (BCDMs) spread across all governorates of the Sultanate as of date. A number of new ATMs and CDMs are currently being installed in different governorates. Also, many more locations are being currently identified for new installations as the bank tries to improve financial inclusivity in remote locations across Oman. As part of its customer-centric vision, the bank continuously takes feedback from its customers, conducts surveys and identifies fresh installation sites. The final decision to install new devices are made on the basis of various inputs including the feedback from bank officials, customer feedback and the footfalls in that particular location, especially if it is within a business hub.

Bank Muscat’s e-channels like ATMs, CDMs, FFM, BCDMs and Statement Printers offer a number

of services for the benefit of customers. ATM services include Fast Cash, Cash Withdrawal, Balance Enquiry, Card Linked Account Fund Transfer, Setting /resetting the debit and credit card PIN, minis statements, bill payments, mobile top-ups and submission of requests for cheque books. CDM services include Cash Deposit, payment of utility bills, credit card payments, remittances, mobile top-ups and payment of school fees. FFM offer the services of both ATMs and CDMs from a single device while BCDMs make it easy for businesses to deposit cash without visiting a branch. The Statement Printer Kiosk can be used by all Bank Muscat customers for printing account statements at any time. Bank Muscat’s e-channels are available 24/7 and facilitate secure and convenient transactions, especially during weekends and holidays.

Toyota debuts its stylish and sophisticated all-new Camry

Featuring an imposing yet elegant silhouette and spacious, high-quality interior, the new Camry combines engaging performance with thoughtful technology to help drivers and passengers get the most out of every journey

MUSCAT: Further strengthening the appeal of one of the Middle East's best-loved vehicles, Toyota has launched the latest version of its iconic Camry model in the region.

Featuring an imposing yet elegant silhouette and spacious, high-quality interior, the new Camry combines engaging performance with thoughtful technology to help drivers and passengers get the most out of every journey.

Since its debut in 1982 and evolution over eight generations, the Toyota Camry has been embraced around the world for its outstanding performance, alluring coupe-inspired design and renowned quality and value. As one of the Middle East's most popular vehicles, it has established an unshakable presence in the mid-size sedan market and a special place in the hearts of people in the region. The new model introduces a level of refinement that exceeds expectations, further cementing the Camry's reputation as a class-leading vehicle that offers an unparalleled driving experience.

"We are excited to bring drivers in the Middle East a refreshed version of the Toyota Camry, a vehicle they already know and love," said Kei Fujita, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor



Corporation. "From the sleek new design and premium interior to its impressive performance and fuel efficiency, the new Camry adds excitement to every trip while maintaining its exceptional quality, durability, and reliability. I would like to thank all of our customers for their cherished support, which continues to inspire us on our path to developing ever-better cars."

The new Camry provides a comfortable and stable ride with superior handling characteristics thanks to the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), the company's ground-breaking strategy in

terms of how it designs, engineers, and packages its vehicles. TNGA retains all of Toyota's traditional values of superlative build quality and safety while injecting a fun driving experience.

The latest evolution of the Camry's styling gives the vehicle a bold look that engages the senses more strongly than ever. A new front fascia incorporates a more defined lower-intake area, with grille bars extending dynamically to the sides creating a refined look that is enhanced by chrome-plated ornamentation for a premium feel.

The sportier grades wear a noticeably different body style than the premium grades, with a bold redesigned lower fascia shape featuring a powerfully expressive gloss black mesh grille and larger side vents.

This athletic look is further emphasized with new 18-inch bright machined-finish alloy wheels. A subtle rear spoiler lip is paired with a unique rear bumper with distinctive corner lines, as well as new-look combination lamps.

The new Camry's interior melds functionality, elegant styling, and impeccable craftsmanship. The dash design has a sporty, cockpit-



like feel while treating both the driver and the front passenger to wider visibility. The exciting interior's distinctive design offers comfort and convenience with a layer of luxury and hosts a range of advanced features. These include a panoramic moonroof, a floating 7-inch or 9-inch multimedia touch screen that comes integrated with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™, a wireless charging system for smartphones, dual-zone automatic air conditioning, a six-speaker or nine-speaker JBL sound system, multi-adjustable power front seats, and 60/40 split rear seats.

The new Camry is available with a choice of three powertrain options, including a new 2.5-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine that produces 204 hp and 243 nm of torque and is paired with an eight-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission; a 3.5-litre V6 engine with a D-4S fuel injection system that produces 298 hp and 356 nm of torque and is mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission; and an electrified hybrid system, which combines a petrol engine and two electric motors. The combined power of the two power sources is 208 hp. It is also paired with an Electronically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (ECVT), delivering heightened driving pleasure.

The class-leading hybrid-electric vehicle (HEV) model can be driven entirely by electrical power with zero-fuel consumption and carbon emissions or with a combination of the petrol engine and two electric motors depending on the vehicle speed and customer's driving behaviour.

The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating,

eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. The Camry HEV does not require special fuel, yet drives like any conventional vehicle. Visits to petrol stations will also be significantly reduced thanks to its top-class fuel efficiency.

As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the new Camry. The vehicle's advanced safety system is complemented by Toyota Safety Sense, an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS), Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), Lane Tracing Assist (LTA), and Automatic High Beam (AHB). In addition, the vehicle features a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants such as Driver + Passenger + front side and curtain SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), and a rear-view camera, among many others.

The new Toyota Camry allows customers to express their individuality through a choice of eleven distinctive exterior colours. The sporty grade with a V6 engine is also available in two-tone colour schemes that accentuate the Camry's sculpted shape, setting it apart from the competition.

The interior comes in a range of four complementary colour schemes including grey, Black, and Beige, while customers of the V6 sporty grade can also opt for the exclusive Red colour. In addition, the new Camry can be available with 17-inch or 18-inch alloy wheels that feature two intricate designs, with a special bright machined and black finish available exclusively for the sporty grade.

FOR CHILDREN

Ministry signs deal with KR Eshraqa to support StemaZone initiative

MUSCAT: Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Education (MoE) has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eshraqa, Corporate Social Responsibility Arm of Khimji Ramdas (KR) Group signed the MoU at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Education on March 23. The signing comes under the guidance and vision of the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in building more scientific capabilities for Omani youth.

Dr Abdullah Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of Ministry of Education and Nailesh Khimji, Director, the Khimji Ramdas (KR) Group signed the MoU at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Education on March 23. The signing comes under the guidance and vision of the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in building more scientific capabilities for Omani youth.

The agreement signifies an innovative strategy aimed towards inspiring young Omanis to enter STEAM fields and set them on the pathway from an early age. Putting a renewed focus on StemaZone, the MoU highlights the country's commitment to guiding student's gain the skills they need

to prepare for the demands of the global economy and jobs of the future. The signing is significant given that the country is working toward achieving "Oman Vision 2040" which will need a pipeline of talented young Omanis who are equipped with STEAM skills and knowledge.

StemaZone is a STEAM learning initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) meant for Omani children between 6 to 16 years of age. As part of the programme, an online learning platform (e-StemaZone) will be launched soon.

Commenting on the signing of MoU, Dr Abdullah Ambusaidi said, "We are happy to sign this agreement today with Eshraqa to provide support for the StemaZone, which means directing students towards awareness of the importance of integration between Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Arts, which is in line with the current



global trend in various educational institutions, and this agreement comes among the initiatives that are carried out by the local community and the private sector in support of the educational process, which the Ministry of Education strives to contribute to raising the level of students in directing them to study and raising the level of their motivation

towards science and technology.

We hope that everyone will benefit from this initiative by joining the virtual workshops run by the team or through the workshops held in the Children's Museum, and we hope that they will be a source of benefit and enjoyment for our students. I wish all the best for all and that initiatives like this be a source of awareness-raising

for our students. Thank you all very much and to the KR Group for their continuous support to the education sector in the Sultanate."

Elucidating on the signing of the MoU, Nailesh Khimji, Director Khimji Ramdas, said, "The agreement between the two parties indicates a futuristic blueprint aimed towards inspiring young Omanis to enter STEAM fields and set them on the pathway from an early age.

Putting a renewed focus on learning, the MoU highlights the country's commitment to helping students gain the skills they need to prepare for the demands of the global economy and jobs of the future. In the coming weeks, we are also set to launch online learning through LMS, a cloud-based EdTech tool that assists educators to teach. As a response to the COVID-19 crisis, governments around the world have issued public policies that include social distancing, isolation, and

self-quarantine, teaching through the online method is the best way forward. Meanwhile, the physical centre for StemaZone will help in expanding educational prospects for our students in various topics. They will get the necessary tools they need to be successful across the spectrum. We are confident the centre will encourage students to pursue careers in Science, Engineering and Technology and Arts."

Eshraqa will carry out this online initiative to encourage opportunities for students in STEAM fields with guidance provided by DAI Global.

The decision to launch e-StemaZone came as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. COVID-19 has disrupted learning in schools, museums, after-school programmes, and maker spaces. Although the Children's Museum and many other organisations are still closed, maker spaces, schools, museums are all making efforts to continue learning through virtual means.



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