



30
DAYS
TO GO

#50GoldenYears



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SAYYID THEYAZIN MEETS WITH US AMBASSADOR

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth received in his office Leslie M. Tsou, ambassador of the United States of America (USA) to the Sultanate, yesterday. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and discussed aspects of existing cooperation in various fields of common concern. The meeting also touched on matters pertaining to culture, sports and youth and means of enhancing them to serve the joint interests. -ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Information minister hails role of women

1 The Ministry of Information yesterday organised a ceremony marking the Omani Women's Day which falls on October 17. The celebration of Omani Women's Day reaffirms the ministry's public appreciation for women's participation in serving society. >A3

WORLD 'Little chance of broad Brexit trade deal'

2 European Parliament's Katarina Barley sees little chance for anything but a narrow UK-EU trade deal after Boris Johnson said there was no point in continuing the talks. Barley, a German-British MEP, admitted to a broadcaster that talks had become "increasingly difficult." >A6

MARKET CBO's total foreign assets up by 6.1%

3 Total foreign assets of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) at the end of July 2020 were up 6.1 per cent, at OMR6.28bn against OMR5.92bn for the same period in 2019. The effective exchange rate index of the Omani rial fell 1.4 per cent to 104.1 points against 105.6 points in the same period of 2019. >B1

BREAKING LOCKDOWN RULES? HEFTY FINE, JAIL AWAIT YOU



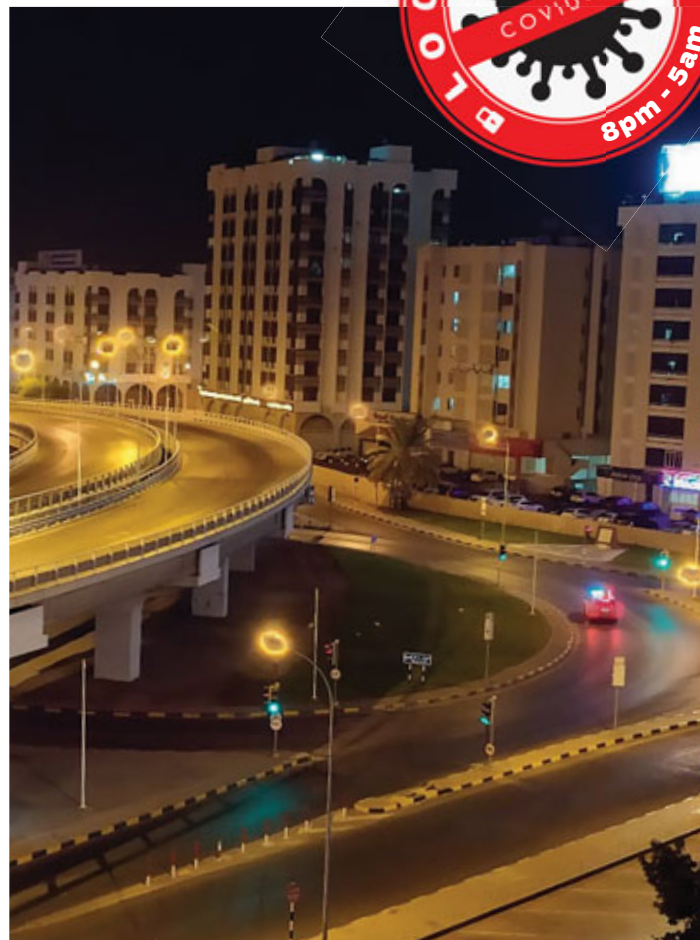
Fines range
from OMR100
to OMR3,500 in
addition to possible
time in jail

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People violating the rules of the lockdown could face fines of up to OMR3,500, as well as possible jail time.

In an interview to Times TV, Major Mudhar Al Mazrui of the Royal Oman Police, said, "Regarding the fines, they start from OMR100 for not wearing masks, which might reach up to OMR3,500 for not respecting the rules and regulations. This can be done if your case goes to the courts, and the judge can double the punishment as well. You can also go to jail, as well, if your cases reach the courts. We are very serious this time in applying all the rules and punishments."

Oman's Public Prosecution, in collaboration with other government authorities, has meted out punishments to those found guilty of violating the rules of the movement ban. On Friday, judicial courts in Al Buraimi and South Sharqiyah ruled that nine people who'd flouted these regulations had to pay a fine of OMR1,000. The Omanis found breaking them were also sentenced to six months in jail, while deportation orders were issued for the expatriates involved. In keeping with the rules of the



Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19, their names and pictures were also released in local media publications.

Avoidable

Al Mazrui added that the ROP needed to bring in this lockdown, after many in the country were found violating the regulations enacted to stop the spread of the coronavirus in Oman.

"We could have avoided this, if everybody had followed the rules, but according to the statistics we

have seen from the Ministry of Health, we were really in need of introducing more curbs, in order to decrease the number of cases, as well to give a break to those working in the medical sector."

Under the rules of the lockdown, emergency services and goods carriers can still move outdoors between 8 pm and 5 am. Provisions have also been made to those who have to travel to the airport to catch a flight, or receive passengers, as well as those who urgently need to go to hospital. >A6

REAL ESTATE

Now, expats can own flats, offices in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expats who have stayed in Oman for at least two years are now allowed to own flats and offices in Muscat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has said.

This was made possible due to a ministerial resolution, easing controls on selling residential real-estate units, and for lands allocated towards residential and commercial uses in some parts of the capital region.

"This decision targets those whose have stayed in the Sultanate for not less than two years, while submitting a usufruct application," said a statement from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. "Specifications of the usufruct multi-storey residential and commercial buildings will be within the specified sites for sale, and licensed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning after completion of the allocation and construction of the project.

The decision came after the ministry carried out studies with organisations involved in the country's real estate market, with the aim of stimulating the property sector in the country, which will help promote economic diversification and increase streams of revenue.

Fees incurred by the seller should be three percent of the unit value when applying for usufruct registration, with fees for the beneficiary calculated at five



percent of the residential real estate unit value upon registration.

The contract can last for up to 50 years, and then be subsequently renewed, such that the total term of this period, after its extension, lasts for a maximum of 99 years.

Economic benefits

The ministry said in this regard: "The objectives of the usufruct system for non-Omanis in multi-storey residential and commercial buildings is to keep pace with global trends to control the movement of funds and their use in the real estate sector in the Sultanate, to yield many economic benefits, including stimulating and supporting investment in real estate development projects, as well as taking into account the sensitivities of Omani society,

while taking into account its demographics.

"It also contributes to creating a competitive business environment attractive to investors in the real estate sector, and will inject cash into the real estate market and raise its performance," added the ministry. "Likewise, the usufruct system is one of the programmes that aims to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on oil, thus strengthening its financial position."

It is hoped that eight percent of the total revenues collected from the properties sold will be earned through this scheme, which will help boost national revenue. During the coming period, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning will announce areas where expats can buy property.

Sales of units shall not exceed 40 percent of the units in multi-floor commercial-cum-residential buildings or 20 percent of a single nationality. It should be noted that it is not allowed to have more than one owner from each nationality in each building. The rest will be floated for purchase by citizens.

Companies that aim to sell these real estate units to potential customers must follow the planning requirements of the ministry if they are to obtain a licence permitting them to do so. The Directorate General of Real Estate Development is to devise the terms for issuance of these licences and their distribution to real estate developers. >A3

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Health accreditation for Muscat airport

Recognition for Muscat International Airport’s commitment to prioritising health and safety measures

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Muscat International Airport, managed and operated by Oman Airports, became the first airport in the Middle East to achieve the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Health



Accreditation, based on a programme designed to assist airports by assessing new health measures and procedures introduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This certificate recognises Muscat International Airport’s commitment to prioritising health and safety measures in accordance with industry best practices and international health and safety protocols. “Health and safety have always been a top priority for Oman Airports. In achieving this global health accreditation, Muscat International Airport once again demonstrates its team’s commitment to taking the appropriate steps to reduce the risk of exposure at our airports,” said Saud bin Nasser Al Hobeishi, Oman Airports’ Deputy CEO.

“We are delighted to have achieved the ACI Airport Health Accreditation, which demonstrates the company’s ongoing commitment to deliver safe and healthy travel experience at all times and in all circumstances. We will remain resilient in the post-COVID-19 environment while prioritising our customers and employee health and forging a new path forward as international air traffic begins to recover. On behalf of Oman Airports, I would like to thank and congratulate our team at Muscat International Airport and the various security and civil stakeholders for all the hard work they have put in to enable us to achieve this important accreditation and to improve the travel experience at our airport, while maintaining a healthy and safe environment.”

OMANI WOMEN’S DAY



PRAISED: Dr. Abdullah bin Nassir Al Harrasi, Minister of Information commended the great role undertaken by Omani women in the media . - **ONA**

Information minister hails role of women

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information yesterday organised a ceremony marking Omani Women’s Day which falls on October 17. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Abdullah bin Nassir Al Harrasi, Minister of Information. In a speech on the occasion, Dr. Abdullah said, “Under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, we live a renewed renaissance, which is an extension of the renaissance established, with farsighted vision, by the late Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.” Dr. Abdullah pointed out that renaissance cannot be realised without an effort and that this effort is not made by men alone, but Omani women have had strong presence in the field of development. It is with the cooperation of all—men and women—that Oman can flourish and have a prosperous, more pleasant and more brilliant future.” Dr. Abdullah commended the great role undertaken by Omani women in the media at all times, particularly during this stage in which female media person-

nel played a praiseworthy role in spreading awareness about means of prevention of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Information Ministry’s celebration of Omani Women’s Day reaffirms public appreciation for women’s participation in serving society, developing it and contributing to all projects and efforts made to promote it, said Dr. Abdullah. **Nation building** The minister added that women’s role is highly recognised at all levels of nation building, notably in the media sector. During the ceremony, the ministry honoured a number of its female employees and private media organisations who enriched the media experience at the domestic front and external arenas. The ceremony was attended by Ali bin Khalfan Al Jabri, Information Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Information, and Mohammed bin Said Al Balushi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Information for Radio and Television. -**ONA**



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Tender Title	: Fire Detection/Protection Upgrades
Scope	: Contractor shall Design, Supply, Installation of Fire Detection/Protection Upgrades along with approval from ROP/PACDA as per SA scope of work.
Tender No.	: 2020-ENG-SOW-0074
Tender Title	: Warehouse 2 - Sun Shed
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REAL ESTATE

< FROM A1 Areas where expats can buy flats

Among the areas under the usufruct scheme for expats are phases one, two and three in Wilayat of Bausher, phase two in Al Khuwair and Wattayah, phases one and two in Ghala Heights, in addition to phase five of South Al Mawaleh, phase two of Al Khoudh, and phase seven of South Al Mabella in Seeb.

Al Misfah
Al Misfah (phase two) has also been included.
In Wilayat Amerat, phase one of Al Hashiyah, Al Amerat and Al Mahaj, and Al Nahda (phases two, three, four and five) will fall under this scheme.

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MOH CELEBRATES OMANI WOMEN’S DAY

Under the auspices of H.H. Sayyida Mona bint Fahd al Said, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for International Cooperation at Sultan Qaboos University, and in line with the country’s celebration of the Omani Women’s Day, the Ministry of Health (MOH) marked on Sunday the Omani Women’s Day online at the Ministry’s headquarter with the presence of H.E. Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, along with H.E. Dr Fatma bint Mohammed Al Ajmi, MOH Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Planning Affairs. The 11th celebration was aimed to highlight the achievements of Omani women in the health sector and honour them for their effective contribution in nation-building.

In a statement, H.H. Sayyida Mona bint Fahad al Said said, “We are proud of the medical cadres in general and female health workers in particular in all levels and fields for their efforts that are being exerted during the exceptional circumstances that we are experiencing.”

H.H. Sayyida Mona stressed that Omani women are a symbol of sacrifice to build the society. The Minister of Health pointed out in his recorded speech that 17th of October of every year proves the leading role of Omani women and it is a recognition by the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur,

builder of Oman’s modern renaissance, for their prominent role in driving the development along with the man since the onset of the blessed renaissance. He also stressed that Omani women are the main pillar in the society and the first stone in building the human at home, school, work and the whole society.

Al Saidi added that women are empowered, especially in Oman, for which they have been given all the support, trust and social and political rights. Today, a woman is not only a decision-making partner but also a decision-maker.

H.E. Dr Fatma bint Mohammed Al-Ajmi, MOH Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Planning Affairs said that Omani women are the basic pillar that the country relies upon to advance the progress in different fields. In addition, the Omani women are engaged in all parliamentary, health, economic and social levels.

The celebration included a video presentation on Omani women’s achievements in the health sector at the level of the Ministry of Health along with providing healthcare for all citizens and residents. On the sidelines of the event, Dr Fatma Al-Ajmi, MOH Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Planning Affairs honoured a number of female staff of the Ministry of Health for their significant role.

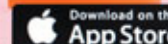


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SAFE TRAVEL

Minister of Transport inspects Sharqiyah Expressway project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Minister of Transport, Communications and IT, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, inspected the second part of Phase II of the Sharqiyah Expressway project, and the adjoining area. The Minister suggested for the construction of a port near Sur Industrial City.

He was accompanied by Salim bin Mohammed Al Nuaimi, the Undersecretary for Transport, Dr Yahya bin Bader bin Malek Al Mawali, the Governor of the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah, and several specialists from the ministry.

During his visit, the minister inspected the remaining 40km section of the project, situated between the wilayats of Al Kamel Wa Al Wafi and Sur. The minister took part in a briefing of the project's progress and the reasons behind the slow progress and discussed its time frame. He directed those executing the project to speed up its pace to open it for traffic as soon as possible.

Al Sharqiyah Expressway is a major national road, pivotally linking Muscat Governorate with the governorates of North and South Al Sharqiyah, passing through Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, and on to Al Wusta Governorate and the Dhofar, in addition to serving the wilayats located near it.

The project was authorised due to the increase in vehicular traffic on the old single road. It bolsters its capacity to secure the highest traffic safety elements and ensure comfortable and safe road travel.



VISIT: Minister of Transport, Communications and IT, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali was accompanied by Salim bin Mohammed Al Nuaimi, the Undersecretary for Transport, Dr Yahya bin Bader bin Malek Al Mawali, the Governor of the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah, and other officials. -ONA



Earlier this year, the ministry opened to traffic a 206 km long stretch of the Sharqiyah Expressway, with the total length of the road spanning 246 km. It contains two vehicle underpasses, bridges, flyovers, street lighting, and all the required traffic safety components.

The Minister of Transport, Communications, and IT, also

conducted a visit to Sur Industrial City to review the port project's suggested location within. While there, he attended a briefing presented by specialists from Madayn (The Public Authority for Industrial Estates), with its CEO, Hilal Bin Hamad Al Hasni, about the suggested port project's location, as well as facilities and services.

DISCUSSION

Minister meets envoys of Qatar, the Netherlands



MUSCAT: Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources received in his office yesterday Jassim bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Sultanate.

The meeting discussed a number of matters of common concern. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on aspects of cooperation between the Sultanate and Qatar in fields of agriculture, fisheries and water resources, as well as means of enhancing relations and joint cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister of Agriculture,

Fisheries and Water Resources also received Laetitia van Asch, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Sultanate to discuss current and future developments in agriculture and water sectors.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of common concern and exchanged viewpoints on cooperation aspects between the Sultanate and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in agriculture and water resources fields, besides discussing means of promoting relations and joint cooperation between the two countries. -ONA



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‘Little chance’ of broad Brexit trade deal: EU parliament deputy chief

The centre-left SPD politician spoke after Johnson accused the EU of failing to negotiate seriously

LONDON: European Parliament Vice President Katarina Barley sees little chance for anything other than a narrow UK-EU trade deal after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said there was no point in continuing the negotiations. Barley, a German-British MEP, admitted to a German public broadcaster that talks had become “increasingly difficult.”

The centre-left SPD politician spoke after Johnson accused the EU of failing to negotiate seriously and warned his country to prepare to trade with the bloc based on World Trade Organization rules from January when the Brexit transition period ends.



BREXIT: EU leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte have said the bloc was still willing to seek compromise.

Brexit talks ‘over’
Accusing the 27-nation bloc of failing “to negotiate seriously” in recent months, Johnson said the

outcome of this week’s EU leaders’ summit had ruled out a comprehensive, Canada-style free trade agreement.

An aide to the United Kingdom leader later ramped up the rhetoric further by adding that trade talks were over unless Brussels

In a sign of a lack of confidence in the UK government’s position, the rating agency Moody’s cut Britain’s debt rating to “Aa3” from “Aa2,” putting the country on the same level as Belgium and the Czech Republic

“fundamentally shifts its position.”

Barley noted that Johnson’s priority was to show the British people that he is in control, saying that he’s only “concerned about domestic perception” and that the EU “must be the scapegoat.”

Barley, who sat in the Bundestag from 2013 to 2019, does not believe the trade talks will be extended past the EU’s mid-

November deadline. EU leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte have said the bloc was still willing to seek compromise. European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen said the EU still wanted a deal, though “not at any price.”

On Friday evening, an EU spokesman tweeted that chief negotiator Michel Barnier held video talks with his British counterpart David Frost and that negotiators from both sides will be in touch on Monday for further discussions on the “structure” of talks.

Moody’s downgrades UK debt

In a sign of a lack of confidence in the UK government’s position, the rating agency Moody’s cut Britain’s debt rating to “Aa3” from “Aa2,” putting the country on the same level as Belgium and the Czech Republic.

The agency said Brexit and the huge economic hit from the coronavirus pandemic would likely take its toll on the world’s sixth-biggest economy.

Moody’s said Britain’s growth had been “meaningfully weaker than expected and is likely to remain so in the future.” **AW**

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

With spike of 61,871 cases, India’s COVID-19 tally reaches 7,494,552

NEW DELHI: With a spike of 61,871 new COVID-19 cases and 1,033 deaths in last 24 hours, India’s COVID-19 count reached 7,494,552 on Sunday, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). As per the MoHFW, the COVID-19 count includes 783,311 active cases and 6,597,210 cured/discharged/migrated cases. With 1,033 deaths in the last 24 hours, the total death count due to the disease has reached 114,031. With 185,750 total active cases, Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected state by COVID-19 in the country. While 1,358,606 patients have recovered from the disease in the state, 41,965 have died so far. Among other severely affected

A total of 94,224,190 samples have been tested in the country for COVID-19 till Saturday. This includes 970,173 samples tested on October 17

states, Karnataka has 110,666 active cases, while 637,481 people have recovered, 10,427 have succumbed to the coronavirus. Delhi has 22,884 total active cases, 298,853 recovered and 5,981 deaths reported so far. Meanwhile, according to the In-

dian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 94,224,190 samples have been tested in the country for COVID-19 till Saturday. This includes 970,173 samples tested on October 17. “India has exponentially scaled up its testing capacity from one in January to more than 9.32 crore at present. The very high testing has resulted in the continuous falling positivity rate. It has now fallen below 8 per cent,” the Health Ministry stated. “Very comprehensive testing has thus worked as a highly effective tool to curb the spread of COVID-19 infection. It also leads to early identification, prompt isolation and effective treatment of COVID-19 cases, and eventual low Fatality Rate,” MoHFW added. **ANI**



COVID-19 TEST: A health worker in PPE kit collects a swab sample from a woman at a health centre to conduct tests for the COVID-19 amid the spread of the disease in New Delhi on Sunday.

HEALTHCARE

< FROM A1 ‘Lockdown imposed to control the spread of COVID-19 virus’

The major explained, “What they have to do is to keep a copy of the ticket with them – either a soft copy or a hard copy – and that has to be with them all the time. One person is allowed to be with the passenger in the vehicle.” “It does happen that some people might need to go to the hospital in case of an emergency, so what they have to do is call the emergency number – 9999 – and inform them that they will be travelling

to the hospital, and tell them the plate number,” he added. Dr Sofiya Al Mughery, a medical officer at the Ministry of Health, agreed with what the ROP said in terms of providing a breather to hospitals in the country dealing with a large caseload of COVID-19 patients. “All this was done to reduce the number of cases,” she said. “The number of admissions to hospitals had really overloaded them,

especially when we talk about the ICUs. The burden was very, very high on them, and the lockdown was imposed to control the pandemic by reducing the spread of the virus through infection, and to prevent the healthcare system from collapsing. “We all knew that the dramatic rise in the numbers of confirmed cases we have of COVID-19, as well as the death toll, grew due to the pandemic. As a medical profession-

al, I think the decision taken to impose a lockdown is very timely and very precise,” added Al Mughery. “What is equally important is the period after these two weeks. It is important that people continue to adhere to the safety and preventive measures that are required. We hope the numbers will go down, as we see that the gatherings are mostly in the evenings.” It was a sentiment agreed upon

by Shahswar Al Balushi, the head of the Labour Labs under Oman’s Tanfeedh programme for economic expansion. He asked people to respect the laws so that such measures would not need to be taken. “We wouldn’t have had to have this lockdown, if everyone had tried their best to comply with the rules for keeping distance, keeping safe, wearing masks, and washing hands,” he said. “I think we realise

that when we had the last lockdown and things were getting under control, we were gradually able to open up our economy. Al Balushi added, “This is very unfortunate. We could have avoided this, if everyone in the society had complied with it. I understand that some people were frustrated with the measures of the lockdown in the past, but I don’t think we must have another one, if everyone complies with the rules.”

ELECTION RESULTS

Jacinda Ardern expects to form a new government soon

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Labour Party leader Jacinda Ardern said at a press conference on Sunday she expected to form a government within the next two to three weeks before the release of official election results. According to the preliminary count results for the New Zealand 2020 General Election and Referendums released by the Electoral Commission, New Zealand Labour Party won 49 percent of the vote, which transfer to 64 seats in the 120-member parliament in a Mixed-Member Proportional voting system, with the opposition National Party lagging behind at 27 percent, or 35 seats. While addressing media in Auckland on Sunday afternoon, Ardern said the work would begin and the Labour caucus will meet on Monday. “My expectation is that we will form government within the next two to three weeks,” said Ardern. “We clearly have a mandate on behalf of New Zealand to crack on with government formation.” Official results for the 2020 General Election and referendums will not be published until Nov. 6, according to the Electoral Commission. Ardern did not rule out the possibility to form a coalition



government with the Green Party, which won 7.6 percent of the vote or 10 seats in the parliament. There was a range of options for agreements with the Greens, said Ardern. After the 2017 New Zealand

General Election, the Labour Party, which won 46 seats in the parliament, formed a coalition government with the support from New Zealand First Party and Green party. **Xinhua**

GHOR PROVINCE

16 killed, 90 others wounded in Afghanistan explosion

FIROZ KOAH: At least 16 people were killed and 90 others wounded after a powerful explosion rocked outside a provincial police office in Firoz Koah, capital of Afghanistan’s western Ghor province on Sunday, a local official confirmed. “The final number of casualties would be shared with media later in the day. The number of casualties may change as the rescue of victims from under debris is

continuing,” Abdul Latif Rahimi from the provincial health directorate told Xinhua. Many wounded remained in critical condition, he said. The blast occurred roughly at 11:15 a.m. (local time) when an explosive-laden minibus was detonated along a road in an area where the provincial police department and several other government offices are located, a security official who declined to

be named told Xinhua. “The nature of the blast could be a suspected suicide bombing. The blast sent a column of thick smoke into the sky and triggered panic, besides causing destruction,” he said. Security forces have cordoned off the area for precautionary measures. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. **ANI**

Azerbaijan, Armenia accuse each other of cease-fire violation

 Armenian officials accused the Azeri forces of using artillery and missiles, just hours after a truce went into effect

BAKU: Armenia and Azerbaijan on Sunday struggled for a second time to halt fierce fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, accusing each other of violating a new cease-fire.

Armenian officials accused the Azeri forces of using artillery and missiles, just hours after a truce went into effect at midnight local time (2000 UTC/GMT Saturday).

“Once again violating the humanitarian cease-fire, the enemy fired artillery shells in the northern direction from 00:04 to 02:45, and fired rockets in the southern direction from 02:20 to 02:45,” said Armenia’s Defence Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanyan.



RESCUE OPERATION: Rescue teams pick through rubble on Saturday in the city of Ganja, Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan’s Defence Ministry, meanwhile, said Armenian forces had “grossly violated another agreement”, accusing them of firing artillery and mortar shells in various directions and of launching early morning attacks along the frontline.

Officials in Nagorno-Karabakh said Azeri forces had launched an attack on the enclave’s military positions and there were casualties and wounded on both sides.

Previously, the two countries issued a joint statement confirming the truce, saying the “decision was taken following the statement of the presidents of the French Re-

public, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, representing the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group.”

A Russian-brokered suspension of hostilities was agreed last Saturday to allow the sides to swap detainees and the bodies of those killed. But the truce broke

down quickly as both sides continued carrying out attacks while accusing each other of violating the deal.

On Saturday, Azerbaijani officials said an Armenian missile struck a residential district in Ganja, Azerbaijan’s second-largest city, leveling homes and killing 13

civilians with 50 more wounded.

International mediation

The European Union, Russia and the US have all called for the fighting to stop and for peace talks to be mediated by France, Russia and the United States.

Representatives from the three countries co-chair the so-called Minsk Group, which was created in 1992 to encourage a negotiated resolution to a then-full blown war that killed at least 30,000 people.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called both his counterparts in Armenia and Azerbaijan before the announcement Saturday and said both sides need to “strictly follow” last week’s cease-fire deal, Russia’s Foreign Ministry said. French President Emmanuel Macron released a statement shortly after the announcement, calling for the cease-fire to be “unconditional and strictly observed by both parties.”

Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but it is populated and governed by ethnic Armenians after it was seized during the war in the early 1990s.

Azerbaijan has insisted it has the right to reclaim the region by force, claiming the Minsk Group’s efforts have failed to bring progress after three decades. **nw**

THAILAND PROTEST



PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTEST: The protesters used social media to arrange assemblies before police had time to block them.

Thailand police shut public transport as protests continue

BANGKOK: Thai police set up roadblocks and closed 77 Bangkok train stations on Saturday as pro-democracy protesters continued gathering in multiple locations around the Thai capital, defying an emergency decree banning gatherings for the fourth consecutive day.

The protesters used social media to arrange assemblies before police had time to block them. Authorities threatened legal action against Twitter and Facebook accounts that announced the protests, however fresh calls to action were posted on Saturday despite the state of emergency.

The determined, youth-led protest movement is calling for Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to step down, the nation’s monarchy to undergo reform and the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic.

Thai ‘Hunger Games’

In an attempt to stay ahead of authorities, protest organizers advised followers to gather at stations outside the city center, where access was easier.

Hundreds gathered on Saturday in Bangkok’s northern Lat Phrao district with helmets and gas masks, raising a three-finger

salute adopted from the “Hunger Games” films as a symbol by the movement.

Nearly a thousand protesters rallied in the western Wongwian Yai district chanting: “Long live the people, down with dictatorship!”

On Friday, after riot police dispersed largely peaceful protesters with high-pressure water cannon, the prime minister extended an emergency decree — which bans public gatherings of more than five people — until November 13.

The law gives authorities the power to restrict access to areas deemed off-limits. **nw**

PROMISES MADE

US President promises free antibody coronavirus treatment to all Americans

WISCONSIN: US President Donald Trump told his supporters in Wisconsin that all Americans will get the coronavirus treatment he received for free.

“We’re gonna make, what I had, available to everybody, free. The antibodies, I think the antibodies are the best thing, we’re gonna make it free,” Trump said at his campaign rally in Janesville, Wisconsin on Saturday. “This election is a choice between a Trump super recovery and a Biden depression,” Trump added. Earlier in the day, speaking at another rally in Muskegon, Michigan, Trump warned that a Democratic victory in the November elections could make the coronavirus situation worse in Michigan, as well as the US as a whole.

“Democrats would terminate our recovery with a draconian unscientific lockdown like your governor is doing right now,” Trump said, stressing that “Biden will shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic.”

Trump resumed his campaign trail earlier this month, holding his first rally (since his positive COVID19 diagnosis) in Sanford, Florida.

Trump told his supporters in



Florida that “whatever the hell they gave me” was going to be distributed around US hospitals.

Trump was hospitalised with COVID-19 at the Walter Reed Military Medical Center on October 2, not long after announcing on Twitter that he and his wife Melania had tested positive for the coronavirus. While at Walter Reed, Trump was treated with an experimental antibody cocktail that targets the coronavirus spike protein.

White House Physician, Dr Sean Conley, announced on October 12

that Trump had tested negative for COVID-19 on consecutive days.

First Lady Melania Trump announced on Wednesday that the First Family’s son Barron, 14, had also contracted COVID-19 but exhibited no symptoms and has recently tested negative.

Trump told his supporters in Wisconsin on Saturday that since Barron was young his immune system was very strong and he was able to easily overcome the virus, like many other young people. In that light, Trump called for reopening schools in the US. **ANI**

PARADE DAY

A member of a troupe performs during a parade in St. Petersburg, Russia, October 17, 2020. *Irina Motina/Xinhua*



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Global daily COVID-19 infections hit record high with 392,471 new cases



GENEVA: A total of 392,471 new COVID-19 infections were reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday, a record high since the onset of the pandemic, taking the total number of confirmed cases worldwide to 39,196,259.

According to a tally kept by the WHO, the United States had the most daily infections on Saturday, with 63,044 new cases reported. As of Saturday, the

country has registered 7,896,895 total confirmed cases, the highest worldwide.

Meanwhile, India had reported 62,212 new cases on Saturday, the second largest daily increase globally, which has taken the country’s total caseload to 7,432,680 as of Saturday, the tally showed.

In addition, the virus has claimed 1,101,298 lives as of Saturday, the WHO said. **xinhua**

Sultanate celebrates 50 years of progress

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



#50GoldenYears

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CBO's total foreign assets increase 6.1%

The effective exchange rate index of Omani rial fell by 1.4 per cent to 104.1 points as of the end of July 2020 compared to 105.6 points in the same period of 2019

MUSCAT: Total foreign assets of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) rose 6.1 per cent, reaching OMR6.28 billion as of the end of July 2020 compared to the same period of 2019 when it stood at OMR5.92 billion.

The effective exchange rate index of Omani rial fell by 1.4 per cent to 104.1 points as of the end of July 2020 compared to 105.6 points in the same period of 2019.

The Sultanate registered an



NCSI DATA: The total currency issued at the end of July 2020 stood at OMR1.96 billion against OMR1.65 billion issued in 2019, marking a rise of 18.9 per cent. - File picture

increase in narrow money supply (M1) by 7.8 per cent to reach OMR5.57 billion at the end of July 2020. Meanwhile, broad Money Supply (M2) rose 10 per cent to reach OMR19.06 billion during the period as against OMR17.33 billion the previous year, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Private sector deposits in com-

mercial banks and Islamic windows showed a rise of 10.4 per cent as of the end of July 2020, reaching OMR16.46 billion against OMR14.91 billion in 2019.

Total loans and financing in commercial banks rose by 1.7 per cent to OMR26.17 billion at the end of July 2020 against OMR25.74 billion in 2019.

The average interest rate on total

credit rose 1.5 per cent at the end of the six months of 2020, recording a rise of 5.4 per cent in 2020 compared to the same rate during the comparable period of 2019.

The total currency issued at the end of July 2020 stood at OMR1.96 billion against OMR1.65 billion issued in 2019, marking a rise of 18.9 per cent, according to NCSI data. - **ONA**

MEA ENERGY WEEK CONFERENCE

MEA conference to address challenges and opportunities in energy industry

ABU DHABI: Siemens Energy & partners will hold the major Middle East and Africa focused virtual conference, entitled 'Shaping the Energy of Tomorrow', from October 19 - 21, 2020, to drive forward the sustainability and decarbonisation agenda at a defining moment in the energy industry.

With the long-term impacts of COVID-19 and a fundamental shift in energy markets still being realised, now is the moment for the energy industry to collaborate to realise a future that is sustainable, efficient, affordable and accessible, in line with the ideals laid out by UN Sustainable Goal 7.

The MEA Energy Week conference is being held in partnership with the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, DIHK; the Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ghorfa; the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit, GMIS; and Masdar, a global leader in renewable energy and sustainable urban development, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi government's Mubadala Investment.

The world-class speaker line-up currently features numerous regional ministers, CEOs, energy and finance industry leaders and Siemens Energy experts for the eight panel sessions.

The panellists will address the numerous challenges and opportunities that the energy industry faces amid the twin goals of improving access to energy and meet the growing demand on the one hand, while also doing so in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner. Topics such as financing sustainable energy projects, integrating renewables into grids, incorporating digitalisation and automation, decarbonising hydrocarbon intensive industries, and utilising green hydrogen, will be at the forefront of panel discussions.

"As an independent company, Siemens Energy has the entrepreneurial flexibility to help shape the global transformation of the energy markets in a sustainable and economically successful manner," said Dietmar Siersdorfer, Siemens Energy Middle East Managing Director.

GLOBAL PAYMENTS 2020 REPORT

Major GCC economies payment revenue growth outlook subdued

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about widespread change to everyday life in various aspects, and how consumers and businesses transact is no exception. Boston Consulting Group's (BCG) 18th annual report titled 'Global Payments 2020: Fast Forward into the Future,' looks at the global payments industry's performance in the near-term and emerging industry trends in the years ahead.

The report sheds light on the projected outlook for key economies in the GCC, comprising of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and Kuwait. Given the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, BCG's payments forecast includes three revenue growth scenarios.

Under a quick-rebound scenario, BCG's outlook suggests that the GCC's payment revenue pool will expand from \$23 billion in 2019 to \$24.3 billion in 2024, a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 1.1 per cent. However, this level of growth is lower than the 7 per

cent that the regional industry recorded between 2014 - 2019. In a slow-recovery scenario, the regional revenue pool would reach \$23.1 billion by 2024, a CAGR of 0.1 per cent. Under a deeper-impact scenario, the revenue pool is projected to shrink by a CAGR of -0.9 per cent.

"COVID-19 related headwinds such as decreasing oil prices, a slowdown in tourism, and a substantial rise in expatriate migration have slowed overall economic growth," said Godfrey Sullivan, Managing Director and Partner, BCG. "While payments revenue growth in the region is projected to be restricted as a result of the pandemic, we are also seeing a surge in electronic transactions, pointing towards an opportunity of growth in digital."

Efforts are being made across the GCC to drive increased uptake of digital payment methods, with governments, banking institutions, and service providers enabling greater access and reducing transaction costs. Countries are open to more international contributors entering the market, and



Godfrey Sullivan, Managing Director & Partner BCG

KSA and UAE intend to implement real-time payment infrastructure within the next two years to facilitate economic growth.

Such actions will ensure further revenue growth moving forward, and BCG's market data and industry findings identified noteworthy trends that will shape the payments sector landscape over the coming five years.



Mohammad Khan, Partner BCG

COVID-19 will accelerate cash-to-noncash conversion
Evolving customer preferences, improved accessibility, and higher transaction limits will drive this transition. Across the GCC during the crisis, higher numbers of merchants welcomed contactless payments, including those of lower value. Likewise, consumers demonstrated the same enthusiasm, even in traditionally challenging markets. Governments may be in-

terested in accelerating the cashless agenda, as research has shown that electronic payments can increase global GDP by as much as 3 per cent per year.

COVID-19 will elevate E-commerce growth

A fundamental consumption shift has occurred due to the pandemic, which will change the combination of payment options and, in some areas, lower the prominence of cards. Mobility-dependent sectors such as entertainment and travel have already witnessed a drop in payments, and others, including food and home entertainment, will likely record greater growth. Providers should be prepared for such change and align payment choices to accommodate different industries' purchasing trends.

Industry consolidation will shape the competitive environment

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) payments activity has been fostered through value chain ambitions, scale objectives, and the necessity to move money quicker. Although

the deal flow has predominantly revolved around payments processing and acquiring, it will likely spread to other value chain areas. GCC payment markets are still developing in comparison to others, and private equity, ecosystem participants, and local competitors seeking to build scale regionally will most probably drive M&A activity.

"BCG's research indicates that the cashless agenda, e-commerce growth, and vibrant competitiveness in the payments category will become more and more apparent in the region," said Mohammad Khan, Partner, BCG. "Payment leaders in the GCC have an opportunity and urgency to make bold moves that can secure their business's long-term prosperity."

Winning the future

The payment landscape is rapidly evolving, with emerging players populating and evolving the space with diverse institutions. From big tech to fintech's, issuers to processors, full-service providers to niche players, all competitors in this fast-evolving ecosystem face their challenges.

MARKET

#50GoldenYears

Sultanate celebrates 50 years of progress

MSM index ends higher

Al Jazeera Service, up 5.59 per cent, was the top gainer while United Finance, down 8.77 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,602.46 points, up 0.25 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.55 per cent at 518.74 points.

Al Jazeera Service, up 5.59 per cent, was the top gainer while United Finance, down 8.77 per cent, was the top loser. Galfar Engineering was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded and Al Anwar Ceramic was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 398 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR0.79 million, with more than 5.8 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded stocks, 10 advanced, 12 declined and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR226,000 while local investors were net sellers for OMR204,000 followed by foreign investors for

OMR22,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,751.32 points, down by 0.17 per cent. Al Sharqia Investment, National Life & General Insurance, Bank Dhofar, and Al Anwar Holding were up by 2.94 per cent, 2.91 per cent, 2.91 per cent and 1.61 per cent respectively. United Finance, Gulf Investment, Muscat Finance, Dhofar Investment and Ominvest were down by 8.77 per cent, 8.51 per cent, 6.98 per cent, 2.59 per cent and 1.83 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,013.01 points, down 0.17 per cent. National Aluminium and Al Anwar Ceramic were up by 4.65 per cent and 0.52 per cent respectively. Galfar Engineering, Al Jazeera Steel and Al Maha Ceramics were down by 2.44 per cent, 0.82 per cent and 0.48 per cent respectively.

Services index was up 0.63 per cent before closing at 1,578.47 points. - **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,602.83	3,593.03	3,602.46	3,593.63	8.83	0.25
Financial Index	5,773.56	5,744.97	5,751.32	5,761.06	-9.74	-0.17
Industrial Index	4,014.04	4,010.90	4,013.01	4,015.56	-2.55	-0.06
Services Index	1,579.05	1,568.62	1,578.47	1,568.62	9.85	0.63
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	518.74	515.96	518.74	515.89	2.85	0.55
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,104.17	4,093.00	4,103.74	4,093.69	10.05	0.25

Trading Summary	Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
	5,848,333	795,290	398	20,111,349,687	10	12	16	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	144,005	55,340	44	0.372	0.390	0.372	0.384	0.372	0.012	3.226	0.390	0.390	0.394	0.100	249,962,584
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HOLDING	149,382	10,438	9	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.068	0.002	2.941	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.100	6,300,000
OM0000001772 AL ANWAR HOLDING	238,000	14,954	15	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.063	0.063	0.064	0.100	12,600,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	35,889	12,296	13	0.346	0.346	0.340	0.342	0.338	0.004	1.183	0.340	0.338	0.340	0.100	80,852,220
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	500	80	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.159	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.159	0.161	0.100	13,515,000
OM0000001525 OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	145,000	13,050	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	22,000	4,994	3	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.000	0.000	0.227	0.225	0.230	0.100	75,108,105
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	18,330	6,782	3	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.366	0.370	0.100	1,202,323,339
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	54,075	33,527	6	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.000	0.000	0.620	0.620	0.632	0.100	465,000,000
OM0000003505 ALMAHA CERAMICS	46,555	9,015	8	0.208	0.209	0.205	0.207	0.208	-0.001	-0.481	0.205	0.205	0.206	0.100	11,385,000
OM0000002176 AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	19,576	2,369	3	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.122	-0.001	-0.820	0.121	0.121	0.122	0.100	15,112,653
OM0000003398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	46,200	4,338	3	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	228,843,633
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	126,155	40,622	5	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.328	-0.006	-1.829	0.322	0.322	0.328	0.100	260,102,690
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	88,013	3,544	9	0.042	0.042	0.040	0.040	0.043	-0.003	-6.977	0.040	0.040	0.042	0.100	12,285,853
Total	14	1,133,680	211,898	127											
Parallel Market															
OM0000002226 AL JAZEERA SERVICES	702,960	132,894	35	0.184	0.190	0.184	0.189	0.179	0.010	5.587	0.190	0.189	0.190	0.100	11,567,608
OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	194,445	15,888	8	0.081	0.083	0.081	0.082	0.078	0.004	5.128	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	16,370,119
OM0000003139 NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS	42,000	3,796	7	0.093	0.093	0.090	0.090	0.086	0.004	4.651	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	3,021,431
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	148,941	15,908	4	0.106	0.110	0.106	0.107	0.103	0.004	3.883	0.109	0.106	0.109	0.100	320,609,604
OM0000007045 NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS.	54,145	19,166	4	0.346	0.354	0.346	0.354	0.344	0.004	2.907	0.354	0.354	0.000	0.100	93,810,000
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	966,669	168,795	63	0.195	0.198	0.195	0.195	0.194	0.001	0.515	0.196	0.196	0.197	0.100	5,7761,668
OM0000001301 DHOFAR CATTLE FEED	2,650	318	3	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	10,187,100
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	2,630	442	3	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.169	0.169	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.165	0.169	0.100	274,784,934
OM0000001962 AL MADINA INVESTMENT	3,334	80	1	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.023	0.024	0.100	4,971,633
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	109	14	1	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.100	217,754,786
OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MARKETING	3,000	2,748	1	0.916	0.916	0.916	0.912	0.912	0.000	0.000	0.916	0.948	1.000	0.100	86,640,000
OM0000004735 SEMBOCORP SALALAH	9,530	1,001	3	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	100,230,055
OM0000004768 AL MADINA TAKAFUL	556,986	42,316	17	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	13,300,000
OM0000004925 AL BATINAH POWER	9,136	486	4	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.100	35,769,034
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	17,016	920	5	0.054	0.056	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.055	0.100	38,577,942
OM0000005260 OMAN ARAB BANK	335,615	68,942	1	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.198	0.209	0.100	342,229,056
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	14,920	821	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.100	80,443,080
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	3,7415	3,717	5	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	148,500,000
OM0000003281 TAAGEER FINANCE	24,000	2,120	3	0.086	0.090	0.086	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.090	0.090	0.093	0.100	22,315,920
OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON.	1,275,764	51,504	66	0.040	0.042	0.040	0.040	0.041	-0.001	-2.439	0.041	0.041	0.042	0.100	11,599,225
OM0000001509 DHOFAR INT'DEV AND INV. HOLD.	65,195	17,169	8	0.270	0.270	0.250	0.263	0.270	-0.007	-2.593	0.263	0.260	0.263	0.100	68,043,360
OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	20,000	4,080	7	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.212	-0.008	-3.774	0.204	0.204	0.219	0.100	6,120,000
OM0000002820 GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	165,493	7,116	17	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.047	-0.004	-8.511	0.043	0.040	0.043	0.100	2,530,258
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	62,500	3,250	3	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.057	-0.005	-8.772	0.052	0.000	0.059	0.100	18,155,509
Total	24	4,714,653	583,393	271											

MONTHLY OIL MARKET REPORT

Opec cuts 2021 global growth forecast

GENEVA: The global economic growth forecast remains at minus 4.1 per cent for 2020, while for 2021 it is revised downward to 4.6 per cent, from 4.7 per cent in last month's assessment, according to Opec Monthly Oil Market Report.

"In 2021, the world oil demand forecast was adjusted lower by 0.08 mb/d compared to last month's report. This downward

adjustment is due to the slower economic growth projected for both the OECD and non-OECD. Nevertheless, the forecast for oil demand growth stands at around a solid 6.5 mb/d, with global total demand estimated to reach 96.8 mb/d.

"While the demand forecasts expect growth of 4.6 per cent in global economic activity, risks

related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact remains a considerable concern," the report explains.

The report expects light distillates (including LPG/NGL/naphtha) and diesel to be supported by improving industrial activity and capacity additions in the petrochemical sector, mainly in China and the US next year. - **WAM**

ONLINE EVENT

Training session on LinkedIn hacks for executives in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: "Sure, I have a LinkedIn," is easy to say, and a profile is a cinch to set up. But how can a professional take an average profile or company page to the next level on Oman's fastest-growing professional platform?

The Oman American Business Centre (OABC) will host its first-ever LinkedIn training session for executives and business people in Oman on Tuesday, October 20, from 4 pm - 5 pm.

The session, entitled 'LinkedIn Hacks with Mohammed Al Tamami' will help equip leaders and businesses as they leverage LinkedIn for their daily work life and business.

The online event is open to both OABC Members and guests from the public, and will address several topics, including why and how LinkedIn is different from other social media platforms; the basics

of LinkedIn, how to create a clear LinkedIn strategy; understanding social media analytics, and troubleshooting challenges.

Webinar

"Equipping individuals with clarity and getting people more comfortable with themselves as they leverage LinkedIn for their purposes is by far the most important and foundational aspect of this webinar and conversation," says Mohammed Al Tamami, the main partner and presenter. "I look forward to contributing to this conversation with OABC and its members."

Al Tamami is a Media Planning & Strategy graduate who spent 10+ years of his career working on global consulting and advisory assignments on innovation, technology and strategy, and is the Co-Founder & Chief Strategy Officer of a young and upcoming financial technology start-up that provides

AI-driven capabilities for the financial services industry. He will cover the topic and address all attendee questions.

"We are extremely excited to support our members and guests by covering a topic that is especially appropriate for 2020. Like it or not, we're living in a new digital world of ZOOM and online networking. As the use of LinkedIn continues to grow in Oman and the region, every one of us has room to improve our strategy and tactics. As always, we are looking to help our members — CEO's, business owners and other professionals, grow their networks and their business, to enhance their profiles, expand their reach, and make essential connections, in this case, online," says Rebecca Olson, Executive Director of the OABC.

All members of the OABC will receive a free one-to-one consultation service with Mohammed Al Tamami after the session.

DELOITTE REPORT

Mid-year outlooks for energy industry sectors released

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The first six months of the year, as the spread of COVID-19 disrupted global financial and commodity markets, has presented unprecedented challenges and opportunities to industries across the world. With the release of its mid-year reports, Deloitte examines how the energy industry sectors of oil and gas, power and utilities, and renewable energy have been impacted and examine the emerging trends that now shape the outlook for the short and long term.

Bart Cornelissen, Monitor Deloitte, Energy, Resources & Industrials Leader, Managing Partner, said, "Amid these unprecedented times, company executives need to remain vigilant to the many risks and uncertainties clouding the outlook for 2020 while standing ready to embrace new opportunities for profitable growth in an evolving market landscape. Our midyear industry outlooks provide actionable insights to help organisations not only recover but also to thrive in the short- and long-term from the impact of COVID-19."

Despite significant short-term headwinds, the long-term outlook for the renewable energy industry remains positive.

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Smart Indian professional, excellent English, Masters-Journalism, Finance, Arabic Speaker, strong writing, research skills, 15+ years diversified Oman experience in Airport Project/ Healthcare/Media/EPC. NOC. **99283938 rajansampath@hotmail.com**

Project Engineer (Interior fitout and civil)

B.E. Civil, 27, with 5+ years Oman experience as Project Engg. looking for suitable openings in Retail, hospitality, fitout etc Experienced in Project management, Interior fit-out & construction. Valid Oman D/L and NOC available.

Contact : 94657347

SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR – CIVIL ENGINEERING

Very widely experienced both in Consultancy and Construction looking for a placement at top management level or on partnership.

Contact: winnerdandd@gmail.com Mobile/WhatsApp 95150850, 79163390

Mechanical Engineer

Male 31 years, more than 6 years previous experience in projects, sales & marketing in Oil & Gas and NOC available.

E-mail: ja2377e@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male, 40 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (12 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager, Internal Auditor and statutory auditor. currently working as Finance Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.

NOC available. Contact: 99169501

ACCOUNTANT

Indian male 31, B.Com & Diploma in Islamic banking & Finance, 8 years exp in Oman, looking for Accountant jobs. Can handle up to finalization. D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 98195964

JOB WANTED

DRIVER

Looking job of driver with 9 years experience in Oman. #93191575

Looking for driving job, 6 yrs experience with car. Contact 96176918

8 years experience on driving, looking for job. # 94629261, 95471947

Light Driver, with Excellent Knowledge of Muscat roads & areas. Languages can speak English, Arabic Urdu/Hindi, Looking Job in Office/ Company. Contact 79250786

Looking for driving jobs, 1 yr experience. Contact 94737132

Office driver, 10 yrs experience. Indian (Kerala) languages Hindi, English & Arabic. NOC available. Contact 98980364

Looking for heavy & light driver job. Contact 91703829

4 years experience in driving (driver) looking job. Contact 79164528

Looking for driving job, 3 years experience in Muscat. # 78071219

Bangaldeshi light driving 6 yrs exp. looking for job. # 92392272

Looking for driving job. Experience 10 yrs. Contact 79991690

HOSPITALITY

Assistant Manager in customer service / 4 plus years experience in hospitality /oman / DL / Female seeks job. Contact 79864612

MEDICAL

Licensed female pharmacist ready to join immediately present in Muscat. Contact 94422350. Email mazin.o.j@hotmail.com

Orthodontist (Dentist) - Indian female orthodontist with Prometric and data flow Cleared, 12 years' experience of Dentistry in Oman as well as in India with Oman driving license, looking for a suitable opportunity in Oman. Contact 96273929

General Physician 15 yrs experience, with MOH license need locum/ permanent or contract job preferably in Sohar region. Experienced in dealing paediatric, Geriatric, gynae & Obs, infectious diseases, diabetic, respiratory & cardiac illness. Contact 93231964

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ENGINEER

Sr.CAD ENGINEER, BTech 34 Indian Male, 14 years Exp in Design & Drafting Field (Architectural, Civil & Landscape) with NOC Immediate Available. Contact 94136484, kannatrvr86@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer, fresher available to join immediately. Contact 79714227. email lokeshshirodkar15@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 17 years exp. in Oil and Gas. Substations (132/11KV and 400/132 KV)Power Projects, Commercial projects Available to Join Immediately, NOC Available Contact 968-94987133, Email pawan.prasad32@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer, Male 31 years, more than 6 years previous experience in projects, sales & marketing in Oil & Gas, and NOC available. E-mail: ja2377e@gmail.com

Indian BE Civil engineer, 8.5 yrs experience (06 yrs in Oman) in building construction & Industrial projects with Oman valid light DL & local NOC available. Contact 98886175. Email ex.igpprakasam@gmail.com

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having more than 12 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

Cad Engineer(Civil) looking for suitable job, 16 yrs gulf experience D/L, Noc available. Contact 98001534

Service Engineer with D/L having B.E or diploma in Electro-Mechanical Engineer D/L with 0-5 years' experience. Email: najma@alrouba.com

DCE Civil Engineer 17 years of Oman Experienced worked various govt projects with Road and expert advise ability having D/L Contact 92624819

Indian male 23yrs, Mechanical Engineer with one year experience in Oman, can join immediately GSM: 79121923

Civil Engineer with 9 Years experience in Oman of Building Finishing, Landscapes and Structures works. Visa NOC/Transfer and Oman D/L available. Contact 97196249 Email Shoaib.Hassan88@outlook.com

B.E Civil engineer having 12+ yrs of Oman experience, looking for Civil sub contracting jobs like block work, tiling, interlock, kerbstone, false ceiling & so on. Contact 968-72132426

HSE engineer /officer NEBOSH certificate holder with very good experience. Arabic, English language, ready to join immediatly. # 90989114. Email malfatih203@gmail.com

5+ years of experience looking for job as Civil Engineer, ready to join immediately. Contact 92146076, Email tauqir.akbar@yahoo.com

Diploma in Electrical and Electronics on visit. seeking job , 20 yrs experience in Panel troubleshooting, panel development work, VFD ,Cranes service, Machine servicing . Can join immediately. Contact 92375607, 92145430 Email: murugavel_maruthappan@yahoo.com

MEP Engineer 15 Yrs, EXP. Arabic/ English D/L. Contact 95752101

BE-Electrical + MBA (TQM), 37yrs/M, 14yrs of product management, QC & Sourcing experience in Oman, seek suitable placement, M: 78180988, anju48@hotmail.com

BE Mechanical, HVAC Project Engineer, 6 + years (3 years in Oman) Oman D/L & NOC, seeks job, available in Muscat. Contact 97623116. Email: rprakash1193@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, having 10 years' experience in Civil, Water Proofing and Electro-mechanical works in Oman. 2 years' experience in Telecom Tower (CME) works. Knowledge in AutoCAD drawings, Project Coordination works. Ready to join immediately with NOC. Contact: 92434698

Indian Civil QA.QC Engineer, Inspector/Construction Engineer (BE Civil, PDO approved, QMS Auditor, Oman D/L, NOC) with 10 years of experience in building, roads and oilfield looking for new job. Contact: 96359447, +919901059827 (Call or whatsapp) Email: suprithkumar@gmail.com

ndian male (BE civil engineer) 3+ exp in construction. Autocadd. QS. Site execution NOC available. immediate join 94194752. Email wahed_abdul@outlook.com

Diploma in Civil Engineer, 12 yrs experience. 8 yrs in Oman. # 79078729

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs of experience. 5yrs & 10 months of Oman experience. NOC available seeking suitable job placement. Contact 968 91226236 Email: tonymxx@gmail.com.

Electrical engineer 6+ years HV/ LV experience, Doqm Refinery exp. IOSH+6 Safety courses D/L, Contact 79474387

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of civil construction, interior fit- out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. Contact 95206259, 98857994

IT

Indian female having 8 yrs experience in the field of software testing and administration looking for a suitable job. Contact no : 91711326

An Account Manager (IT Software Sales) with 8 years experience seeking suitable placement as Account or Business Development Manager in a reputed company. NOC available Contact 91218491

IT Administrator, Indian Male 37yrs, 12years of experience in Oman, CCNA and Diploma in Computer Science Engineering. Good knowledge in PBX, CCTV, ELV, IT Network system. License & NOC available 95059065/95147348/ jaxonnj@gmail.com

MANAGER

Indian, Finance Manager 20Yrs Experience, Tradefinance - MIS - Budget - Planning - Auditing - Finalisation - Banking: 90473368, devan801@gmail.com

General manager / Sr.Pm, 25+ yrs Indian professional (BE) MBA, PMP, INTD construction projects & organisation management, 5+ yrs in Oman. D/L, NOC available. Contact 94634053

20Yrs experienced Indian commerce graduate, 3 Years of Fleet management in FMCG sector, 7 years of Contracts, Transportation at Oil & Gas sector in Oman, and 10years of Administration in India. D/L & NOC available. Call/Whatsapp 94777651

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs of experience, 6yrs of Oman experience. Contact 968 79754735. Email neenachirakkaparambil668@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Mechanical Engineer (B.tech) having 5 years Oman experience as Sr Production And Procurement Engineer is seeking suitable job in Oman. Also have Oman D/L and NOC is available. Contact 92138450 WhatsApp +919544074049

Senior Copywriter with 21 years Oman experience seeks placement in Ad Agencies/Corporate Communications. Call 95234657.

Smart Indian, Professional with integrity, Arabic speaker, double Masters, excellent English, commercial acumen, strategy, 15 years rich Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC.99283938. NOC

PURCHASE/LOGISTICS

12 years experience in Oman, Seek job for Warehouse and Logistics operation, D/L noc. avl. Contact 97988048, 97032171

Inventory, Accounts & Purchase: Indian male 30, having 8 years' experience with good dedication and skills, looking for a suitable opportunity. NOC available. Contact: 96219904. Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

Indian Male (MBA, Age-36 years), Procurement Specialist, having over 10 years of experience in Oman, is seeking for a suitable placement. NOC and valid Oman Driving license available. Contact 96135707

Senior Procurement Engineer, M.tech-Civil, Looking for a job, NOC Available, Immediate Joining, Indian Male, 38yrs, have over 16+ years UAE& Oman experience. E. syedkamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Whatsapp +96871144578, Contact +917766019519

Need job for experienced MBA holder, office coordination, procurement, logistics marketing field with license. NOC available. Contact 95491377

16 yrs Oman experience in procurement, logistics & customs with valid Oman DL & NOC seeking suitable position. Contact 95174968

Indian male MSC Computer science. 26 years old, 2 year experience in Purchase & Admin, employment visa, Valid driving license, NOC available. Contact 92676197, 98944397

Indian, with vast experience in purchase, sales, administration holding valid visa and Omani driving license seeks suitable placement. Contact: 91794070

Smart Indian, Arabic speaker, Excellent English, Masters-Journalism, Finance, Oman experience in Corporate/Marketing Communications, Press Releases, CSR Programs, Marketing, Customer Relations, Events, Campaigns, #99283938. NOC

Indian male, 31 Age, Single, B.E (Civil), 10Years experience in the construction field (7 years in Oman & 3 years in India), NOC available, seeking job for the post of Project engineer. # 79218189, ganeshkumargk1188 @gmail.com

IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job. On visit .Contact 93674784

JOB WANTED

SALES / MARKETING

Senior Sales & Business Development Specialist from Morocco with 5 years' experience in Oman looking for a suitable opportunity and can start immediately. Contact 71744819

Sales/Driver with valid D/L & NOC, 12 years experience Muscat Area. Contact 79758863

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Finance Manager, 28 years Oman experience worked with well reputed groups, Managing Cashflow, MIS, Budget, forecasting etc Contact 968- 98803439 WhatsApp Mail: job4691@gmail.com

Civil / MEP Draughtsman (Indian- aged 35) having 13 years of oman experience seeking a better placement. Valid oman driving licence. NOC available. Contact 98079806. Email shirshadbabu@gmail.com

Purchase engineer, Btech/MBA, NoC Available, Immediate joining, 3 years Oman experience, manufacturing. Contact/Whatsapp +96891740462. Email eliaspallathra@gmail.com

Indian Female with 18years exp. and knowledge upto finalization with D/L seeking suitable placement. Contact 92724555

16 yrs Oman experience in procurement, logistics & customs with valid Oman DL & NOC seeking suitable position. Contact 95174968

Housemaid required for a Keralite family at Darsait. Should have experience in household work, baby care. Contact 97332392

Urgently required experienced South Indian male cook (Veg/ Non-veg) cum houseboy for Senior company official residence at Ghubra Area. Interested medically fit candidate. Candidate with Omani DL preference. # 99273774 / 99202278

18+ years experienced in Pre-press and Graphic Designing with renowned commercial Printing Press and Newspaper Publisher, male expatriet looking for placement, residing in Muscat. Contact: 99663123 E-mail: deytapash@gmail.com

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of Civil Construction, interior fit- out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. Contact 95206259, 98857994

Civil engineer 12 years experience in oman NOC available # 98047527



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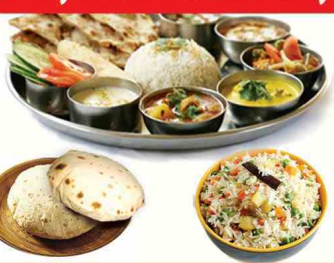
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IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job.On visit .Contact 93674784

23 Years Indian Male, Diploma In Mechanical Engineering. 1 Years work experience in Oman. Available on family join visa. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 968- 79121923, 99224057

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately.IELTS: 6.5-Bands.Phone / WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job. NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

Diploma in Electrical Engineer (8 years Experience in Installati on of LT line, Vendor Coordination, Arrange Quotation from supplier for Tender/Work). Contact 91-9771492886

Filipino male w/ release. , with 8 years exp. in OMAN: ADMIN, accounting, purchasing, Knows Tally ERP 9 and microsoft's excel, 97890657, email: hernandezjanlouis27@gmail.com

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher(trained for 5 months)seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434.Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Draftsman with 8 years of Oman Experience, Architecture & Structural drafting. N.O.C available Contact: 78253720

HSE OFFICER, 15 years experience.Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact What-sApp-968-99626821

Accountant Indian Male 26yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

A Technical Graduate with around 2 Years' Experience in HR-Admin, seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, Desktop-Support(IT), Data Entry or IT Teacher.IELTS: 6.5-Bands.Contact/ WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman. licence. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194. Email:suhailbs@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer - NIT Surat, Gujarat, India - Oman resident with DL - one year work experience - Contact: 91756930

Indian male M.Tech(ECE) 4 yrs exp. as a Sales Engineer in Industrial Automation, PLC, SCADA with a valid Saudi D/L. Looking for a good opportunity. # 98240758 mohdrashidali87@gmail.com

Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com ,ICWA9Inter) PGDBM headed Finance,logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

Electrical Engineer 4 yrs 6 months experience with NOC available. Contact 90863138. Email guntisiddharth@gmail.com

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately.IELTS: 6.5-Bands. # 949773471 Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job.NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher(trained for 5 months)seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434.Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Draftsman with 8 years of Oman Experience, Architecture & Structural drafting. N.O.C available Contact: 78253720

HSE OFFICER, 15 years experience.Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact What-sApp-968-99626821

Accountant Indian Male 26yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

Looking part-time housemaid job surrounding area of Ghobra / Aziba like cooking, washing & cleaning post-delivery support, baby care. contact 79293053.

Male, looking for a job in administration or office coordinator, extremely familiar with the Oman market Not looking into Sales or Marketing. Looking forward to hearing from potential companies. Having D/L. # 93264375 email: vpnandakishore@gmail.com

Draftsman 2 years' experience. Looking for suitable job (Indian male). Contact 968 93083224/919791452601. Email: elaison.c@gmail.com

Indian Female 10 years, experience As Cook, South Indian,Gujarati Special,looking For Part Time. Contact : 95795971

Indian Male (30), MBA-Finance, 6 years experience in electrical and lighting industry as Sales Executive-project sales (outdoor), specialized in lighting for residential and commercial projects. Contact 94560161. Email qaisebukhari@gmail.com

Situation Wanted* Mechanical engineer specialized in quality inspection with cswip 3.1 & ASNT LEVEL II certifications looking for an opening in oil & gas industry. currently in Muscat. # 96206400 or awrunedathil@gmail.com

Indian male Diploma (Cinematography) & BA English with 5 yrs of experience in sales and Marketing field Seeking suitable placement. currently in Oman on visit. Contact 78150989. Email: alexthomas927@gmail.com

B.Tech Electrical Engineer Indian male with 11 yrs of experience in contracting and consultant firms. Looking for job with Valid GCC driving licewnse available. Contact 968-94343694. Email: ymansoor2@gmail.com



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Filipino Bathr. Interior Designer / IT Specialist/Graphic Designer,13 years Exp. Looking for a job immediately with NOC and valid Omani D/L.Contact 79042628. Email zaldy08@gmail.com

33 Year old Indian male With 12+ Years' Experience As Operation Supervisor Project Expeditor /Quality Control in Oil & Gas , Water Line Industry. Contact 596661571. nasir03ahmed@outlook.com

Filipino, female 41 B.Sc accounting mgt., with 10 years' experience in Oman: admin, accounting, finance, secretarial, ticketing. Knowledge with excel. 96901439 email lorelie_a@yahoo.com

B.Com Graduate with four years of experience in Sales & Marketing, two years in Oman, looking for suitable post. Contact 93568656

Diploma holder 5 yrs work experience Indian male 26, looking for Indoor slaes/merchandiser, office assistant. Contact 968-78093683, whatsapp-94158447

Indian male 29 yrs having 5 yrs experience in FMCG sales & marketing in Oman with D/L.Can join immediately. Contact 78057807. Email nazi70072@gmail.com

MA B.Ed in English language, Indian female, 5 yrs experience in teaching seeking suitable positions in schools. Currently in Oman on family visa. # 79716167, 24033571

HSE Officer, 15 years experience. Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact WhatsApp 99626821

Indian Male (30) 8 Year's Experience in Sales and marketing and Office Administration on visit ,seeking a challenging careers. D/L available. Contact 9412 2402 Email: shinto.samuelit@gmail.com

Indian male, 24years holding a bachelor's in management and Masters in finance, presently pursuing ACCA. Looking for relevant job, holding valid GCC driving license. Contact 98189064 Email shahahr806@gmail.com

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GMC Sierra: Big on technology

2020 Sierra Heavy Duty and 1500 Light Duty are designed to meet the needs of the modern full-size truck owner with their various connectivity and convenience technologies



Auto and Apple CarPlay compatibility. For those who want more from their Sierra, a premium GMC Infotainment System that incorporates a higher-resolution touchscreen, advanced personalization features, and voice recognition functionality is also available.

Unrivalled trailering experience

However, advanced engineering is not just for connectivity and infotainment – the 2020 Sierra HD harnesses the power of technology to deliver an unrivalled trailering experience. Featuring class-leading available 15 camera views, including a segment-first transparent trailer view to virtually see through a trailer in tow.

This is bolstered by a segment-exclusive available 15-inch-diagonal head-up display that projects useful trailering information, including vehicle speed, navigation information and an inclinometer display for the road grade.

Furthermore, an Auto Electric Park Brake to automatically apply the parking brake to help maintain the track position when hitching, is also available. While an all-new Park Grade Hold Assist enhances hill hold by using braking effort at each wheel for an extended period.

Overall, whether in LD or HD guise, the 2020 GMC Sierra is not only one of the most powerful full-size pickup trucks in its class, it is also one of the smartest when it comes to leveraging technology to improve performance across the board.

MUSCAT: With its class-leading towing capabilities and remarkable performance, the all-new 2020 Sierra HD is bigger and stronger than ever. It is also the smartest yet to wear the nameplate. Both 2020 Sierra Heavy Duty and 1500 Light Duty are designed to meet the needs of the modern full-size truck owner with their various connectivity and convenience technologies.

The 2020 Sierra offers available Adaptive Cruise Control, which can automatically regulate its speed in respect to the vehicle in front, without any driver input for enhanced safety. The system features a high-mounted camera to monitor the road ahead and can bring the Sierra

World's first MultiPro Tailgate

GMC Sierra also offers the world's first MultiPro Tailgate, standard on Denali and AT4 and for 2020 available on the SLE and Elevation trims. With six unique functions and positions offering enhanced second-tier loading and load-stop solutions, a standing workstation and easy access to items in the box, giving customers more functionality and versatility from their truck.

Design exclusively for the Sierra 1500 with the MultiPro tailgate. The Kicker MultiPro Sound System accessory† is a 100-watt exterior audio system neatly integrated within MultiPro's inner

gate panel. The system incorporates two 10cm coaxial drivers, a compact amplifier and controls, a USB port for device charging and flash memory playback, along with full Bluetooth streaming compatibility.

The 2020 Sierra also gets a segment-first Rear Camera Mirror, with the available dual-function interior rearview mirror with a camera view display that provides an unobstructed wide view of the number of occupants or amount of cargo notwithstanding. Furthermore, this next-generation system features the ability to tilt or zoom the view for greater flexibility and safety.

Supplementing the unprecedented visibility is the 2020 Sierra's available Adaptive Ride Control suspension system, which

ensures exceptional stability, safety and ride quality. It provides continuous ride damping through sophisticated sensors that monitor road conditions and chassis response in real-time, enabling adjustments to active dampers every two milliseconds.

Fuel-conserving tech

Another technological innovation in the 2020 GMC Sierra is the Dynamic Fuel Management system - an evolution of the much-lauded Active Fuel Management system which reduces fuel consumption. The segment-first technology can detect when the Sierra is cruising on the highway and shuts down the required number of cylinders to optimise fuel consumption.

There are a staggering 17 dif-

ferent modes of cylinder deactivation. However, once additional power is called upon it seamlessly re-activates the optimal number of cylinders to provide additional propulsion. The cylinder deactivation technology means the power benefits of a V-8 engine and fuel economy of a much smaller unit depending on the driving condition. Dynamic Fuel Management is available on 5.3L V-8 and 6.2L V-8 engines in the 2020 Sierra Double and Crew Cab models.

Premium connectivity

Given the demands of the modern truck-buyer, the Sierra features a host of connectivity technologies. For instance, it gets an available enhanced GMC Infotainment System that incorporates Android

HEALTHCARE

Kaizen Medical Management to offer free quality consultation

MUSCAT: Kaizen Medical Management Company announced the launch of an initiative that includes all healthcare providers from clinics, and hospitals in the Sultanate of Oman, by providing its services in the field of evaluation and the application of quality and international accreditation, totally free of charge. The company through this initiative aims to support the sector, to promote it to be able to compete at the GCC level and the region as a whole.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, Dr Salim bin Said Al Wahaihi said, "This step will not be phased, but rather a permanent service that we will endeavour for Kaizen to provide to healthcare workers in the private sector for free. It is our conviction that real development in this sector requires the initiators and continuous development of services.

Dr Wahaihi added, "During our many years of work in this field, we were able to enumerate a list of the obstacles facing health service pro-



viders, at the top of which is the issue of quality and international accreditation, which requires a great effort to implement and allocate a budget for its development. This is why our initiative was to cooperate with health facilities operating in the private sector and to reduce the financial burden by providing these services free of charge.

Bassem Al Mubarak, Chief Operating Officer in Kaizen Medical Management said, "The medical sector in the Sultanate is entering a new phase that takes health services to an advanced level. Therefore, the application of quality is the only way for the sector to advance and comply with international stand-

ards and at the same time it is a way to protect our society from infection and medical errors."

On the importance of the various private and governmental bodies coming together to advance the health sector, he said, "As a private company, we see ourselves as a supportive party for the efforts of the competent government authorities, and we believe that our role is an integral part of the development process, to protect ourselves, our family members and our community from the dangers of diseases.

Kaizen provides these services in the form of a field visit to the facility by a specialised team in the company's quality assurance department. This is done to prepare a detailed report in which they can understand the lackings, and the quality and approval requirements of the facility, followed by a visit from the Kaizen team to explain these points and their relevance to the laws and requirements approved by the competent authorities in Oman.

IRRISISTIBLE OFFERS

Omantel's Baqati plans bring more for less for customers

MUSCAT: Omantel, the Sultanate's leading telecom services provider, has some excellent news for its valued Baqati customers in the form of unprecedented privileges. Monthly mobile subscriptions certainly cannot get any better as the competitive prices under the new Baqati plans prove with their promise of value for money.

Omantel's irresistible offers range from data shares, massive discounts as high as OMR72 at Apple Store and Google Play, unlimited local calls, benefits on regional and world roaming Internet data, more local and international minutes, to name a few - all for reduced monthly subscriptions of its various Baqati packages.

Aladdin Abdullah Bait Fadhil, Acting Vice President of Consumer Business Unit at Omantel, has called the offers great value for money.

Detailing the offers, he said, "BaqatiBlue subscribers can now get 14GB instead of 12GB at the same price (OMR9). Baqati Bronze subscribers can avail up to

OMR 12 discount that can be used to make purchases from Google Play Store and Apple Store. They can use Internet data both locally and across the GCC as well. Baqati Silver subscribers can use Internet data anywhere in the world without any additional fees, as per their monthly package, which includes 5GB for Baqati Silver, 6GB for the Baqati Gold, and 10GB for the Baqati Platinum."

Benefits

He further emphasised, "The new benefits are part of Omantel's strategy to provide the best telecommunication solutions to its subscribers and enrich the customer experience by providing them with unprecedented services that will always keep them connected with the world."

Discounts for app store purchases range from OMR12 for the Baqati Bronze subscribers to OMR 72 for the Al Ufuq Plan subscribers Baqati Blue subscribers can avail 14GB Oman and GCC roaming data, 1000 local minutes

for just OMR9 monthly.

For OMR15 a month, Baqati Bronze subscribers will get a OMR12 discount at Google Play Store and Apple Store, 24GB Oman and GCC roaming data, 50 international minutes and unlimited local minutes. Under the Baqati Silver, customers can enjoy OMR24 discount at Google PlayStore and Apple Store, 40GB of world data, unlimited Oman and GCC data, 100 international minutes, and unlimited local minutes for OMR20 per month only.

The OMR25 Baqati Gold offers a OMR36 discount at Google Play Store and Apple Store, 6GB of world data, unlimited Oman and GCC data, 200 international minutes and unlimited local minutes.

The OMR35 Baqati Platinum offers data sharing on one SIM, OMR60 discount Google Play Store and Apple Store, 10GB world data plus 100 receiving minutes while roaming, unlimited Oman and GCC data, 300 international minutes and unlimited local minutes.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Bank Muscat ACCA scholarship holders show commendable performance in training



MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to the continuous development of Omani human resources, Bank Muscat joined hands with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in 2019 to provide scholarships for 50 Bachelor's degree holders to complete the Chartered Certified Accountant course by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

The bank has announced that the training has been progressing well. The ACCA course prepares entry and mid-level professionals to work in any aspect of finance or management. The bank's strategic initiative is thus helping Omani youths obtain internationally-rec-

ognised educational qualifications to achieve their true potential.

Training partners

Through its training partners, ACCA and Kaplan Publishing, UK, the bank has been making all efforts to ensure that the selected candidates can excel in their training ahead of a successful career. A monthly stipend based on the academic performance of the candidates and continuous progress is being provided to all trainees during the training programme. The bank has been greatly encouraged by the exceptional results achieved by the students. In particular, Fajer Al Akhzami and Zulekha Al Kiyumi

have made excellent progress in their studies with Fajer Al Akhzami achieving the second-highest score globally in the Taxation paper (and topping the paper regionally), while Zulekha Al Kiyumi is the joint topper from Oman in the Performance Management paper.

It must be specially mentioned in this regard that Bank Muscat has always accorded top priority for human resources development and earmarks substantial funding every year for the training and development of its employees across all job functions and roles. The bank's Jadara Academy provides a comprehensive platform and framework for all staff learn-

ing and development programmes. Bank Muscat has also adopted innovative strategies to equip Omani employees to take up leadership positions in tandem with future challenges.

The bank has developed a comprehensive Learning & Development strategy for skill and knowledge enhancements vis-à-vis the requirements of its various departments. Continuous investments are being made to build human capacity to derive maximum mileage out of its HR processes. It is a matter of pride for Bank Muscat that most of its senior and middle management have been promoted from within the bank's employees.

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ROUND-UP

#50GoldenYears

Sultanate celebrates 50 years of progress

Gear up for 50th National Day with special offers from Mitsubishi

This promotion applies to the Mitsubishi Pajero, Outlander, Montero Sport, ASX, Eclipse Cross, Attrage, Mirage and L200 models



MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has announced a new promotion covering the full line-up of Mitsubishi

models in commemoration of the Sultanate's 50th National Day.

As part of the promotion, GAC is offering a two-year free service package, two years free insurance

and registration, assured trade-in bonuses up to OMR1,000, assured buyback, cash gifts of up to OMR 3,600, and six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance.

Furthermore, one can drive in with their existing vehicle to get it evaluated and disinfected for free.

Commenting on the promotion, Manoj Ranade, the General Man-

ager of GAC, said, "Given that this is the Sultanate's 50th National Day, we wanted to offer something truly special for our fans and customers to commemorate the occasion. This is why we have pulled all the stops for this offer, providing our customers with the best possible prices and benefits; thereby creating the perfect opportunity for them to purchase the Mitsubishi they have always desired."

Valid until December 3, this promotion applies to the Mitsubishi Pajero, Outlander, Montero Sport, ASX, Eclipse Cross, Attrage, Mirage and L200 models. Mitsubishi is offering each of these models with six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance. Cash gifts range from OMR 1,020 up to OMR 3,600 for the top-of-the-line Pajero model. The cash gift can also be used as part of the

down payment should the customer wish to do so.

Customers looking to trade-in their older vehicles will receive trade-in bonuses of up to OMR1,000. On purchasing a new vehicle, they will also benefit from a free service package for 2 years/20,000km together with two years of the free registration and two years of free insurance.

"Each of the models we have in the country represents the very best of what Mitsubishi can offer; each offering guaranteed reliability, comfort, safety and an engaging driving experience that is characteristic of any vehicle sporting the illustrious tri-diamond badge. Purchasing any of these models will no doubt be a great way to celebrate the country's 50th National Day with the entire family," concluded Manoj.

RECOGNITION

Bank Muscat bags Best Bank – Large Size award

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has won the award for Best Bank – Large Size at the Oman Banking and Finance Awards 2020 held recently.

The award was based on a survey of banks and Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) in Oman, which was conducted jointly by Oman Economic Review (OER) and Ubhar Capital. The Oman Banking and Finance Awards event was held under the patronage of Tahir bin Salim bin Abdullah Al Amri, Executive President of the Central Bank of Oman.

This recognition is the result of the bank's adoption of global best practices and its customer-centric approach in banking.

Bank Muscat, which has the largest network of e-channels in the country, continues to demonstrate its leadership traits and continuously contributes to the growth and development of the Sultanate's economy not only through banking but also through



pioneering initiatives that promote sustainable development.

Today, Bank Muscat leads the financial services sector in the Sultanate with over OMR12 billion in assets, over 170 branches and more than 780 ATMs and CDMs spread across the country making it the preferred choice for customers. The bank has a good presence even in remote areas and is greatly enhancing financial inclusion in Oman. In keeping with technologi-

cal developments, the bank's digital channels including Mobile and Internet banking have been witnessing tremendous growth over the recent past. With about 2 million customers, the bank is a clear leader in the banking sector in Oman and has the largest portfolio in the country across the retail, corporate, wholesale and Islamic banking space.

The Oman Banking and Finance Awards were powered by OER and

was conducted in tandem with the 5th New Age Banking Summit. The survey rated the performance of banks and NBFCs on various parameters over the four years from 2016-2019. Banks with total assets of over OMR3 billion by the end of 2019 were considered for the Best Bank – Large Size category award, which was won by Bank Muscat. The results of the survey were verified by Abu Timam Grant Thornton.

The bank has been consistently winning prestigious local and international awards. Earlier in 2020, Bank Muscat was listed by Forbes Middle East as one of the Top 100 companies in the entire region and also won the Best Local Bank awards from EMEA Finance and Euromoney. The Bank was also named as the Best Private Bank in Oman by The Banker and the Best Trade Finance Bank in Oman by Global Trade Review. It also recently won the Channel Innovation Award at the Infosys Finacle Client Innovation Awards.

EVOLUTION OF PRANCING HORSE GT 2+ SPIDER



Ferrari Portofino M: A voyage of rediscovery

MARANELLO: The Ferrari Portofino M, the evolution of the Prancing Horse's 2+ GT spider, the Ferrari Portofino, was unveiled. In a move unprecedented in the Maranello marque's 70-year-plus history, the new car's premiere took place entirely online.

The build-up to the unveiling included the sending out of a series of newsletters to clients over recent weeks at the end of which they were given access to a platform containing exclusive videos illustrating the concept behind the car, its restyling and main technical content.

Significantly, the Portofino M is the first Ferrari to be presented in the wake of the company's temporary closure due to the COVID-19 crisis, making it the symbol of a voyage of rediscovery. It is the (re)starting point for Prancing Horse's pursuit of innovation whilst fully respecting its heritage, passion and constant search for perfection. All of these values are reflected in the new Portofino M with the 'M' in its moniker standing for 'Modificata', which in Ferrari nomenclature refers to cars that have undergone an evolution that has boosted their performance.

There is no shortage of technical innovation in this stunning new evolution of the Ferrari Portofino, the most notable being its redesigned powertrain, a brand-new eight-speed gearbox and a five-position Manettino that includes a Race mode, an absolute first for a Maranello GT spider. As a consequence of these and many other new features, the Portofino M guarantees a completely unprecedented combination of authentic GT performance, driving pleasure, agility and exceptional versatility in everyday driving contexts.

In terms of its powertrain, the Portofino M's 3855 cc engine, which belongs to the V8 turbo family voted "International Engine of the Year" on four consecutive occasions, has been optimised to unleash 620 cv at 7,500 rpm – 20 cv more than the Ferrari Portofino. It also boasts a completely redesigned eight-speed gearbox that replaces the previous seven-speed version. This is the first eight-speed to be installed on an open-top Ferrari and is based on a dual-clutch oil bath architecture with a 20% smaller clutch module and 35% higher torque delivery.

There is no shortage of technical innovation in this stunning new evolution of the Ferrari Portofino

From a vehicle dynamics perspective, the most significant innovation is most certainly the introduction of the five-position Manettino, an absolute first for a Prancing Horse GT spider. The aim being, of course, to further enhance the Ferrari Portofino's already superb handling and traction through the addition of the Race mode. Supported by the Ferrari Dynamic Enhancer, said Race mode focuses mainly on maximising driving pleasure and fun behind the wheel.

The significant technological evolution the model has undergone is visually underscored by the new design of the front of the car and the bumpers in particular, which are sportier and more aggressive. Both inside and out, there is a sense of harmony of expression and intent in forms that are sometimes sharper and then softer and more flowing.

This latest design and engineering masterpiece from the Prancing Horse is the perfect evolution of the Ferrari Portofino. Sportier in character than its predecessor, it also delivers superior handling whilst not only maintaining but enhancing onboard comfort, courtesy of specific new optional features, such as ADAS, and ventilated and heated seats. The Ferrari Portofino M thus retains its predecessor's twin soul and is the only car on the market that can rightfully be described as an authentic coupé with its top closed and a genuine spider when it is open. This is thanks, of course, to the Retractable Hard Top (RHT), the signature feature of all the Prancing Horse's convertibles.

Portofino M's compact dimensions also make it ideal for all occasions. In fact, its unparalleled versatility and on-board comfort turn every trip into a voyage of (re)discovery.

NATIONAL DAY

OAB campaign receives widespread acclaim

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced the successful implementation of its 'The Power of 50' promotional campaign, which was launched on September 15. The campaign was introduced to celebrate Oman's 50th National Day, set to take place in November, and has seen immense positive feedback from the public.

Commenting on the success of the campaign, Rashad Al Shaikh, Acting Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "We are delighted to witness the incredible number of people that have taken part in this campaign, especially since our main objective is spreading happiness, to all our valued customers and the citizens within the Sultanate. With the rise in participants and referrals, we believe that we are on the right path in carrying out this campaign, as we proudly celebrate the achievements of our country over the last 50 years, together with all of the Omani people.



On behalf of everyone here at OAB, I would like to welcome our new customers to the OAB family and look forward to enriching your experience with us."

As part of the promotional campaign, the first 500 existing customers to refer a friend, acquaint-

ance or family member to open an account at OAB via the OAB Online App will each receive a guaranteed cash prize of OMR 50. The first 500 customers to open an account with OAB and transfer their salary of OMR 500 or more will receive a guaranteed cash prize of OMR 50. In November, every OAB customer will have the opportunity to be a part of a special Hasaad draw for a chance to win one of the 50 prizes of OMR 500 each.

"I would like to encourage all our customers to continue in their efforts of referring their family members and friends, so that they can enter into the exclusive Hasaad draw during National Day, alongside new OAB account holders. Through this special draw, we aim to add value to our ongoing scheme, by not only inculcating a savings culture but giving more opportunities to a wider segment of new customers. I wish every one of you the best of luck. Additionally,

I urge people within the community, who currently do not have an OAB account, to take advantage of this occasion and sign up during this campaign period. This way, they too can benefit from our integrated services and pioneering products," Rashad added.

To facilitate convenience during the campaign, OAB's Retail Division has introduced a new service window on the OAB online app that simplifies the new account nomination process. Existing customers can submit details of the person they are looking to nominate and the bank will conduct a follow-up to check whether the nominees are interested in opening an account. Upon approval, the account will be opened, with a cash prize of OMR 50 deposited to the new customer's account when they transfer their salary, as well as the account of the existing customer. The campaign will last until November 18.

WAFRA PRIZE SCHEME

ahlibank picks winner of 'Salary for Life' draw

MUSCAT: ahlibank announced the third winner of its grand 'Salary for Life' draw as part of the 2020 Wafra Prize Scheme, committing to its on-going customer engagement strategy. S.A.S. Al Balushi from Sohar branch bagged the OMR250,000 grand prize money, which is OMR1,000 to be paid monthly for 250 months, at a ceremony held at ahlibank's headquarters in the presence of the bank's senior officials.

Commenting on the initiative, which has attracted many customers to the bank, Muneer Al Balushi, Head of Retail Distribution at ahlibank said, "In ahlibank, we are continually working towards encouraging a savings culture among the people of Oman. The Wafra Prize scheme is a part of this endeavour as it provides an opportunity for customers to win a salary for a lifetime thereby giving them



financial security."

Wafra's 'Salary for Life' includes a total mega prize of OMR1 million won by four lucky customers, where OMR250,000 is won every quarter, during the year. Customers who maintain a quarterly average balance of OMR1,000 are eligible to participate in the 'Salary for

Life' quarterly prize draw, as well as other prizes.

Muneer Al Balushi added, "ahlibank's wide-ranging products and services are designed to provide a unique and hassle-free banking experience to its customers. We value our customer's needs and hope to continue creating opportunities

for them to win big through a wide range of prize-draws throughout the year."

In line with its objective of enhancing lives, 'Wafra', which means 'abundance' in Arabic, 2020 Prize Scheme, will award a total prize worth of over OMR1.8 million to more than 1,300 customers across ahlibank's branches in the Sultanate. These are given away through: Weekly, Monthly, Salary Transfer, Children's, National Day, as well as other 'Premium and Exclusive' prize-draws. Wafra's weekly Prize Scheme rewards one guaranteed customer from each branch with OMR500 and the Monthly Prize scheme rewards five winners with OMR2,000 each.

Details of the upcoming fourth quarterly prize draw for 'Salary for Life', will be announced on the bank's social media platforms.