

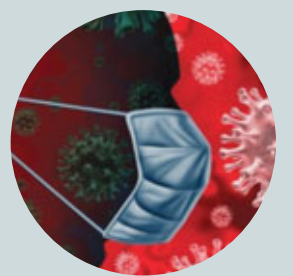
**ONE MILLION DATE PALMS
PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Oman Investment Authority (OIA) has announced the start of preparatory steps to undertake the management of the "One Million Date Palms Project". **>A2**



**902 NEW CASES OF CORONAVIRUS
REGISTERED IN OMAN**

MUSCAT: As many as 902 new cases of coronavirus were registered in Oman on Tuesday, in addition to 9 new COVID-19-related death cases. This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 197,802 in the Sultanate. The total number of COVID-19-related death cases reached 2,062, the Ministry of Health said. **-ONA**



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CONCERTED EFFORT REQUIRED TO TACKLE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN SULTANATE



Sayyid Fahd praised the Office of Majlis Al Shura and its members for their work in the interest of the country and Omani citizens

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmood Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, and other cabinet members on Tuesday received members of the Majlis Al Shura Office, led by Khalid Nassir Al Ma'awali, Chairman of

Majlis Al Shura. The meeting came within the framework of cooperation of institutions in implementation of the Basic Law of the State's provision requiring the State's institutions to continuously coordinate with each other, engage in fruitful dia-

logue and forge visions targeting the implementation of economic and social plans and programmes in tune with the best standards of performance.

At the outset of the meeting, HH Sayyid Fahd commended the significant role of Majlis Al Shura Office when coordinating with the government for the realisation of citizens' aspirations.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on the significance of the current period which requires rallying efforts to safeguard the gains of the comprehensive development march that covers all parts of the Sultanate, as well as ways to address the challenges

posed by coronavirus.

The meeting reviewed the challenges posed by coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to all world economies.

The government places the Majlis Al Shura on top of its priorities as a basic partner in the nation building process aimed to implement domestic development plans.

This is realised through ministers' attending sessions of the Majlis and discussing their draft plans and their ministerial statements, as well as means of upgrading services rendered to citizens.

The procedures include ministers' responding to Majlis Al

Shura's requests to host government officials to discuss with them the topics studied by the Majlis's committees.

The two sides discussed the Council of Ministers' approach to meetings in which governors' host members of Majlis Al Shura, in turns, to update them about services and municipal affairs in their respective governorates.

Constructive cooperation

The Chairman of Majlis Al Shura and members of the Majlis Office commended the constructive cooperation between the government and the Majlis.

They affirmed that the next

stage will see more cooperation between the two parties.

Yaqoub bin Mohammed Al Harthi, Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, spoke exclusively to *Times of Oman* about the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers and a number of senior members of Shura Council: "The meeting came in response to Article 77 of Oman Council Law in which the Council of Ministers is designated to hold two sessions with the office of Shura Council, and this is the reason for the meeting that took place today," Al Harthi confirmed that the meeting dealt with three topics. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Fak Kurbah secures release of 466 people

1 With the generous donations of individuals and institutions, 'Fak-Kurbah' Initiative, or Ending Loan Agony, in coordination with 34 courts, released 466 insolvent persons from prison. The initiative announced that the all the 466 persons have been jailed for civil, commercial, legal or labour financial claims. The released cases included 78 residents and 388 Omani citizens. **>A3**

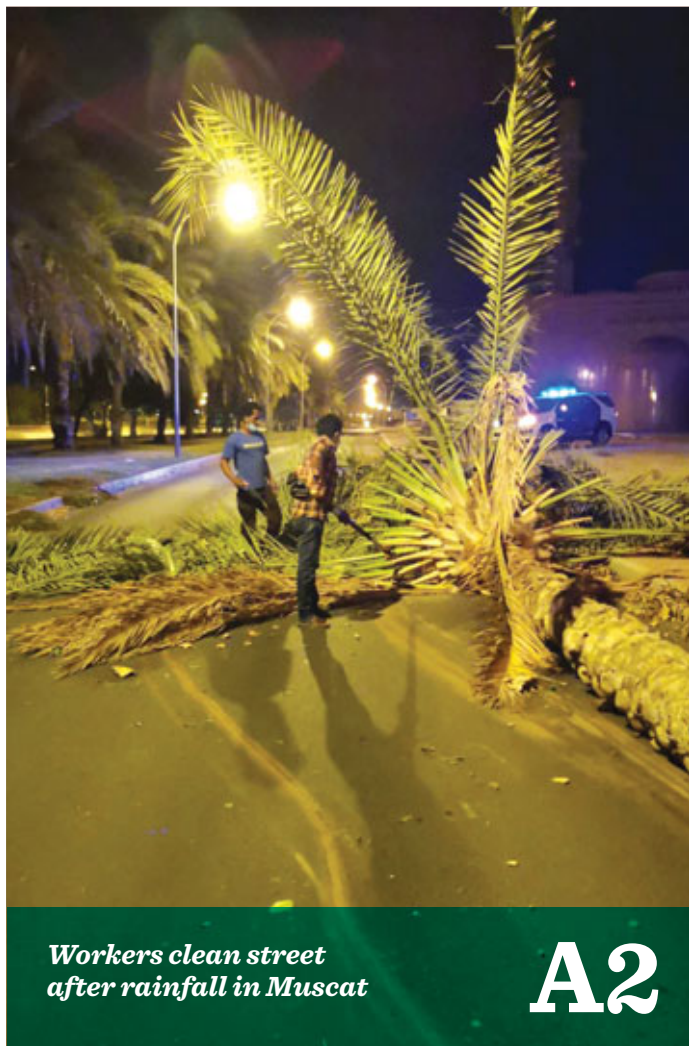
WORLD Bill and Melinda Gates part ways

2 Bill and Melinda Gates announced in identical tweets that they were ending their 27-year marriage. They said they "no longer believe" that they can grow as a couple. The American business magnate and co-founder of Microsoft is the third-richest man in the world. The couple met during a business dinner in 1987, when Melinda was a product manager at Microsoft. **>A6**

SPORTS IPL 2021 suspended due to COVID-19



3 The ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been suspended owing to an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases within the bio-bubble. BCCI's vice-president Rajeev Shukla confirmed the development to ANI. "IPL has been suspended, we will see whether we can reschedule it, it is not cancelled. It is just suspended for now," he said. **>A8**



**Workers clean street
after rainfall in Muscat**

A2

SUPREME COMMITTEE

Entry restrictions extended to travellers from 16 countries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passengers from up to 16 countries are now prohibited from entering Oman, as part of measures announced to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

Egypt and the Philippines are the latest countries to be included in Oman's no entry list, under steps taken by the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19).

Starting 9 am on Friday, May 7, passengers intending to fly to Oman from either of these countries, as well as those who have passed through either of them in the last 14 days, will not be permitted to enter.

India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are also included in the list, with their entry ban having come into effect on April 24. The remaining are Sudan, Lebanon, South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and the United Kingdom.



To protect individuals of society from more exposure to this disease and, to maintain the capability of the health system and enable health workers to keep the situation under control, the Supreme Committee took the decisions.

The decision exempts incoming travellers who are Omani citizens, diplomats, health workers and their families. These exempted segments will undergo the prescribed procedures upon arriving in the Sultanate.

Airlines operating from these countries to Oman have been informed of the decision and the measures will be in place until further notice.

The entry ban only affects passengers looking to arrive/return to Oman: those who wish to travel to these 16 countries are still free to do so.

Although the wider ban is to soon come into effect, expats from these countries are still happy they can go home in case of an emergency.

"My flight home is in the early hours of Wednesday morning - I had already booked my tickets because I have to go see my family... it is urgent," said Arnold Ramos, a Filipino national in Oman.

"I had put off a number of things I needed to do at home, but it looks like the pandemic situation around the world is not going to change for a while.

"It is best I finish this work right now, because we do not know what will happen in the coming months," he added. **>A4**

TRACKING INFECTION

Oman-based researcher invents COVID detection watch

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A wrist-wearable device capable of tracking patients infected by COVID-19 has been invented by a researcher in Oman.

Developed by Dr Nissar Al Bassam and his team from Middle East College, the device can track people potentially infected by the disease, making it easy to locate them, should they need attention. It can also be used to pinpoint the locations of those who break quarantine, when they are supposed to stay in isolation.

It is capable of monitoring human vital signs directly related to COVID-19 symptoms, such as skin temperature, heart rate, oxygen saturation levels, and even the presence of cough by picking up sound waves, because of the deep learning model and Edge Impulse platform on which it is based.

"The information is used to

detect and predict any infection possibilities based on COVID-19 symptoms, and the device is provided with a GPS system to locate the patients and update case managers about their geo fencing status," said Al Bassam. "Moreover, it is provided with a communication module which is connected to cellular or data networks.

"This feature ensures direct connection to the cloud without passing through any external device, such as a patient's mobile," he added.

"This is done through registering patients on a system which connects this device to a mobile application. The app provides a summary of a person's health, as well as notifications and updates on current condition."

All the collected sensing data is sent directly to the database in the front-end cloud-based system. The cloud web-based application



is designed to display related information, including a patient's vital signs, location, their health status, and even the possibility of detecting whether they are infected, based on their vital signs.

The device displays the total number of people possibly infected by COVID-19, confirmed



Dr Nissar Al Bassam

cases of infection, and those who have been cured of the symptoms (closed cases) so that healthcare authorities can direct their efforts towards people who need assistance. The software is also capable of alerting friends and relatives of the patients about his/her COVID status, and can provide them up-

dates, in case abnormal physical symptoms are detected.

"The testing of all integrated systems shows that the wearable device can measure all human vital signs successfully," explained Al Bassam.

"It can also detect the number of sound-waves produced by coughing, using machine learning techniques. This device was able to easily track the patient's geographical information, providing an alarm and indicating the quarantine violations."

"It can detect cases of quarantine violations among those who are less than 100 metres from wearers of this device, and provides regular updates to the cloud database, where patient data is stored, every two seconds. All information related to the patient and their medical history can be stored, managed, and monitored instantly," he confirmed.



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OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Steps initiated to manage One Million Date Palms Project



MAXIMISE BENEFITS: The OIA, acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, works to maximise benefits from this project and generate a higher economic value from it. - *ONA*

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) has announced the start of preparatory steps to undertake the management of the One Million Date Palms Project.

The move reflects the government's keenness to improve performance and achieve fiscal sustainability in line with Oman Vision 2040 goals.

The OIA, acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, works to maximise benefits from this project and generate a higher economic value from it, besides enhancing food security in the Sultanate, opening up vistas for partnership with the private sector and empowering farmers.

Abdussalam Al Murshidi, OIA

Chairman said that the Authority embarks on the project through Oman Food Investment Holding Company, which possesses sufficient expertise, an all-round management system and skilled manpower that have experience in managing the assets of international foodstuff facilities.

The project will also stimulate the small and medium enterprises sector, he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, said that the the project will bring about a major shift in the farming sector in the Sultanate.

The aim is to integrate the operations of the Ministry (as an organiser and supervisor of the

sector), Oman Food Investment Holding Company, other private parties concerned and farmers.

The collaborative action will give impetus to the One Million Date Palms project and to bolster food security, the minister added.

Eng. Tarik Ali Al Amri, Board Chairman of Oman Food Investment Holding Company, said that the role of his firm is to assess the existing farms selected for the project in a bid to convert them to independent profit-generating centres that are run with top efficiency in order to engage the private sector in the process. The company will also buy participating farmers' produce and ensure the sustainability of the project.

- ONE

Heavy rains recorded in parts of Oman

At 17.6 mm, the wilayat of Bausher recorded the highest amount of rainfall in the Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Most of the governors of the Sultanate witnessed moderate to heavy rains accompanied by thundershowers and active winds that caused damage to trees, homes and vehicles.

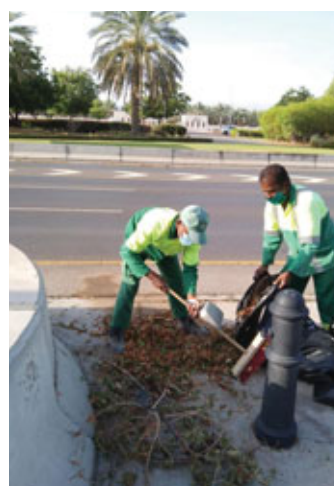
Damage

Damage
Apart from damage to homes and vehicles and commercial shops being reported in some wilayats, there were also reports of fires due to lightning hitting some palm trees and electricity poles.

Officials said that the wilayats of Musannah, Rustaq and Barka in South Al Batinah, wilayat of Sama'il in Al Dakhiliyah, wilayat of Shinas, Sohar in North Al Batinah, and wilayats of Al Khoudh, Seeb and Bausher in Muscat received heavy rainfall.

At 17.6 mm the wilayat of Bausher recorded the highest amount of rainfall in the Sultanate during the last 24 hours, according to Oman Meteorology.

Oman Meteorology confirmed that the amount of rainfall recorded at some monitoring stations of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in the past 24 hours also showed that Bidbid received 11.2 mm, Shinas 7.2 mm.



Yanqul 3.2 mm, Muscat 3.2mm, Al Hamraa 3.0 mm, Al Amerat 2.6 mm, Muhadha 1.4 mm, Sohar 0.6 mm, Al Khaboura 0.6 mm and Liwa 0.4 mm.

Aerial image

A statement issued by the CAA said that the aerial image shows clouds over Al Hajar Mountains and the coasts of the Sea of Oman, with sporadic rains of varying intensity on the east of Muscat, the coasts of Musandam, North of Al Batinah and Dakhiliyah governorate, even as cumulonimbus rain clouds continue in the interior areas of Dhofar.




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INVITATION TO TENDER



Sohar Aluminium LLC (SA), PO Box 80, PC- 327, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman
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Tender No.	: 21/013
Tender Title	: General Civil and Building Maintenance Services
Scope	: Contractor shall provide General Civil and Building Maintenance Services including all management, supervision, personal equipment etc.
Tender No.	: 2021-ENG-SOW-0005
Tender Title	: Rodding Shop Power and Free Upgrade
Scope	: The Contractor shall design, fabricate, supply and install support structures for the Power and Free Conveying System in the Rodding Shop.
Tender No.	: 2021-ENG-SOW-0016
Tender Title	: Supply of new Crusher with a Conveyor
Scope	: Contractor shall do design, supply, install and commissioning of new crusher with a conveyor.
Tender No.	: 2021-ENG-SOW-0018
Tender Title	: Facility wide corrosion protection
Scope	: Contractor shall do protective painting on structures, piping and equipment facility wide for corrosion protection.

Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com
For list of active tenders visit: <https://www.sohar-aluminium.com/en/content/tender-listing>



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Asthma management and COVID-19

Here is how asthma patients need to take care of themselves, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asthma patients who test positive for COVID-19 must not panic, but must report to their nearest health centre, or doctor, to seek immediate medical attention, a physician in the country has said.

On the occasion of World Asthma Day – which falls on May 5 this year – Dr A Basheer, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine and Diabetes, Badr Al Sama'a Hospital, spoke about how asthma patients need to take care of themselves, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the various misconceptions surrounding the disease. He was speaking to TFM's Evita Louis.

How do asthma patients need to look after themselves during the pandemic?

Just because you are asthmatic does not mean you have an increased chance of testing positive for COVID-19. As with anyone else, asthma patients must also follow hygiene methods. Once you have recovered from COVID, however, you have to be a little more careful.

Never stop your asthma medication: I have seen patients who have done that, and this has worsened their conditions. If you notice COVID symptoms, seek assistance early. It is also recommended to keep a pulse oximeter at home so that you can monitor your oxygen levels. If it does go below 95, go to your doctor or nearest healthcare provider.

If you do test positive and are an asthma patient, first of all, do not panic. Do not stop your medication – consult your physician, and identify any breathing difficulties. Walk a couple of steps and see if you have any trouble breathing. Another advice I would like to provide is to not hesitate from taking the COVID vaccine – the Ministry of Health is specifically providing priority vaccination to asthma patients, because they could develop some complications from the disease.

What are the various causes of asthma?

Asthma is an allergic disease: it is caused by a lot of environmental allergens, such as dust on the floor. Many patients come with asthma caused by pets at home. Aspirin is also very notorious for precipitating asthma. Flu infections can also trigger this, particularly since some people have seasonal asthma: it is seen more during the winters, or when the weather is cloudy.

One of the classical features of asthma is that it is worsened early

Dr A Basheer, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine and Diabetes, Badr Al Sama'a Hospital

in the morning. Asthma is also the only disease that has a seasonal pattern. The rainy season, as well as tropical climates, can also trigger asthma.

People believe asthma patients cannot do exercise – they can, but they must do so according to a routine devised by their physician. If you go beyond an optimal level of exercise, however, you can trigger asthma. 20 to 30 per cent of cases are also triggered by acid reflux.

What are some of the misconceptions around asthma?

Many of my patients know what asthma is – but they still have many misconceptions. Many of them think asthma is a psychological disease, but to the contrary, it is a physical disease, and there are a lot of factors that cause asthma. Asthma is worsened by stress and emotions, which is why they might think it is psychological in nature.

Many patients think that one they have asthma and undergo treatment, they can stop it after a couple of months. Asthma needs to have an approach similar to hypertension or diabetes. It is a long-standing disease, which means you have to plan for long-term management. When you start asthma treatment, patients find they are symptom free, but that does not mean the disease has gone from inside you: it is waiting to come outside. You must understand that you have a chronic disease that is going to be long standing.

Why is an inhaler the best form of treatment for asthma? Why not use a tablet or syrup?

When we say 'inhaler', people think it a last resort treatment – this is a misconception. We recommend inhalers, because when you take a tablet, for example, only nine per cent of the medicine actually goes through your lungs: the rest of the 91 per cent remains in your blood. Imagine the side effects that can be caused if so much medicine remains in the bloodstream.

It is the same for an injection, where 99 per cent of the medicine circulates in your blood. Compare this to an inhaler, where 33 per cent of the medicine goes into the lungs, the rest goes through your stomach and your digestive tract. An inhaler dose is also just one-hundredth the measurement of a tablet.

Some inhalers contain steroids, but their content is so minute that the side-effects are minimal. Over long-term use, you might have some complications such as pharyngitis, throat irritation, or fungal infections, but after each use of your inhaler, if you do a mouth gargle with warm water, you can avoid these side effects as well.

Many patients believe that the moment they use their inhaler, they will be dependent on it for the rest of their lives. They think inhalers are dangerous: on the contrary, this is the safest and most effective treatment for asthma.

How possible is it for asthma patients to lead a normal life?

It is not that we can cure asthma, but we can control it: we can make the patient symptom-free and give them a good standard of life. There is no cure for asthma, so if someone tells you of a medicine that can cure the disease, they are misleading you. To have a normal life, stick to your medication, follow up with your doctor, and know the limitations put forth by them.

There are some famous athletes who have had this problem – Pele was asthmatic, for example.

Physicians need to optimise the levels at which people can do exercise. People who do regular exercises and yoga have better control over their asthma, and they can do away with using the inhaler more often.

CHARITY

More than 466 insolvent persons get released under Fak-Kurbah Initiative

MUSCAT: With the generous donations of individuals and institutions, Fak-Kurbah Initiative, or Ending Loan Agony, in coordination with 34 courts in Oman, released 466 insolvent persons from prison.

Fak-Kurbah Initiative announced that the released 466 persons have been jailed for civil, commercial, legal or labour financial claims.

Released

The released cases included 78 residents and 388 Omani citizens, 39 of whom were females. The released cases so far covered 10 governorates namely Muscat (128), South Al Batinah (60), North Al Batinah (89), South A'Sharqiyah (22), North A'Sharqiyah (62), A'Dakhiliyah (37), A'Dhahirah (31), Al Buraimi (26), Musandam (8), and Al Wusta (3).

Decent life

The initiative affirms keenness to contribute to helping the prisoners whose circumstances led them to prison while seeking to provide a decent life for their families.

The initiative will continue its efforts to achieve its goals, with the help of individuals and institutions under the slogan "Everyone deserves a second chance." The 8th edition of the initiative was launched on 1 April 2021 and it will continue until 31 May 2021. -ONA

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

48,764 REACH

A story on NOC removal reached 48,764 people and had 13,472 engagements on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

3,355 LIKES

A photo of the weather over Muscat had 3,355 likes on Instagram.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

5,000 VIEWS

The Maghrib Minute news video in Hindi got 5,000 views and reached 23,800 people on Facebook.

A story on NOC removal in Oman

Maghrib Minute news video

Muscat weather photo

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RAMADAN
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Dhuhr	12.09pm
Asr	3.33pm
Maghrib	6.42pm
Isha	7.58pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4.08am

Muscat



RESTRICTIONS

< FROM A1 Stranded expatriates hope entry ban to Sultanate will end soon

“I hope, however, that this ban on re-entering Oman will end soon, so I can come back.” Egyptian national Ahmed Taha advised people to avoid travel for the time-being, owing to constantly-changing regulations that people might not always be able to prepare for.

“We expected this to come any way – it is a good thing it came now, because it removes any uncertainty over whether or not we can travel home at the present time,” said Taha, who lives in Muscat with his wife and child. “My advice to people: do not travel now, unless you absolutely have to. If you fly home, and are unable to come back, then you are stuck elsewhere, and you don’t know for how long.”

This decision was taken after



reviewing the latest epidemiological situation in the country, and its impact on public health, particularly in regards to the mutated variants of the coronavirus, some of which have been brought into the country by passengers arriving from overseas, as was seen in their PCR tests which were taken on landing in Oman. The Supreme Committee hope everyone stays safe from all harm.

STATE COUNCIL

Tourism potential of old alleys discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The State Council is studying the tourism and economic potential of old Omani alleys and its neighbourhood to convert them into hostels and tourist attractions, and to prepare and train Omanis in their restoration work.

The State Council approved a proposal submitted by the Culture, Media and Tourism Committee to study “the old Omani neighbourhood and difficulties in attracting investment in this field”.

This came during the meeting of the expanded specialised committee headed by Dr. Aisha bint Hamad Al Darmaki, Chairperson of the Culture, Media and Tourism Committee, in the presence of heads of the permanent committees of the Council, members of the committee, the Secretary-General, and employees of the General Secretariat of the Council.

The committee discussed during its second session of the second annual meeting, a proposal to study investment potential of old Omani neighbourhoods and the unifying efforts among the specialised sectors. This proposal comes in accordance with Article (53) of the Oman Council Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. (7/2021), which states that: In addition to its other powers stipulated in this law, the State Council may - on its own accord - study and discuss issues related to the implementation of development plans, and submit proposals to the government and studies that contribute to the consolidation of the original values of the Omani society.



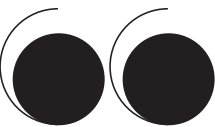
USE RAMADAN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BLESS YOUR DEBTORS

It is our responsibility to honour our commitments and pay our debts, but there is a great reward for those who, as an act of worship to Allah, forgive those who are in their debt. If it is financially viable, and especially if it is for a small amount, use Ramadan as an opportunity to bless your debtors with the forgiveness of that which they owe you. Your reward is with Allah, and he is ever just and generous.

IFTAR TIMING

6:42 pm

RAMADAN WORDS



“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.”



HEALTH TIP

Taking a walk for an hour after Iftar can aid your digestive and cardiovascular systems.

RECIPE OF THE DAY

POTATO CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 3 large potatoes
- 1 bell pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheese
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp red chilli flakes
- 2 tsp butter
- 1 tbsp plain flour

PREPARATION

- The potatoes will turn out best if boiled and refrigerated overnight before using.
- Do not peel potatoes. Slice into thin rounds or grate coarsely.
- Deseed green bell pepper and slice into thin rounds.
- Heat a thick non stick pan about 5” diameter.
- Meanwhile mix cheese, milk, crumbs, flour and chilli flakes.
- If mixture feels thin, add some more bread crumbs.
- Add salt to taste. Apply 1 tsp on bottom of pan. Arrange potatoes to cover the pan. Top with bell pepper.
- Pour the mixture all over evenly. Level to cover all the potatoes. Sprinkle fresh ground pepper, salt and simmer on low till bottom is golden brown.
- Flip over very carefully with a wide sharp spatula, and roast the other side.
- Let in the remaining butter around the edges to seep down. Let other side become golden brown too.
- Flip on serving plate and make sections with a knife. Serve hot. -by Oneza Tabish





Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS FOR THREE YEARS	15/2021	20/05/2021	25/05/2021	253 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2021			
Dear Shareholders,				
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Services Co. SAOG, I hereby present the unaudited financial results for the first quarter ended on 31 March 2021.				
The revenue from catering business for the three months ended on 31 March 2021 was RO 1,824,728 down by 17% compared to revenue of RO 2,195,218 for the same period last year. The operating profit for the period was RO 176,306 compared to RO 258,668 for the corresponding three months in 2020.				
The profit from the trading investments for the period was RO 132,199 against loss of RO 244,757 reported for the same period in 2020.				
The share of profit from associate company, Al Anwar Ceramics Tiles Co. SAOG for three months ended on 31 March 2021 was RO 745,399 up by 162% compared to RO 284,589 for the three months ended on 31 March 2020.				
The net profit after tax for the three months ended on 31 March 2021 was RO 1,019,035 up by 306% compared to profit of RO 250,959 for the same period in 2020. The net assets per share as on 31 March 2021 was 148 baiza as against 146 baiza as on 31 March 2020.				
We remain cautiously optimistic and expect our catering business to withstand the challenging business environment. We also expect our associate company, Al Anwar Ceramics Tiles Co. SAOG to provide sustainable contribution to our profit. Our outlook for the future remains stable.				
I am pleased to report that your company has adhered to all the applicable regulations covering corporate governance in Sultanate of Oman.				
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitam Bin Tarik for his great vision and initiatives as he continues to lead the Sultanate on the path of development, peace and enduring prosperity. We also extend our sincere thanks to our Customers, Shareholders, Muscat Securities Exchange and Capital Market Authority for their continued support. My appreciation also goes to the Company's management and staff for their continued dedication and hard work.				
Hussain Sajwani Chairman				
The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder, who request them, either in Arabic or English, within 7 days from the receipt of the request				
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2021				
	Group Company 31.03.2021 RO	Parent Company 31.03.2021 RO	Group Company 31.03.2020 RO	Parent Company 31.03.2020 RO
Revenue from contract with customers	1,824,728	--	2,195,218	--
Cost of providing services	(1,427,254)	--	(1,690,935)	--
Gross profit	397,474	--	504,283	--
Other income	6,715	--	6,601	--
	404,189	--	510,884	--
Expenses				
Employees salaries and other costs	(126,076)	(33,449)	(135,705)	(37,521)
General and administrative expenses	(100,547)	(18,640)	(114,775)	(17,607)
Depreciation	(1,260)	(66)	(1,736)	(43)
	(227,883)	(52,156)	(252,216)	(55,171)
Profit/(loss) from operations	176,306	(52,156)	258,668	(55,171)
Net Gain/(loss) from Investments	132,199	132,199	(244,757)	(244,757)
Share of profit from investment in an associates	745,399	745,399	284,589	284,589
Dividend from a subsidiary	--	192,028	--	263,972
Finance costs	(639)	(345)	(487)	(311)
Profit before tax	1,053,265	1,017,125	298,013	248,322
Income tax expenses	(34,230)	--	(47,054)	--
Net profit after tax	1,019,035	1,017,125	250,959	248,322
Other comprehensive income				
Share of fair value reserve in an associate	33,537	33,537	(125,574)	(125,574)
Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to the parent co.	1,052,572	1,050,662	125,385	122,748
Basic earnings per share	0.009	0.009	0.002	0.002

May 05 - May 19, 2021

25kg

INDIA GATE

India Gate Basmati Rice 20 kg+5 kg

28.250

23.500

10pcs

Asaffa Chicken 10x1.2 Kg

18.200

11.990

375gm

Mackintosh's Quality Street

3.335

2.490

Super General LED TV 55" SGLD 55AU5972

146.900

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COVID-19: IMMUNISATION CENTRES WITNESS HUGE TURNOUTS IN OMAN

Immunisation centres in Muscat Governorate witnessed high turnouts of the target group for taking COVID-19 vaccines. The General Directorate of Health Services in Muscat Governorate said: "The efforts made by those in charge of the various immunisation centres in the Governorate of Muscat to vaccinate against COVID-19 are continuing with community awareness and a high turnout of the target group."

MEETING

< FROM

A1

Joint meeting

The first topic was related to cooperation and partnership between the two councils, the Shura Council and the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the Basic Law of the State and the Law of the Oman Council, and the second item dealt with the efforts made by the government in employing the national workforce, where it arrived, its results, and its upcoming plans. While the third item was related to the government's plan for corporate governance.

He added: "The meeting resulted in several results, including the mandate of His Highness the ministers to attend the Shura Council for the purposes of presenting proposals and discussion, as well as activating the Law of the Council of Oman with regard to the view of the Shura Council, in the presence of their excellencies ministers for requests for discussion."

The joint meeting reviewed the agenda and topics, including measures to foster government-Majlis partnership, efforts exerted by the government for the employment of Omani job seekers and governance of government firms.

It was agreed during the meeting to step up social awareness about all that serves the citizens of the Sultanate under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. **OMA**

شركة إسمنت عمان (ش.م.ع.ع.) Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G) P.O. Box 560, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777																																																																																								
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION																																																																																							
Respected Shareholders, On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Cement Company (SAOG), it gives me a great pleasure to present you the Company's performances during the three months period ended on 31 March 2021. Company has continued its efforts to overcome the adverse impact of steep rise in prices of some major elements of cost, and extensive efforts have been made in this direction with better cost management and sustained efforts to improve productivity during the current period also. Though intense competition due to lower prices from competitors has continued to be a major challenge, we have taken elaborative measures to minimize the impact. Company's performance during the period was also impacted by the adverse effects of pandemic caused by Covid-19, however with an efficient management of crisis, Company could continue to operate efficiently. The Company continues to be an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certified Company. It has also API Spec 10A (American Petroleum Institute) quality monogram certification for manufacturing and sale of Oil Well Cements. 1. PRODUCTION (i) Clinker Production: Company has produced a total quantity of 492,149 MT of Clinker during the period as against 609,352 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by 117,209 MT (19.23%). (ii) Cement Production: Company has produced 568,991 MT of Cement during the period as against 682,552 MT produced during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by 113,561 MT (16.64%). 2. TURNOVER & PROFIT (i) Company has achieved a sale of 569,920 MT of Cement during the period as against 699,963 MT sale during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by 130,043 MT (18.58%). In value terms, the Company has achieved a sale of OMR 11,424 Million of Cement during the period as against OMR 13,647 Million sale during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by OMR 2,223 Million (16.29%). (ii) Company has earned profit before tax of OMR 0.872 Million during the period as against OMR 1.411 Million during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by OMR 0.539 Million (38.20%). (iii) The Company has earned profit after tax of OMR 0.753 Million during the period as against OMR 1.128 Million during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by OMR 0.375 Million (33.26%). 3. INVESTMENTS The company has continued to place its surplus funds in fixed income investments in fixed deposits and subordinated debts of commercial banks. 4. ASSOCIATE COMPANY Mondi Oman LLC Company's share of profit after tax in associate company amounting to OMR 83,906 during the period as against OMR 68,170 during the corresponding period of the previous year, as reported by the associate company, has been suitably accounted for in the financial statements of the Company. 5. MARKET DEMAND & FUTURE OUTLOOK Cement market in Oman has continued to witness an intense price competition between major suppliers which include local cement companies as well as cement manufacturers from neighboring countries. Company has continued with its dynamic pricing policy responsive to the market during the period coupled with its high emphasis on quality of highest standards to retain its market share. 6. EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION & UPGRADATION (i) The company had in past hired the services of a consultant to study and recommend measures to eliminate bottleneck in the plant. The recommendations are under implementation and company has floated tenders for appointment of EPC contractor. Evaluation process of offers received from EPC contractors is completed. As the Company has engaged a consultant to carry out pre-feasibility study for new cement plant within OCC, this project has been kept under hold. (ii) Company's earlier decision of achieving higher energy efficiency in operations by installing a new power plant with the latest technology, which was subsequently amended with proposed project of installation of Waste Heat Recovery unit with existing Power Plant, has been put on hold pending further confirmation of gas availability for Company's Capacity Expansion Plan. (iii) To promote use of alternative energy, the company had carried out a feasibility study for utilizing waste tyres as an alternate fuel, and the project consultant and the EPC contractor have also been appointed and the project work is expected to commence soon. (iv) Company's decision to set up a new cement plant at Duqm with a capacity of 5000 TPD of Clinker has currently been put on hold pending confirmation of availability of fuel and its strategic decision to expand capacity of existing plant at Muscat. 7. COVID-19 UPDATE Company has faced major challenges arising due to spread of COVID-19 and has successfully ensured compliance of directives and guidelines issued from time to time by Supreme Committee and other authorities. A committee constituted by the company in this regard has continued to enforce preventive measures for health and safety of employees in line with such guidelines such as social distancing, working from home wherever possible and adopting work hygiene at place of work apart from creating necessary infrastructure. With active efforts, the adverse impact has been contained and company has maintained its production without any interruption. The confidence and encouragement extended to the Board by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the shareholders is highly appreciated and the staff & management of the company pray Almighty Allah to continue to guide H.M. Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur, Sultan of Oman, for the common welfare of the country. Dr. Abdullah Abbas Ahmed Chairman of the Board of Directors Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income <table><tr><th></th><th>31 Mar 2021</th><th>31 Mar 2020</th><th>31 Dec 2020</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Audited</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>RO</td><td>RO</td><td>RO</td></tr><tr><td>INCOME</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Revenue</td><td>11,424,032</td><td>13,647,034</td><td>50,143,753</td></tr><tr><td>Cost of sales</td><td>(10,266,007)</td><td>(11,708,022)</td><td>(41,609,445)</td></tr><tr><td>Gross profit</td><td>1,158,025</td><td>1,939,012</td><td>8,534,308</td></tr><tr><td>EXPENSES</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>General and administration</td><td>(624,080)</td><td>(845,839)</td><td>(3,148,086)</td></tr><tr><td>Operating profit</td><td>533,945</td><td>1,093,173</td><td>5,386,222</td></tr><tr><td>Other operating income</td><td>11,342</td><td>53,034</td><td>102,052</td></tr><tr><td>Net finance income</td><td>242,863</td><td>195,261</td><td>782,570</td></tr><tr><td>Net investment income</td><td>83,906</td><td>69,635</td><td>180,160</td></tr><tr><td>Profit before taxation</td><td>872,056</td><td>1,411,103</td><td>6,451,004</td></tr><tr><td>Taxation</td><td>(118,917)</td><td>(282,673)</td><td>(1,268,238)</td></tr><tr><td>Profit for the period</td><td>753,139</td><td>1,128,430</td><td>5,182,766</td></tr><tr><td>Other comprehensive income for the period:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Not reclassifiable to income statement:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Fair value change in investments at FVOCI</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Other comprehensive income for the period</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Total comprehensive income for the period</td><td>753,139</td><td>1,128,430</td><td>5,182,766</td></tr><tr><td>Basic earnings per share (annualized)</td><td>0.009</td><td>0.014</td><td>0.016</td></tr></table>		31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020	31 Dec 2020				Audited		RO	RO	RO	INCOME				Revenue	11,424,032	13,647,034	50,143,753	Cost of sales	(10,266,007)	(11,708,022)	(41,609,445)	Gross profit	1,158,025	1,939,012	8,534,308	EXPENSES				General and administration	(624,080)	(845,839)	(3,148,086)	Operating profit	533,945	1,093,173	5,386,222	Other operating income	11,342	53,034	102,052	Net finance income	242,863	195,261	782,570	Net investment income	83,906	69,635	180,160	Profit before taxation	872,056	1,411,103	6,451,004	Taxation	(118,917)	(282,673)	(1,268,238)	Profit for the period	753,139	1,128,430	5,182,766	Other comprehensive income for the period:				Not reclassifiable to income statement:				Fair value change in investments at FVOCI	-	-	-	Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	Total comprehensive income for the period	753,139	1,128,430	5,182,766	Basic earnings per share (annualized)	0.009	0.014	0.016
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	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020	31 Dec 2020
			Audited
	RO	RO	RO
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	104,167,140	110,716,095	105,383,785
Right-of-use asset	751,120	798,810	763,042
Intangible assets	549	13,372	1,581
Investment in an associate	1,087,647	1,088,341	1,003,741
Investment at amortized costs	976,429	7,981,231	976,672
Bank deposits	975,062	8,468,482	975,315
Total non-current assets	107,957,947	129,066,331	109,104,136
Current assets			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	113,480	120,920	113,480
Investment at amortized costs	7,000,000	3,272,700	7,000,000
Bank deposits	7,500,000	2,000,000	7,500,000
Inventories	25,642,447	24,294,931	25,425,439
Accounts and other receivables	10,207,504	10,354,031	9,962,024
Cash and bank balances	4,865,809	2,812,820	6,826,083
Total current assets	55,329,240	42,855,402	56,827,026
TOTAL ASSETS	163,287,187	171,921,733	165,931,162
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	33,087,271	33,087,271	33,087,271
Share premium	6,724,145	6,724,145	6,724,145
Legal reserve	11,029,090	11,029,090	11,029,090
Voluntary reserve	16,543,635	16,543,635	16,543,635
Fair value reserve	(692,847)	(692,847)	(692,847)
Retained earnings	77,637,747	76,138,999	80,193,333
Total equity	144,329,041	142,830,293	146,884,627
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Non-current portion of term loans	-	2,062,688	-
Non-current portion of lease liability	709,521	738,486	774,723
Deferred tax liability	7,791,373	7,805,590	7,800,161
Employees' end of service benefits	901,384	1,266,108	892,681
Total non-current liabilities	9,402,278	11,872,872	9,467,565
Current liabilities			
Current portion of term loans	2,062,375	8,708,684	2,062,375
Current portion of lease liability	28,451	28,451	28,451
Accounts and other payables	6,364,391	8,300,871	6,515,198
Taxation	1,100,651	180,562	972,946
Total current liabilities	9,555,868	17,218,568	9,578,970
Total liabilities	18,958,146	29,091,440	19,046,535
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	163,287,187	171,921,733	165,931,162
Net assets per share	0.436	0.432	0.444

Note:

The Complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who request them in either Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt to the following address :
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Medical aid arrives as COVID-19 infections continue to rise in India

NEW DELHI: Amid the unprecedented rise in coronavirus cases in India, COVID-19 assistance, in form of oxygen concentrators, ventilators, and other medical aid continued to come from countries around the world at the beginning of May, as the infections in the country reached the grim mark of 20 million cases on Tuesday.

A total of seven ISO tankers with 20 MT Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) each arrived from United Arab Emirates (UAE) at Mundra Port in Gujarat today to help augment India's oxygen availability in the fight against the raging COVID-19 pandemic. The fifth in a series of consignments carrying 545 oxygen concentrators also arrived from the United States on Tuesday.

A shipment of 282 oxygen cylinders, 60 oxygen concentrators, ventilators and other medical supplies from Kuwaiti reached India on Tuesday to help the country fight the second wave of coronavirus. The first batch of 900 oxygen cylinders offered by the British Oxygen Company was airlifted by Indian Air Force (IAF) to India on Monday. The British Oxygen Company has offered 5000 oxygen cylinders to India to help the country in its fight against rapidly spreading second wave of COVID-19.

Prior to this, the UK on Sunday announced that it will be sending additional 1,000 ventilators from the UK's surplus supply to Indian hospitals as part of its commitment to support India. **ANI**



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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

27-YEAR MARRIAGE

Bill, Melinda Gates announce divorce



WASHINGTON: Bill and Melinda Gates announced in identical tweets on Monday that they were ending their 27-year marriage.

They said they "no longer believe" that they can grow as a couple. The American business magnate and co-founder of Microsoft is the third-richest man in the world. The couple met during a business dinner in 1987, when Melinda Gates was a product manager at Microsoft. The pair then married around seven years later.

The financial details of the separation have not been revealed. Both Gateses have signed on to Warren Buffett's Giving Pledge, promising to donate most of their fortune to charitable causes.

"After a great deal of thought and a lot of work on our relationship, we have made the decision to end our marriage," Gates

tweeted. "We have raised three incredible children and built a foundation that works all over the world to enable all people to lead healthy, productive lives," they said. "We ask for space and privacy for our family as we begin to navigate this new life."

What this means for Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Despite the end of their marriage, Gates said they would continue to collaborate on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We continue to share a belief in that mission and will continue our work together."

The foundation has over \$50 billion (€41.4 billion) in assets, according to a tax filing cited by US broadcaster CNBC.

Since its launch in 2000, the charity has focused on global health and development issues as well as education in the US. **BW**



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The Prophet (ﷺ) said,
"He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization has the pleasure of announcing the start of this year's Ramadan Iftar Program. We kindly seek your participation for the sake of the needy families in Oman during this holy month. All are requested to join in such a humanitarian and benevolent cause by sending your donation through;

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Through ONEIC Channels 	Ooredoo users cost 1 RO send donate to 90909	Bank Dhofar 01040609090001

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PARTIAL COLLAPSE

Metro train bridge collapse leaves 23 dead in Mexico City



MEXICO CITY: An elevated section of metro track in Mexico City partially collapsed on Monday night, bringing down rubble and some train carriages onto the road below, videos on Mexican news and social media showed.

The city's Comprehensive Risk Management and Civil Protection Agency said that at least 23 people had died and 70 more were injured. Of the injured, 49 were taken to several nearby hospitals for treatment — some were in serious condition. There were also children among the fatalities, the city's mayor told reporters.

Authorities said that cars had also been trapped under the rubble. The elevated track was around 5 metres (16 feet) above the ground.

Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, who had travelled to the scene, wrote on Twitter that "firefighters, public safety personnel are working. Various hospitals attending. We will give more information shortly."

How did the accident happen?

"A support beam gave way," Sheinbaum told reporters. The accident happened at 10:30 pm local time (3:30 am Tuesday GMT/UTC).

Rescue efforts were temporarily suspended until a crane was brought in. The partially hanging train was "very weak," Sheinbaum said. People were still trapped inside, but it was not clear if they were alive. **BW**



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Chelsea - the final hurdle for Real Madrid's Champions League hopes

Real Madrid need to score at least one goal to have a chance of qualifying for the final

MADRID: Real Madrid faces arguably the biggest challenge of their season when they travel to Stamford Bridge on Wednesday to play Chelsea in the return leg of their Champions League semifinal.

A 1-1 draw from the first leg played in Valdebebas a week ago means that Real Madrid needs to score at least one goal to have a chance of qualifying for the final and disputing the 14th European



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: The big doubt is whether or not Sergio Ramos will return to action two months after a minor knee operation.

Cup in their history.

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane suffered an injury setback on Monday with the confirmation that central defender Raphael Varane is out with a groin injury, and he joins Dani Carvajal and Lucas Vazquez on the injury list, while Toni Kroos is a doubt along with Fede Valverde who has to give a negative PCR test after having COVID-19.

The big doubt is whether or not Sergio Ramos will return to action two months after a minor knee operation, the Madrid captain has been training with his teammates, but Zidane has to consider the risks of putting him straight back into the side.

If Ramos is back then Madrid could play with three central defenders and either Fernand Mendy or Marcelo and Alvaro Odriozola as wing-backs, but if not then Zidane may opt for a flat back four with Nacho Fernando and Eder Militao in defense.

Eden Hazard started against Osasuna at the weekend and is likely to face his former club, alongside Karim Benzema and either Vinicius Jr or Marco Asensio, while Casemiro and Luka Modric will feature in midfield.

Chelsea dominated the first half a week ago and caused Madrid a lot of problems with their high pressing and rapid counter-attacks. Thomas Tuchel's side has conceded in just five of the 23 games since he replaced Frank Lampard.

Tuchel's big question is who will play in attack, with Kai Havertz and Tammy Abraham challenging Timo Werner to lead the line, but he would do well to remember that Real Madrid has a habit of turning up on the big occasion and although his side will kick off with a slight advantage that could disappear in the time it takes to score a goal.

-Xinhua

IPL 2021



IPL 2021 suspended due to increase in COVID-19 cases

NEW DELHI: The ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been suspended owing to an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases within the bio-bubble. BCCI's vice-president Rajeev Shukla confirmed the development to ANI. "IPL has been suspended, we will see whether we can reschedule it, it is not cancelled. It is just suspended for now," he said.

Earlier on Tuesday, SunRisers Hyderabad's wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha tested positive for Covid-19.

Sources within the SRH camp confirmed to ANI that Saha was

the lone person in the SRH unit to have tested positive and as a result, the entire team was.

"Yes, Wriddhiman Saha has tested positive for the coronavirus. Our entire team is now under isolation and there are no other positive reports, rest are all negative," the member of the team management said.

SRH was slated to square off against Mumbai Indians later on Tuesday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. This comes after two KKR players -- Varun Chakravarth and Sandeep Warrier -- tested positive for Covid-19 and two members of the Chennai Super

Kings contingent.

The IPL match between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) slated to be played on Monday evening was rescheduled for a later date and the game between CSK and Rajasthan Royals was also set to be officially postponed as the CSK unit is in isolation.

The BCCI issued a release on the twin cases in KKR and said: "Varun Chakravarth and Sandeep Warrier were found to be positive in the third round of testing in the last four days. All other team members have tested negative for COVID-19." ANI

FORMULA ONE

Istanbul to host Formula 1 as fans, tourism sector rejoice

ISTANBUL: Formula 1 will return to Istanbul this year following the cancellation of the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19, a move which has excited Turkish fans and the ailing tourism industry.

Formula 1 officials announced last week that the event, scheduled between June 11 and 13, will be moved to the Intercity Istanbul Park racecourse, located in the Tuzla district, on the Asian side of Turkey's biggest city.

"We had missed the sound of the races. The enthusiasm of the Formula 1 Grand Prix is returning to Istanbul," Ali Yerlikaya, the governor of the city, wrote on social media.

The Istanbul race was part of the Formula 1 World Championship between 2005 and 2011 before it was dropped from the calendar over financial disagreements.

In a surprise and last-ditch move, Istanbul was included in last year's calendar following schedule changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton became the first champion at Istanbul Park in a race held without spectators because of coronavirus prevention measures.

The city is seeking to be per-

manently included in the World Championship, and this year's organization is important in that respect to host the top-flight motorsports event in the years to come.

"Our goal is to sign a long-term contract and permanently join the calendar," Vural Ak, the chairperson of Intercity, told public broadcaster TRT.

"We hope to sign a 10-year-long contract and bring the Grand Prix back to Istanbul for good not simply for a single-shot, and thus satisfy Formula 1 fans and all the race community in Turkey," he said.

The event would be a significant foreign visitor hotspot that would boost Turkey's vital tourism industry, which is reeling from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Formula 1 fans are special visitors and help to upgrade the host nation's image. In the past, Turkey used the Grand Prix efficiently and attracted thousands of fans from the world, generating serious revenues," Serkan Kaya, a tourism professional from Istanbul, told Xinhua.

"At a time when Turkey is trying to attract visitors to a sector crippled by travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders, the Istanbul Grand Prix has a role to play in efforts to restore the industry's credibility," he noted.

"This will be an important tourism activity as Turkey is launching the summer season. Thousands of race professionals and workers will arrive in Istanbul," Vural Ak also remarked. Istanbul Park has a capacity of 25,000 spectators. The circuit's length is 5,338 kilometers, and the total race distance is 309.396 km over 58 laps. Cem Birsell, a 54-year-old business executive from Istanbul, began following the sport in his teenage years.

"This is major news. I am very excited for this year's race and the prospect of a long-term stay of the Formula 1 in Turkey," the die-hard fan told Xinhua.

"In my family, contrary to most Turkish people who love football, our main sports topic is Formula 1. We follow it on the news, on television," said Birsell, who has also traveled abroad to watch Grands Prix in other countries. The Turkish Grand Prix will be held three weeks after the end of a 17-day lockdown, which began on April 29 to curb the spread of rising daily coronavirus infections. It is unsure yet if the 2021 edition will accept spectators. But Birsell wants to be among them with his teenage son, also a Formula 1 aficionado, so they can watch their favorite drivers in full action. Xinhua

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2021 reaching \$65.90, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.42 from the price of Monday, which was \$64.48. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,797.30 points, up 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.30 per cent at 539.13 points. National Gas, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer today while Voltamp Energy, down 3.13 per cent, was the top loser.

POSITIVE PERFORMANCE

Muscat Stock Exchange posts growth in first quarter of 2021

MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) posted a positive performance by the end of the first quarter of 2021 (Q1-2021).

MSX main index added 50 points and closed at 3708.71 points, thus breaking the chain of negative performance that shackled the stock exchange since the first quarter of 2017.

The value of traded securities surged dramatically by 143 per cent to OMR85.79 million.

The proportion of companies that disclosed their results stood at 95 per cent. As many as 70 firms made profits. The overall gains aggregated at OMR154 million, with 55 per cent of the total number of companies posting growth in their results in 2021.

The positive figures came as a result of gains made in March 2021 when oil prices started recovering and stabilising at a rate of \$60 per barrel. This also coincided with the announcement of the Economic Stimulus Plan and the steady rate of COVID-19 vaccination.

Dr Salah A-Talib, an economic and securities expert at MSX, said



STOCK EXCHANGE: MSX main index added 50 points and closed at 3708.71 points, thus breaking the chain of negative performance that shackled the stock exchange since the first quarter of 2017.

that the major improvement in oil prices was among the salient features of the positive outlook during the first quarter's results in 2021 (compared to the corresponding period last year) because the majority of business activities—including MSX-listed joint stock companies—are bound by oil

revenues. "This is a typical feature of Omani economy since every improvement in oil prices reflects positively on the overall economic activity," Dr Saleh added.

He explained that the outbreak of coronavirus during the first quarter last year (2020) had a major negative impact on economic activities,

including the associated lockdowns, unlike the moderated situation in the first quarter this year (2021) and the 'protective' decisions that reflected positively on the performance and profitability of firms.

Hafeedh Al-Ghazali, financial analyst at Ubar Capital Company, said that total profits at the stock

market grew by 87 per cent on a quarterly basis and overtook last year's Q1 results by 34 per cent. He explained that the financial sector's performance was the highest in terms of profits on an annual basis and a quarterly basis at rates of 33.4 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively.

Al-Ghazali forecast slower growth for the second quarter due to the holy month of Ramadan and the current circumstances that might slow down the process of growth during the second quarter. He expected a similar slow growth rate in the banking sector, but a positive performance rate in the financing sector.

Talal Al-Qadhi, Assistant Head of Stock Markets' Investment Sector (at Tammia company), said that sectors expected to register a good performance among MSX-listed firms include construction companies. These, he explained, benefited from the suspension of supplies from international logistics companies during the COVID-19 high period, coupled with curbs on imports of other companies meant

to stem market saturation. This resulted in the industries' sector closing at 4621.4 points, up by 7.5 per cent by the end of the first quarter, he added.

Al-Qadhi pointed out that the sectors of banks, insurance and investment registered a very high performance, with the financial sector adding 48 points by the end of the quarter due to a variety of mechanisms that prompted this upward trend, including incentives announced by the Central Bank of Oman and the low rate of insurance claims due to traffic lockdowns over the past period.

The services sector lost 47 points due to adverse circumstances, said Al-Qadhi, who expected that the forthcoming period is expected to witness an inflow of more liquidity.

He added that one of the priorities of the next stage of MSX is to step up direct foreign investment attraction efforts by providing a host of incentives and establishing an appropriate climate to promote the Sultanate as an attractive investment destination. - **ONA**

Treasury bills worth OMR71.4mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from today until June 2

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR71.4 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from May 5, 2021, Wednesday until June 2, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.65179 per cent and 0.65211 per cent, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term



highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready li-

quidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with the CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

MENA REGION

Energy investments to exceed \$805bn over next five years

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The overall planned and committed investments in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region will exceed \$805 billion over the next five years (2021-2025) - a \$13 billion increase from the \$792 billion estimates in last year's five-year outlook.

The Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicorp), a multilateral development financial institution, estimates in its Mena Energy Investment Outlook 2021-2025 report attributes this modest rise to four factors.

These are strong confidence in the rebound of global gross domestic product (GDP), rising energy demand, the comeback of Libyan projects - which alone accounts for around \$10 billion in planned projects - and the accelerated pace of renewables in the region.

The report further states that per current estimates, Mena will add 3GW of installed solar power capacity in 2021 alone - double



that of 2020 - and 20GW over the next five years.

Dr Ahmed Ali Attiga, Chief Executive Officer of Apicorp, said, "Apicorp's Mena Energy Investment Outlook 2021-2025 indicates that energy industries are entering a period of relative stability in terms of investments as most Mena countries return to GDP growth in 2021 and the energy transition showing no signs of slowing down. We anticipate a slow but steady recovery of the energy sector from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, supported by continued investment from the public sector and an upswing in demand."

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Alizz Islamic Bank inks pact to offer home financing solutions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Within the framework of its commitment to provide home purchase finance options to various segments of the society, Alizz Islamic Bank recently signed a cooperation agreement with Zain Property Development.

As part of the agreement, Alizz Islamic Bank will offer home financing solutions for those wishing to buy homes in the residential complexes that are being developed by Zain Property Development.

The agreement was signed by Jamil Abdul Qader Al Zadjali, AGM, Head of Retail Business, Alizz Islamic Bank and Mesh'al bin Mohammed Al Raisi, Managing Director, Zain Property Development at a signing ceremony that was held at the headquarters of Alizz Islamic Bank in the Central Business District in Ruwi.

Alizz Islamic Bank will provide financing facilities, flexible payment options and fast and smooth procedures for customers of Zain Property Development projects including Al Muna Gardens, Zain Al Athaiba, as well as Zain Al Khuwair. The company has developed these complexes using pioneering engineering methods. The contemporary projects include a number of residential units, starting from one, two and three bedrooms and offices and shops. They are also closely located to all major



PARTNERSHIP: The agreement was signed by Jamil Abdul Qader Al Zadjali, AGM, Head of Retail Business, Alizz Islamic Bank and Mesh'al bin Mohammed Al Raisi, Managing Director, Zain Property Development. - Supplied picture

commercial and shopping centres.

Elaborating on the signing, Jamil Abdul Qader Al Zadjali, AGM-Head of Retail Business at Alizz Islamic Bank, said: "We are pleased to be one of the main partners of Zain Property Development in providing financial solutions that are compatible with Islamic Sharia. The signing of this agreement is in line with the strategy of Alizz Islamic Bank that aims to expand its partnership with various real estate development companies in the Sultanate to contribute to strengthening and diversifying the local economy. This agreement will create the opportunity for Zain Property Development customers to choose the appropriate financing solutions through Alizz Islamic Bank."

Mesh'al bin Mohammed Al Raisi, Managing Director of Zain Property Development, said, "We are pleased to sign this agreement with Alizz Islamic Bank, which provides a variety of financing products and services that meet the needs of individuals, institutions and companies. It will allow us the flexibility and smoothness to facilitate the completion of transactions. This agreement will provide us with the means to continue achieving accomplishments in building modern and futuristic residential complexes."

GLOBAL ISLAMIC FINANCE INDUSTRY

Islamic finance set to grow by 12% in 2021-22

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The global Islamic finance industry will grow by 10 per cent to 12 per cent in 2021-2022 after slowing to 10.6 per cent in 2020 (excluding Iran), S&P Global Ratings said.

The growth of Islamic banking assets in some Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Malaysia, and Turkey and Sukuk issuances exceeding maturities explain this performance.

Islamic finance grew rapidly in 2020, albeit at a slower pace than in 2019, despite the double shock from the pandemic and the drop in the oil price.

"We have excluded Iran from our statistics this year owing to the extreme volatility of the country's currency in the parallel market (as disclosed by the Central Bank of Iran), which makes comparison with last year's numbers or any forecasts less meaningful," the rating agency said.

Although the pandemic offered the possibility of more broad-based and transformative growth, the industry has not yet fully unlocked the opportunities inclusive standardisation affords and increased its share of sustainable finance activity, it said.

Coordination between the different stakeholders is key to the



DOUBLE SHOCK: Islamic finance grew rapidly in 2020, albeit at a slower pace than in 2019, despite the double shock from the pandemic and the drop in the oil price. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

industry leveraging the opportunities related to the energy transition for core Islamic finance countries and wider social challenges, S&P Global added.

"Although we expect a modest recovery for most core Islamic finance countries in 2021-2022, we think that the sector will expand against the backdrop of continued standardisation and integration," the rating agency said.

Over the next 12 months, we could see progress on a unified global legal and regulatory framework for Islamic finance that the Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre (DIEDC) and its

partners are developing.

"Depending on the outcome and its adoption, we believe that such a framework could help resolve the lack of standardisation and harmonisation that the Islamic finance industry has faced for decades," it added.

S&P Global also expects to see more frequent issuance of dedicated social Islamic finance instruments and green Sukuk as the industry leverages its alignment with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) values. This would help tackle the aftermath of the pandemic and support the agenda for core countries' energy transition.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Gas, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer on Tuesday, while Voltamp Energy, down 3.13 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,797.30 points, up 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.30 per cent at 539.13 points. National Gas, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 3.13 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Omaniya Financial Service were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Jazeera Steel Product was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 827 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2 million, with more than 16 million shares changing hands. Out of 58 traded stocks, 13 advanced, 10 declined and 35 remained unchanged. At the session close, Local investors were net buyers for OMR112,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR82,000 followed by foreign investors for

OMR30,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,875.09 points, up by 0.29 per cent. Oman Arab Bank, Ominvest, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Nizwa and Madina Takaful were up 2.00 per cent, 1.29 per cent, 1.12 per cent, 1.08 per cent and 1.08 per cent respectively. United Finance and Al Anwar Investment were down 2.22 per cent and 1.09 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,417.33 points, up 0.42 per cent. Jazeera Steel Product, Raysut Cement and Oman Cables Industry were up 2.94 per cent, 2.43 per cent and 0.93 per cent respectively. Voltamp Energy, National Aluminum Product, Al Maha Ceramic and Al Anwar Ceramic were down 3.13 per cent, 0.90 per cent, 0.66 per cent and 0.57 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.08 per cent before closing at 1,599.94 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

Trading Summary																
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded									
16,118,321	2,269,187	827	21,078,083,991	13	10	35	58									
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 4																
RIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	342,077	49,221	40	0.138	0.149	0.138	0.144	0.138	0.006	4.348	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	12,240,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	852,304	298,244	50	0.340	0.354	0.340	0.350	0.340	0.010	2.941	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.100	43,714,286
OM0000004118	RAYSUT CEMENT	278,001	82,262	62	0.285	0.298	0.282	0.295	0.288	0.007	2.431	0.293	0.293	0.296	0.100	59,000,000
OM0000003968	AL SHARQIA INV.	33,116	13,023	3	0.386	0.394	0.386	0.394	0.388	0.006	1.548	0.396	0.396	0.394	0.100	256,472,027
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	30,757	9,635	2	0.310	0.314	0.310	0.314	0.310	0.004	1.290	0.314	0.314	0.318	0.100	253,640,511
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	1,272,296	114,356	60	0.089	0.092	0.088	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	8,100,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	64,400	56,024	7	0.872	0.872	0.776	0.868	0.860	0.008	0.830	0.780	0.784	0.860	0.100	77,859,600
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	30,000	11,340	2	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.000	0.000	0.378	0.374	0.378	0.100	37,800,000
OM0000001490	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	3,000	3,400	3	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.100	107,100,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	462,000	21,332	23	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	14,128,731
OM0000001748	OMAN CEMENT	9,425	7,904	7	0.252	0.252	0.250	0.252	0.252	0.000	0.000	0.252	0.250	0.252	0.100	83,373,923
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	2,689,105	273,498	104	0.102	0.103	0.099	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.099	0.101	0.100	29,777,387
OM0000002230	AHEL BANK	45,500	4,869	3	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.102	0.107	0.100	208,613,348
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	115,290	37,809	8	0.328	0.328	0.326	0.328	0.328	0.000	0.000	0.328	0.328	0.340	0.100	20,075,002
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	624,000	243,488	12	0.390	0.394	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.388	0.394	0.100	1,394,045,169
OM0000003000	AL MAHA MARKETING	850	493	2	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.570	0.570	0.000	0.000	0.580	0.550	0.580	0.100	38,330,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	583,176	52,516	5	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	219,105,606
OM0000003620	VISION INSURANCE	62,000	4,464	3	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	7,200,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	135,000	54,000	9	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.402	-0.002	-0.498	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	94,564,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	30,000	10,380	1	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.000	0.000	0.346	0.330	0.346	0.100	102,488,934
OM0000003605	ALMAHA CERAMICS	190,979	57,728	30	0.298	0.304	0.298	0.302	0.304	-0.002	-0.658	0.300	0.300	0.304	0.100	16,610,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	38,188	29,652	6	0.772	0.780	0.772	0.776	0.784	-0.008	-1.020	0.780	0.780	0.776	0.100	582,000,000
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR INVESTMENT	1,502,981	174,002	58	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.061	0.062	-0.001	-1.087	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100	18,200,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	189,966	19,192	24	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.942	0.101	0.101	0.102	0.100	23,937,000
Total		54	10,027,320	1,628,943	524											
Parallel Market																
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	10,000	1,530	1	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.150	0.003	2.000	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.100	255,419,790
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	219,421	20,626	12	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.090	0.095	0.100	141,000,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	2,600,566	244,045	132	0.095	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	280,000	44,800	5	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.158	0.001	0.629	0.160	0.153	0.160	0.100	290,151,417
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	50,000	36,000	4	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.716	0.004	0.559	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.100	44,118,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	41,278	33,365	12	0.808	0.812	0.804	0.808	0.804	0.004	0.488	0.804	0.808	0.812	0.100	76,760,000
OM0000001509	DHOOF INT.	12	3	1	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.267	0.267	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.100	69,073,240
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	30,000	3,060	1	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	400	34	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.079	0.086	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001906	MUSCAT INSURANCE	200	70	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.000	0.350	1.000	3,657,700
OM0000001822	UNITED POWER	43,650	44,305	8	1.015	1.015	1.015	1.015	1.015	0.000	0.000	1.015	1.015	0.000	1.000	812,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	1,000	149	1	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.100	13,140,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	488	11	1	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.022	0.023	0.100	4,557,320
OM0000002028	GULF INT'CHEMI	12,607	1,336	3	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	2,226,000
OM0000002036	Muscat Thread MILL	3,848	212	2	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.072	0.074	0.100	1,257,168
OM0000002549	BANK DHOOF	420,000	44,840	2	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.107	0.110	0.100	320,609,600
OM0000003281	TAGGER FINANCE	125,000	9,275	5	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	18,765,660
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,484,064	81,634	50	0.055	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	15,948,835
OM0000003711	SEMBOOR	2,110	95	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.000	0.045	0.100	9,945,450
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	5,210	631	2	0.121	0.126	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.000	0.124	0.100	11,834,061
OM0000004735	SOHARPOWER	30,000	2,400	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	76,365,756
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	39,410	2,241	4	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.100	38,468,584
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	36,519	2,076	3	0.056	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.100	40,721,161
OM0000005985	PHOENIX POWER	104,356	5,076	6	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	10,000	880	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.096	0.100	8,800,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	756	67	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.085	0.088	0.100	13,688,435
OM0000007910	AMMAN REAL ESTATE	2,500	225	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000008281	ALUMINIUM PROD.	32,654	3,892	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	-0.001	0.901	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	3,892,860
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	105,500	9,802	12	0.094	0.094	0.092	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.092	0.091	0.093	0.100	12,690,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	234,236	30,325	10	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.045	0.043	0.045	0.100	15,362,254
OM0000003661	VOLTAUP ENERGY	160,834	23,372	10	0.159	0.159	0.145	0.155	0.160	-0.005	-3.125	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	12,617,458
Total		31	6,075,781	626,111	300											

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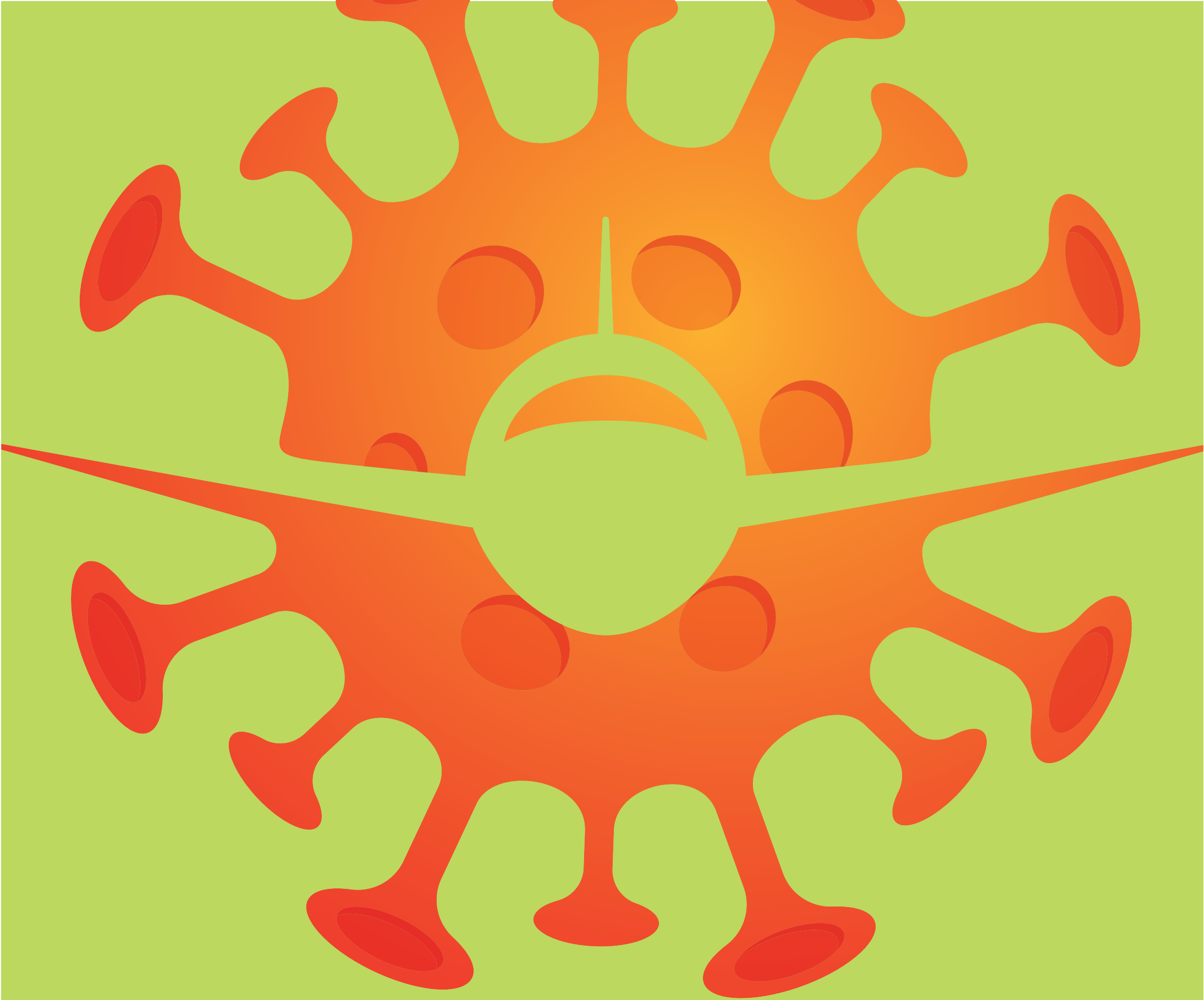


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FEATURES



US WARNS AGAINST TRAVEL TO 80% OF WORLD

Americans will be advised not to travel to over 160 countries due to “unprecedented risk” from COVID-19. Meanwhile, the UK wants to boost global preparedness for the next pandemic.

The US State Department has announced plans to expand its “Level 4: Do Not Travel” guidance to about 80 per cent of countries worldwide, citing the “unprecedented risk to travellers” from the coronavirus.

The US already had 34 countries, including Chad, Kosovo, Kenya, Argentina, Russia and Tanzania on the Level 4 warning. About 130 more will be added now.

Americans were already restricted from traveling to much of Europe due to COVID-19. Washington has also barred entry to almost all non-US citizens who have recently been in most of Europe, China, Brazil, Iran and South Africa.

“The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose unprecedented risks to travelers. In light of those risks, the Department of State strongly recommends US citizens reconsider all travel abroad,” a statement from the department said.

The US hasn’t had a global travel advisory warning in place since August, when guidance was revoked by the Trump administration.

Americas

Authorities in Colombia say there will be an extension of rules such as a nighttime curfew

and limitations on shops and businesses, as the country tries to counter a third wave of infections.

Colombia will also be going into a planned three-day weekend lockdown.

Cities with an ICU occupancy of above 85 per cent will have a curfew from 6pm to 5am, while those with between 80 per cent and 85 per cent capacity will have curfews beginning at 8pm. In the capital, Bogota, total ICU occupancy is currently at 84.2 per cent, according to local authorities.

“We are literally between life and death, between the possibility of the health system collapsing and ICU occupancy reaching its limit,” said Claudia Lopez, the mayor of Bogota.

Schools opened in Mexico’s southern state of Campeche for the first time in a year on Monday. This was the first state to get its teachers vaccinated.

Grade school students were allowed back, but in small groups. They were asked to wear masks and face shields, and maintain social distancing.

Europe

The European Union is planning to send some 651,000 coronavirus vaccine doses to Balkan countries that are not part of the bloc.

Austria is coordinating the campaign,

which runs from May to August, on behalf of the EU.

The Pfizer-BioNTech doses were already reserved for delivering help to EU neighbours, and so are not expected to have any effect on the bloc’s own vaccination programme.

Vaccines will be distributed according to need, rather than on a per capita basis.

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and North Macedonia, where few people have had a shot, will get almost 500,000 doses.

The remainder will go to Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

Serbia is the least in need of help having already administered Russian and Chinese vaccines on a massive scale and given at least one dose to 26 per cent of the population.

The UK has announced plans to set up a new international expert group to help bolster the world’s preparedness for the next pandemic and expedite the development of vaccines against future diseases.

It will be launched under Britain’s presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) rich nations. The Pandemic Preparedness Partnership (PPP) will report to the G7 leaders summit in June this year.

Israel says it has registered eight cases of the coronavirus variant initially detected in India, and that it believes the BioNTech-Pfizer

vaccine is at least partly effective against it.

“The impression is that the Pfizer vaccine has efficacy against it, albeit a reduced efficacy,” the health ministry’s director-general, Hezi Levy, told Kan public radio.

Asia-Pacific

The Philippines has approved emergency usage of the COVID-19 vaccine made by Johnson & Johnson and India’s Bharat Biotech. These are the fifth and sixth vaccines to receive approval in the country, which has been battling one of the worst outbreaks in Asia.

The Philippines’ Food and Drug Administration said both vaccines can be administered to people aged 18 and above. Johnson & Johnson is conducting late-stage clinical trials for its COVID-19 vaccine in the Philippines.

An Auckland airport worker has tested positive for COVID-19, barely 24 hours after New Zealand and Australia opened their travel bubble.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told reporters the virus was detected in a person who boards aircraft to clean them after they have arrived carrying passengers from countries considered coronavirus “red zones.”

ROUND-UP

Enjoy special rate of interest on Renault Duster, Koleos, Megane

All retail customers purchasing Renault vehicles are entitled to the special offer

MUSCAT: As part of the ongoing Ramadan promotion, Renault Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), has announced unlimited benefits on its popular models Duster, Koleos and Megane.

In line with the spirit of the holy month, Renault Oman is offering attractive value benefits such as special interest rate (0% up to three years or 1.99% for four years or 2.49% for five years or 2.99% for six years), assured cash gift, free periodic vehicle service package, free insurance, digital promotion, assured OMR100 gift voucher and free registration on models Duster, Koleos and Megane.

Social media users who participate in the Ramadan promotional campaign will also be eligible for attractive prizes.

The Renault Ramadan promotion which has already begun will go on till June 6. All retail customers purchasing Renault vehicles are entitled to the special offer. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for a taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme.

A spokesperson for SBA said, “The unique Ramadan offer boasts of a host of advantages for customers purchasing efficient Renault models Duster, Koleos and Megane. With fascinating benefits on offer, this is the ideal time to buy the Renault models. Renault’s range including Duster, Koleos and Megane are well-liked because customers find them practical, fuel-efficient spacious and innovative.”

Renault Duster 1.6 ltr and 2.0 ltr: Customers who purchase Renault Duster will be entitled to receive an assured cash gift of OMR 1550, 3 years/60,000 km PMS, free first-year Insurance (Oman and UAE only), free registration (first-year private registration), assured voucher of OMR 100. All customers purchasing any variant of 20MY Duster will be eligible for 0% (rate of Interest) up to three



years or 1.99% (rate of interest) for four years or 2.49% (rate of interest) for five years or 2.99% (rate of interest) for six years.

Renault Megane 1.6 ltr/2.0 ltr: Customers who purchase Renault Megane will be entitled to receive an assured cash gift of OMR 1800, 3 years/60,000 km PMS, free first-year Insurance (Oman and UAE only), free registration (first-year private registration), assured voucher of OMR 100. All customers purchasing any variant of 20MY Megane will be eligible for 0% (Rate of Interest) up to three years or 1.99% (rate of interest) for four years or 2.49% (rate of interest) for five years or 2.99% (rate of interest) for six years.

Renault Koleos 2.5 ltr: Customers who purchase Renault Koleos will be entitled to receive assured cash gift up to OMR 2500, 3 years/60,000 km PMS, free first-year Insurance (Oman and UAE only), free registration (first-year private registration), assured voucher of OMR 100. All customers purchasing any variant of 20MY Koleos will be eligible for 0% (Rate of Interest) up to three years or 1.99% (rate of interest) for four years or 2.49% (rate of interest) for five years or 2.99% (rate of interest) for six years.

Renault Duster

Renault brand’s celebrated model the aspirational SUV Duster, is about strength, functionality, and safety. Consisting of a powerful engine, an attractive modern design, a comfortable and spacious cabin, Renault Duster is available as 1.6 litre 2WD and 2.0 litre 4WD or the Urban and Sports variants. Re-

flecting Renault’s inherent characteristics of strength and SUV capability, the Duster’s variants feature a powerful engine, an attractive modern design, a comfortable and spacious cabin, in addition to strength, functionality and safety to meet the aspirations of buyers.

The SUV is characterised by powerful engines, 1.6 litre 2WD and 2.0 litre 4WD for off-road enthusiasts. It also has an advanced automatic transmission with outstanding performance and significant fuel economy and carbon dioxide emissions to keep pace with the current trends and needs.

One of Renault’s celebrated models characterized by strength, functionality and safety, the new Renault Duster adds more splendour and elegance with its distinctive features. The sports utility vehicle offers a refreshing take on 4WD driving experience, equipped with the same off-road capability and affordability to beat the best in the market.

Renault Duster’s ‘Urban’ and ‘Sports’ editions are loaded with superior SUV capabilities and enhanced features have been designed to make a statement. Equipped with multiple outstanding features and technology enhancements, it is certain to set new benchmarks in Oman. The additional features of Renault Duster’s ‘Urban’ edition, which is a 4x2 model include a door sill, boot sill, 16” alloy wheels and side steps. Renault Duster’s 4x4 model ‘Sports’ edition boasts of wing extension, door moulding, sidebar and 16” alloy wheels along with the feature of three modes selection. Comfortable on any terrain,

all-new Duster features roof bars that meet the highest standards in terms of solidity. On excursions with friends, bulky leisure equipment like surfboards or skis can be transported in complete safety.

Renault Koleos

With its athletic profile, robust front end, roomy seats, taut lines underscored with chrome, Renault Koleos allows owners to take their journey with confidence.

Renault Koleos LE model has LED foglamps with chrome borders, new 19-inch Kavea alloy wheels and a resplendent new front grill. The Renault Koleos SE has been augmented with Sand Grey leather seats, tilt adjustment front headrests, one-touch easy-folding rear seats with two-step reclining and power seats, electric power seats for driver and passenger, 18-inch Argonauta two-tone alloy wheels, auto-folding rearview mirrors with a door lock, auto-dimming rearview mirror. It also supports Apple car play and android auto.

Featuring a powerful and efficient engine and more onboard technologies, Renault Koleos fully embodies the values of the top of the Renault line-up. Its high-performance attributes, assertive design and sophisticated interior makes it one of the most popular vehicles ever. Its elegant appearance, muscular shoulders and stylish bodywork fully meets its customers’ expectations and requirements. The spacious SUV known for its elegant design and unparalleled four-wheel drive technology has been completely structured to offer powerful styling, unique features and full SUV capability.

The all-mode 4x4-i transmis-

sion available on Koleos features technology has been proved on millions of alliance vehicles worldwide. This all-wheel-drive system permanently monitors grip levels to guarantee optimal traction in any condition. Very easy to use, a control switch situated to the left of the steering wheel enables the driver to select one of the three modes: 2WD, 4WD AUTO or 4WD LOCK. The combination of high ground clearance (210mm) and approach and departure angles of respectively 19 and 26 degrees ensures go-anywhere ability. The stylish body colours and wheel designs selected for Koleos ensure elegance. It is available in seven metallic body colours.

Koleos benefits from Renault’s vast experience in the realm of safety and targets excellence in the independent NCAP tests. The following features are standard equipment: Two adaptive front airbags that inflate according to the type of impact and the occupant’s position in the car, two lateral thorax/shoulder airbags for the front occupants, two curtain airbags, anti-whiplash front and rear headrests, anti-submarining front seats, rear ISOFIX anchorage for child seats. All the seat belts are equipped with pretensioners and load limiters.

Renault Megane

Combining striking good looks and head-turning performance, Renault Megane, the vibrant and chic saloon, is appreciated for its daring expressive design and assertive style. Acclaimed for its performance credentials, Renault Megane is extolled for its best-

level low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Its energetic lines and substantial proportions add to its increasing popularity with car aficionados in Oman. Recognised worldwide for its performance excellence and looks, head turner Renault Megane has a style of its own, which is both lively and elegant.

It presents a high-class driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and roominess. Renault Megane is available in 2.0 litres engine configuration along with a 1.6 litres variant.

Renault’s designers have drawn upon their acclaimed expertise to seamlessly incorporate 503 dm3 VDA of boot storage capacity without compromising the vehicle’s aesthetic appeal. Its generous dimensions (4.63m long and 1.81m wide, with a record wheelbase in its class of 2.71m) underscore its status-enhancing credentials and provide additional room for occupants. Its sleek profile is the result of painstaking work on the proportion of glass to metal (one-third/two-thirds), as well as its low height (1.44m) and ground clearance (13cm).

The Megane is based upon the Renault-Nissan Alliance’s CMF-C/D modular architecture which it shares with other high-end Renault models. The Megane comes with a wide range of features more commonly associated with the next segment up and unique in the segment: a configurable 7-inch TFT colour screen instrument display and the R-LINK 2 multimedia tablet available in two formats (7-inch landscape format, or 8.7-inch portrait format), as well as Multi-sense (supports Apple car play and android auto).

INVESTING IN HEALTH

Jusoor Foundation inks pact with OCA to establish mobile mammography unit

MUSCAT: Jusoor Foundation, the social investment arm of Vale, Sohar Aluminium and OQ, has signed an agreement with Oman Cancer Association (OCA) to establish a mobile mammography unit in Al Batinah North.

Sheikh Saif bin Hamiar Al Malik Al Shehhi, Governor of Al Batinah North and Chairman of Jusoor Foundation and Dr Wahid Ali Al Kharusi, Chairman of OCA and signed the agreement.

The project will provide a mammogram unit that aligns with the philosophy of the funding companies Vale Oman, Sohar Aluminium and OQ, which is the importance of investing in health and environment sectors since they affect the lives of the community members vastly. Besides, the project aims to raise community awareness about the symptoms, causes and treatment methods of breast cancer as well as the importance of early detection of the disease as it will hugely reduce the treatment journey and costs. The mammogram unit will tour the governorate’s provinces and encourage women to do periodic checks. The unit will provide free examinations, which will improve primary prevention of breast cancer and will also enhance the quality of health services by minimising examination waiting time.

Dr Wahid Ali Al Kharusi, Chairman of OCA, emphasised the significance of the mobile mammography unit in assisting Omani women and residents alike. He said, “Early detection of this disease is one of the most effective ways to increase the chances of



successful treatment and would save patients from a lengthy list of cumbersome and costly medical procedures. Moreover, the unit will contribute in alleviating the pressure on treatment centres.”

The project cost is estimated to be OMR250,000 as it will require the supply of a mobile cabin, outfitted with the latest technologies suitable for examinations as well

as the equipping of the mammogram unit for X-rays. The mobile mammogram unit’s work plan will cover a programme of periodical field visits to all states in North Al Batinah Governorate, in collaboration with Ministry of Health (MoH) centres to raise awareness and provide free examinations for women over the age of 40.

Jusoor Foundation is the pio-

neering institution and the first non-profit social foundation established in 2012 in the Sultanate of Oman. It aims to serve the Omani society by following and adopting best practices related to corporate social responsibility standards, as well as implementing and developing sustainable social projects in societies through understanding the Omani society’s true needs.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

NBO works with govt employees in South Sharqiyah to develop leadership skills

MUSCAT: Developing successful leadership beyond the banking industry, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) organised a series of virtual workshops for senior government employees in the South Sharqiyah Governorate.

Held through the bank’s Academy of Excellence, the series of workshops aimed to coach participants on the fundamentals of effective leadership in the digital age.

The initiative’s inauguration, held virtually, was attended by Dr Yahya Al Mawali, the Governor of South Sharqiya, and Hassan Shaban, NBO’s Chief Government Banking Officer.

The workshops are in line with a growing string of partnerships the bank has established in its efforts to strengthen ties with the government and promote national capabilities.

“As the Sultanate’s national bank, we believe our role surpasses the provision of financial services. We are proud of our long-standing relationship with the government which is in line with our alignment with the Oman Vision 2040. Through our many shared initiatives we seek to build bridges between the private and public sectors, add to the future-readiness of the workforce while supporting the overall socio-economic development of the country,” said



Hassan Shaban.

The Academy of Excellence, the bank’s in-house training arm, offers a range of programmes through its online platform from soft skills to technology. The workshops, which were held over a period of three weeks, covered such topics as the qualities of successful leaders, how to influence others, building leadership characteristics, motivating teams in the workplace, digital leadership, and performance management.

With this and other similar initiatives, NBO continues to be an active participant in supporting government projects that add value to the development and diversification of the economy and help to create employment opportunities for the nation’s citizens.

ROUND-UP

Toyota passenger cars available with ‘biggest excitement’ benefits

Toyota passenger cars are now available on cash gifts, 1-year insurance, assured gift voucher

MUSCAT: This is the best time to own your favourite Toyota passenger car and take advantage of the ‘biggest excitement’ benefits.

Cash gift from RO 700 up to RO 5400, Service 2 Years / 20,000 km, 5 Years / 50,000 km (Whichever is earlier), 1 Year Insurance, Interest 0% Up to 2 Years or 1.99% Up to 4 Years or 2.99 % up to 5 Years (On Yaris sedan and Yaris hatchback models) and an Assured Gift Voucher and chances to win Grand Raffle – 1 Supra and 2 Camry.

All individual prospects who walk in for an enquiry of any Toyota vehicle are eligible for a raffle of 7 units of iPhone 12, 64 GB. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details. Locations Wattayah, Barka, Bidaya, Sur, B.B.Ali, Buraimi, Ibra, Mabela, Nizwa, Rustaq, Seeb Al Mawaleh, Sinaw, Sohar).

In Oman, Toyota range of cars includes the Yaris Sedan with a



Smart Exterior and an Interior Design. Delivering a Dynamic Driving Experience, the Yaris sedan is equipped with a choice of 1.3L and 1.5L engine and the hatchback is equipped with a 1.5-Litre engine. The 1.3-Litre Four-Cylinder Engine in the Yaris sedan generates a Maximum Output of 98 hp and 12.5 kg-m of torque and is mated to either a Five-Speed Manual Transmission or a CVT Transmission. On the other hand, the 1.5-Litre Four-Cylinder Engine

in the Yaris sedan and hatchback, can churn out a Maximum Output of 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of torque and is mated to the CVT Transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency. Toyota Yaris Hatchback has plenty of stylish touches that have won the hearts and minds of customers. The Yaris Hatchback has an instant appeal, thanks to the exterior that grabs attention from every angle.

The Corolla’s striking look is

complemented by an exciting drive personality imbued by three powertrain options; it includes a newly developed 2.0-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine which produces 168 hp and 20.39 kg-m of torque which is mated to a new Direct Shift CVT transmission and a 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine that produces 121 hp and 15.7 kg-m of torque, which is paired with a CVT transmission. The Hybrid Electric Corolla combines two power sources consisting of a gasoline

engine and an electric motor with a combined power of 121 hp. It is also mated with an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission, which provides an outstanding fuel economy of 27.6km/L (Fuel economy as per GSO Conformity Certificate. Fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions.) while enhancing the driving experience.

The stylish Camry is available in two engine options. The 2.5 Litre engine delivers 178 HP & 23.6

Kg-m torque & 3.5L engine delivers 298 HP & 36.3 Kg-m torque. Camry is also available in the 3.5L sports edition that adds to the thrill. The Camry Hybrid offers a remarkably clean, silent & smooth drive, thanks to the increased power and reduced fuel consumption of a Dynamic Force 2.5 Litre CVT (Electrically Controlled) engine with EV mode.

The Avalon is a wonderful statement of luxury. Complementing the Avalon’s stunning looks is a thrilling drive personality imbued by a 3.5-litre V6 engine, which produces a maximum output of 298 HP and 36.3 Kg-m of torque and is equipped with a Direct Injection 4-Stroke Gasoline Engine Superior Version (D-4S) and Variable Valve Timing-intelligent Wide (VVT-iW) systems to achieve top-notch power performance, environmental performance, and fuel efficiency.

The Supra name evokes the power, performance, and handling that defined a succession of world-class cars for a quarter of a century, which built a reputation both as formidable performers on the road and all-conquering machines on the racetrack. The GR Supra’s 3.0-litre turbocharged engine produces up to 335hp and 51 kgm of torque. The torque comes on strong even from very low engine speeds, thanks to a combination of a twin-scroll turbocharger, direct fuel injection, and continuously variable timing on both the intake and exhaust camshafts. The 8-speed automatic transmission delivers speedy up and downshifts, and features paddle shifters for manual control when desired.

SAVINGS CULTURE

Bank Muscat fixed deposits help meet long-term financial goals

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, in line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and commitment to partnership in promoting a strong savings culture in Oman has invited its customers to take advantage of its fixed deposit accounts to save a lump sum amount for a rainy day.

Fixed Deposits are financial instruments that provide a higher rate of interest than a regular interest-bearing savings account. Also known as time deposits or term deposits, they are low risk and safe investments that help customers grow their money over the medium or long term. They may be opened by an individual as well as corporate and institutional customers at the bank’s branches across the Sultanate.

Customers may open deposits with a minimum of OMR1,000 and enjoy highly competitive interest rates tenors up to 6 years. Fixed Deposits made in Omani Rials or US Dollars are accepted by the bank for different tenors starting from one month to 6 years. Shorter deposits of up to 12 months are also accepted by the bank in a few other currencies including the British Pound, Euro and UAE Dirhams. Funds may be transferred through digital channels from a savings or current account or paid by cheque or cash at any Bank Muscat branch.

Speaking about the advantage of fixed deposits, Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, DGM - Institutional Sales & Product Development, Bank Muscat, said: “The bank’s fixed deposit scheme will cater to the long-term financial planning needs of our customers and



“Any Bank Muscat customer can apply for a fixed deposit, which offers guaranteed returns and protection for the deposits themselves

Abdullah Al Maashani
DGM - Institutional Sales & Product Development, Bank Muscat

have a positive impact on Oman’s economy in terms of further popularising savings amongst our customers. Any Bank Muscat customer can apply for a fixed deposit, which offers guaranteed returns and protection for the deposits themselves. We encourage all our customers to take advantage of the excellent interest rates and save for a future financial goal.”

Bank Muscat’s Fixed Deposits allows customers to save for future goals or provide a regular income stream on a monthly or quarterly basis. The deposits can be made for different periods depending on the needs of the customer, ranging from one month to as long as 6 years. The bank also offers an au-

to-renewal option upon maturity of the Fixed Deposit at the time of opening the account and interest can be paid on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annual basis depending on the financial needs of the customer. The deposit is fully protected throughout its tenor and should a customer have an urgent need for funds, the account may be closed at any time subject to a small pre-payment charge.

Bank Muscat has succeeded in inculcating a strong savings culture in Oman through its numerous banking products and services. The bank encourages everyone to save for the future, intending to bring about happiness and joy in the lives of its customers.

PROMOTION



Celebrate Ramadan with Nissan Kicks, now available at 0% interest

MUSCAT: Nissan Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) is offering a wide range of rewards for the patrons of youth-centric and stylish Nissan Kicks.

Customers of Nissan Kicks will have a choice of benefits including 0% interest for three years on specific models, cash gift, free service, insurance and more. The offer, which is available on all models purchased for personal use, will go on till June 3, 2021.

The spectacular Nissan Kicks combines emotion and practicality by blending familiar Nissan design signatures with striking modern themes. From a spacious interior that maximizes room with a flat floor design, to the high degree of craftsmanship apparent in every design element, Nissan Kicks gives owners the perfect excuse to stay out and have fun.

A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, said, “Nissan Kicks has been impressing customers with its excellent mileage, unique styling, roominess, personal technology, smart functionality, and advanced

safety features. It is a perfect vehicle for people located in urban areas and looking for a vehicle that provides technology, best-in-class fuel economy, and an overall great value proposition. With unlimited benefits on offer, this is the right season to book a Nissan Kicks known for its style quotient, craftsmanship and power.

A special interest rate is available for MY20 Nissan Kicks and customers can get 0% up to three years or 1.99% for four years or 2.49% for five years or 2.99% for six years on the model. For all tenures beyond six years, normal interest rates will apply for the full tenure of the loan. This rate is applicable for individual purchase with private registration only and is subject to finance/credit approval. This benefit will be applicable for financing through select finance companies only. Customers purchasing in cash, LPO, a credit will not be eligible for special interest rate benefit. Terms and conditions apply.

Customers of Nissan Kicks can avail low EMI rate of OMR 139.

These EMIs are calculated on the basis 2.99% rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure.

Customers of Nissan Kicks can enjoy a free periodic maintenance service package for 3 years/ 60,000 km. This offer is valid for 10,000 km service intervals.

Under the Ramadan special promotion, customers can avail of assured cash gift ranging from OMR 1700 to OMR 2000 on Nissan Kicks.

Customers of Nissan Kicks can enjoy free insurance in Oman & UAE for the first year for private registration.

Customers can enjoy free registration on Nissan Kicks for the first year.

Nissan Kicks has established a ‘favourite’ reputation among the youth in Oman by offering an impressive array of features along with stylish and contemporary design. The embracing stance, provocative lines, attractive exterior styling, refined interior, enhanced connectivity and others features make it out-beat many other SUVs in its segment.

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Offer valid from 15th April to 6th June 2021 on all models purchased through the CHANGAN Showroom Retail Offer. *Assured Cash Gift amount varies between models, model variants, model year & manufacturing year. For details please contact the CHANGAN showroom. #Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 KMS Service Intervals. ^^Through Fuel Card. @Whichever is earlier. *Easy monthly installments are calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 year loan tenure for the respective CHANGAN basic model inclusive of 5% VAT. Subject to credit approvals from Banks & Financial companies. Vehicle images shown are for illustrative purpose only and actual may vary as per model variant. To know more, visit the CHANGAN showroom.

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