





Dhuhr.....	12.11pm
Asr.....	3.29pm
Maghrib.....	6.57pm
Isha.....	8.19pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3.53am



14 YEARS ON, PEOPLE IN OMAN STILL HAVE VIVID MEMORIES OF GONU

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in Oman continue to have strong memories of Cyclone Gonu, a good 14 years after it caused extensive damage to the capital and nearby areas.

Gonu's ferocity saw cars effortlessly flung aside by gale-force winds, roads badly damaged, and caused flooding in many low-lying areas of the capital, Muscat, including the popular Qurum Commercial Centre and other nearby locations.

Electricity and water supply to parts of the country were temporarily cut off, and tens of thousands of people living in low-lying areas and Masirah Island were quickly evacuated to shelters set up by the government in anticipation of Gonu's arrival. The authorities had also given people a five-day holiday so they could make preparations to remain safe when the cyclone made landfall, and asked everyone to stay indoors to avoid its furious impact.

"In our area, the schools were designated as shelters," said Moaz Al Saidi, from Wilayat Khabourah in North Al Batinah. "The government had informed us about the impact of the cyclone, so everybody in our area moved there and stayed there for two days, until we were told it was safe to come out."

Adding to this, the mother of Ahmed Al Fazari, from Wilayat Saham, also in North Al Batinah, said, "We knew something severe was coming because we were watching regular weather updates on TV and online. The weather



UMM AHMED

was worsening over time, we experienced uninterrupted rain, and the constant thunder and lightning made my children cry.

"A day after the cyclone first began, we were told by the authorities the need for people living by the coast to move inland, to shelters prepared by them," she added. "I am glad to say all of us responded to their requests positively."

Medical care

Ahmed's mother was thankful for the care provided by the government to people who were required to shelter away from their homes. Good quality food, water, and juices had been provided for everyone, and the authorities had also organised medical care for those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart ailments.

She had also brought her TV along so that everyone in the shelter could remain updated about the latest developments concerning the cyclone.

"We were shocked to see what had happened to some parts of Muscat," she recalled. "We were very sad when we heard that some



MOAZ AL SAIDI

people had died, and others had sustained injuries because of the cyclone. When we returned to our homes, we saw that flood waters had entered many of our homes, and that many houses by the sea had collapsed, or were badly damaged, as were several fishing boats."

In the capital, Grace Manuel, an expatriate from the Philippines, was glad she had brought back with her plenty of food during a recent trip home. It turned out to be extremely useful for both Grace's family, and her neighbours.

"Many of the shops were closed at the time, because their owners and staff understandably needed to prepare themselves for the cyclone," she said.

"We did have supplies at home, but they ran out after a couple of days, and because the shops in our area were flooded and the roads had collapsed, we could not go anywhere."

"Fortunately, I had many long-lasting food items that I gave my own children, and then distributed to the neighbours," added Grace. "I am glad I was able to help them. After all, we were all in it together."





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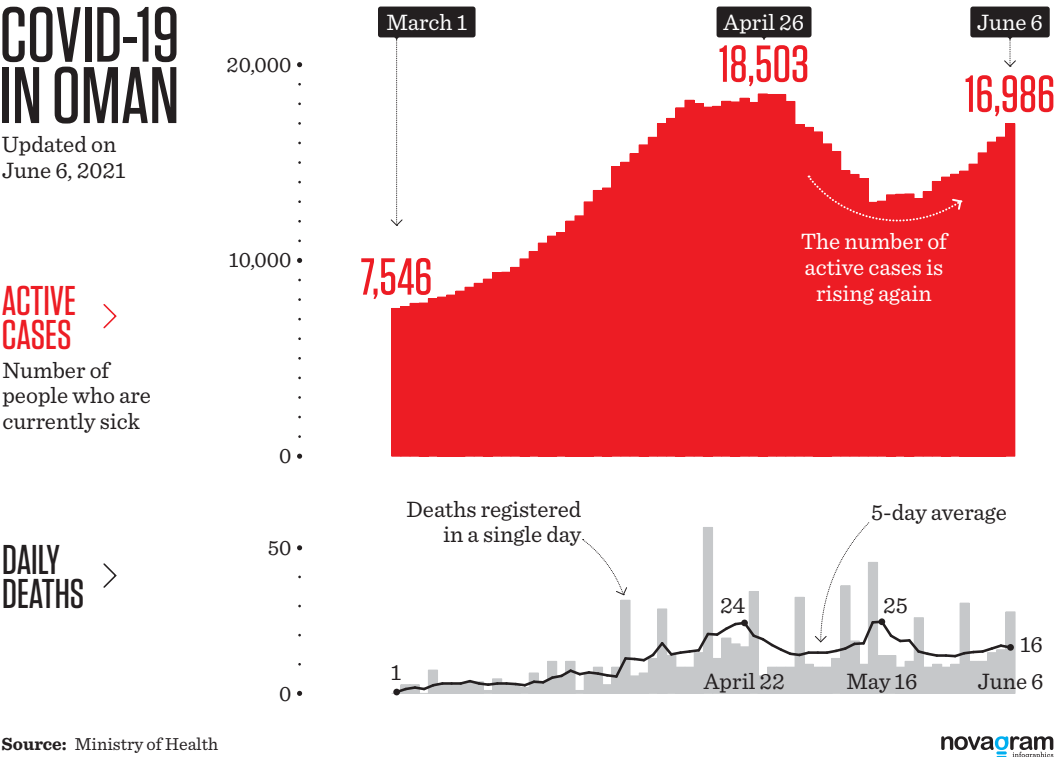
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61,000 get jabs in vaccination campaign

MUSCAT: As many as 61,553 people have been vaccinated so far within the current drive being undertaken by the ministries of Health and Education for immunisation against coronavirus (COVID-19). The proportion of the General Education Diploma (GED) students and the faculty supervising the GED exams in all governorates vaccinated so far is now 81 per cent. Muscat Governorate had the largest number of vaccinated (16,935 or 99 per cent of the target segment), followed by North Al Batinah Governorate (11,397 or 82 per cent of the target segment) and A'Dakhiliyah Governorate (9,360 or 89 per cent of the target segment). The Ministry of Education has said that the vaccination of students is optional for all segments and that parents have been notified accordingly. All students will be allowed to sit for the exams, irrespective of whether or not they took the vaccine, affirmed the Ministry. -**ONA**

Over 100 COVID hospitalisations within 24 hours

Sultanate records highest number of hospitalised cases since the start of COVID-19 pandemic

Times News Service

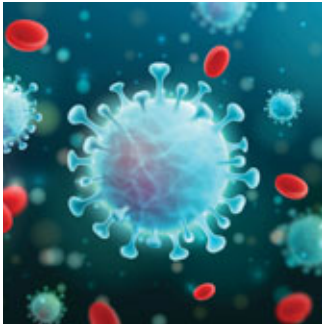
MUSCAT: More than a 100 new COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in 24 hours in Oman according to statistics made available on the government's Tarassud app on Sunday.

The coronavirus monitoring app launched by the Ministry of Health, showed that the number of those hospitalised during the past 24 hours reached 114, and 290 patients were admitted to ICU, bringing the total number of patients admitted to health institutions to 937 cases – the highest ever since the start of the pandemic. The Sultanate also recorded 28 deaths during the past three days bringing the total to 2,413 deaths and 3,177 new cases of coronavirus, according to the daily report of the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry stated that the total number of registered cases in the Sultanate is 223,879 cases, those recovered were 204,480, at 91.33 per cent, and 2,413 deaths, at 1.07 per cent. The total cases currently sick with COVID-19 disease in the Sultanate is 16,986, at 7.58 per cent.

For the first time since the pandemic of COVID-19 began, the total number of cases in hospitals crossed 930 cases, with 290 cases in intensive care. A Social Activist and Data Analyst, reading the data from the Ministry of Health, pointed to a significant decrease in new cases of coronavirus infections and ICU patients in the region.

Difficult Speaking exclusively to the *Times of Oman*, Ibrahim Al Maimani, A social activist and data analyst said, "The month of June 2021 will be very difficult in terms of the number of infections and in-patients in hospitals, as the number of COVID-19 infections in the Sultanate exceeds a thousand per day,



while the number of in-patients within 24 hours is very high, and during the past week records were at 124 and 140 cases."

He confirmed that for the first time, we reached 937 cases in hospitals, and for the first time, we also reach 290 cases in intensive care, both of which are the highest since the start of the pandemic. "When analysing the statistics from the beginning of June until today, corresponding to June 6, we note an increase in new cases during these days, above a thousand cases, which led to a decrease in the recovery rate from 92 per cent to 91.3 per cent," Al Maimani explained.

"6,655 new cases were recorded during this period whereas, in contrast, 4,520 new cases of recovery were recorded, and we note that the number of new infections daily is more than the new cases of recovery," he added.

"The number of in-patients in hospitals increased by 16 per cent - that is 129 cases, from 808 cases at the end of May, to 937 cases as on June 6. As for the intensive care cases, their number at the end of May reached 247, and on June 6, the number reached 290, with an increase of 43 cases, at a rate of 17 per cent," Al Maimani confirmed. About the deaths due to COVID-19, he said, "68 deaths have been recorded since the beginning of the month, at a rate of 11.3 deaths per day, which is the rate closest to the highest death rate in the Sultanate - that is 11.5 deaths per day recorded in April of this year."

The Ministry of Health has said on first of June 2021 that, as per vaccine procurement agreements signed with different firms, the Sultanate will receive 1.25 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines at a rate of 200,000 doses per week.

The Ministry strives to cover all target groups in Oman, equivalent to 70 per cent of the population of the Sultanate. The vaccine will be administered in stages, in accord-

ance with the schedule of arrival of doses and in line with the national immunisation strategy.

Plan Badr Saif Al Rowahi, Director of Contagious Disease Department at the Directorate General of Disease Surveillance, said that the Ministry devised an immunisation plan for June that targeted General Education Diploma (GED) students and the GED exam supervision staff. The programme began on May 25. The plan also covers private sector health workers who did not receive the vaccine, in addition to basic service providers and personnel of military and civil departments, said al-Rowahi, adding that everyone will begin to be vaccinated this week.

As for other segments of society, the vaccination drive will cover those aged 45 and above during the third week of June, said al-Rowahi, who explained that those who received the first dose and completed 10 weeks will receive the second dose this month.

Other target segments to be covered during June include higher education students in institutions of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, al-Rowahi added.

He pointed out that the immunisation plan will be conducted in a variety of methods with the prime aim of covering the target segments at immunisation centres and through mobile teams.

The campaign to vaccinate students and GED exam staff has so far covered about 32,000 or 43 per cent of the target segment, just within five days, said al-Rowahi, adding that despite society's co-operation, challenges still remain, and these include reservations among the elderly and student parents.

Al-Rowahi stressed that the vaccine is totally safe and that it has been endorsed only after tests by specialised departments in the countries of origin and by international organisations that licensed the vaccine.

Dr Zaid Al Hinai, a consultant on paediatric infectious diseases at Sultan Qaboos University, said that the effects of vaccines start after two weeks of the first dose, depending on time and place it could be 50 to 70 per cent protection and full protection sets in after two weeks of the second dose."

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The Wilayat of Al Rustaq in South Al Batinah Governorate is famous for its forts and castles, including Al Mansour Castle, one of the deep-rooted landmarks and a masterpiece in architecture. It was built by Imam Ahmed bin Said Al Busaidi in Shaban 1204 AH.

Al Mansour Castle consists of three floors and the ground floor has several rooms and stores for keeping dates and weapons and a water well. The second floor comprises six rooms and the third floor has one room. The castle has two



towers one at the eastern side and the other at the western side of the castle. The castle has received the attention and care of the wise government as it was renovated. It was built of mountain gravel with wooden roofs.

The area surrounding the castle has a number of towers built at high-level ground and were used for control of the area and for protection of its inhabitants.



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BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM the Sultan receives written message from Yemeni President

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a written message from Field Marshal President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi of the Republic of Yemen.

The message deals with the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and means of promoting them in all spheres.

The message was received by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, when he received here on Sunday Dr Ahmad Awad Mubarak, Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs of Yemen.

The meeting reviewed developments of situations in Yemen and the UN efforts to end the war in a way that preserves unity and safety of Yemen.

The two sides reiterated the importance of enhancing coop-



eration with all parties to achieve security and stability for Yemen by supporting efforts of the UN and US envoys.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs,

Khalid Hashel Al Muslahi, Head of the Minister's Office Department and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry.

It was also attended by Dr Khalid Saleh, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the Sultanate. — **ONA**

INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

FROM A1 Possible need to set up a COVID-19 bubble discussed

Oman potentially holding some games also depends on whether India chooses to not go through with hosting it themselves, added Pankaj Khimji, the OCA's Chairman, who has been in regular talks with the ICC to determine the requirements Oman will need to fulfil, should some matches be held in the country.

"We are obviously very keen to share venue duties for the World Cup – it would be a real feather in our cap if we did that," he said.

"We have told the ICC that we are happy to have a few games here, they are okay with us doing that, but before all of this to happen, we need official confirmation that India is indeed going ahead with holding the games elsewhere. This is expected to happen closer to the end of the month."

Wish list of the things

"The ICC has given us a wish list of things they need to see from us if we are to go ahead," added Khimji. "Firstly, do we need to improve the quality of our floodlights, so that the 22 cameras that will be installed around the pitch can cover the game well enough? We also need to see if our dressing rooms need updating, because you no longer have 20-man squads, it's now a 30-man detachment from each side."

Also discussed was the possible need to set up a COVID-19 bubble, where participating teams are only allowed to travel to and from their hotels to their match venues and training grounds, a provision Madhu Jesrani also takes seriously. "There was a COVID bubble in

place during this season's Indian Premier League, but that was not as effective because the infection rates in India were very high," he said.

"There was a need, therefore, to immediately relocate the tournament to the UAE. It was for this reason that the Middle East has once again been considered as a venue: the T20 World Cup is a tournament on the international stage – everybody watches it, so it needs to go really well."

Although the matches are likely to be held in both Gulf countries, the BCCI will still be the hosts for the event, with both Oman and the UAE serving as venue partners. Should Oman be chosen as a venue, it will mean the country's national team will get to play their first major tournament on home soil.

"We are attempting to run about six games here, including the preliminary ones," explained Jesrani. "If our effort to hold some matches here is successful, then we will try to make sure that Oman's group gets to play in our country. I ask everyone in Oman to pray for us to make this happen...this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us, and it will be great if it turns out to be successful."

The OCA's stadium in Al Amerat has received approval to act as venue for the games, should India refuse itself from hosting the tournament.

Oman is one of 16 teams to qualify for the Twenty20 World Cup, with the others being India, Pakistan, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, West Indies, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka,

Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Ireland, Namibia and Scotland.

Oman's hockey team, on the other hand, do not need to qualify for the 2024 Hockey 5s World Cup, for which they have qualified as hosts. The country bagged the hosting rights for the tournament after earning 13 out of a total of 16 votes, facing off against six other contenders.

Up to 16 teams will each participate in the men's and women's divisions of what will be the first edition of a world cup featuring a five-a-side version of the game.

World-class events

"The successful bid reflects Oman's ability to organise world-class events in accordance with global standards," said Dr Nandinder Batra, the chairman of the International Hockey Federation, told Oman News Agency. "Oman's file has been distinguished in every respect and we are confident of the Oman Hockey Association's ability to successfully host the event."

Another event scheduled to take place this year is the Oman International Youth Cup, which is jointly held by the Muscat Football Academy and Oman Football Association. Pencilled in for December, the tournament will see youth teams from some of the best clubs in the world come to Oman.

"It all depends on the situation at the time, but with government support, we're looking to get this tournament underway as expected," said Chuck Martini, the MFA Technical Director.

RNO chief, delegation head to South Korea

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and his accompanying military delegation left here On Sunday heading to South Korea on an official several-day visit. — **ONA**

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN



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Qatari Diar Ras Al-Hadd Development Company (QDRH) would like to invite potential landlords to participate in the Pre-qualification for leasing buildings for staff accommodation in and around Sur, for the period of 5/10 years. The buildings shall suit for the space requirements to accommodate various grades of Staff of its Chedi Hotel at Ras Al-Hadd, Al-Sharqiyah, Sultanate of Oman.

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3. Landlords who are ready to invest and build the facilities on their own property and lease either partially or fully as per the above requirements.

The period for leasing the existing buildings shall be 5 years and the period for leasing if the landlord is willing to build new staff accommodation as per the requirements shall be 10 years.

Enquiries & Request for Pre-Qualification Documents collection:
Interested parties may obtain further information and acquire a copy of the 'Request for Pre-Qualification' document by sending "Request for Pre-Qualification Documents" to email: info@qdrhoman.com from 8th June 2021 until 15th June 2021 and may contact the below address for queries and details;

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Email: info@qdrhoman.com | Website: www.qdrhoman.com

Qatari Diar Ras Al-Hadd Development Company

SUPREME COMMITTEE

FROM A1 A great plan for safe vaccination

The minister told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the Supreme Committee took note of the efforts exerted by the specialised medical teams of the Ministry of Health and other health establishments to administer the vaccine as scheduled in the Vaccination Plan.

In this context, Dr. Abdullah said, "During the visit, we observed a highly organised process of immunisation undertaken by working groups and great cooperation from segments of society."

"The Supreme Committee urges all target segments to take the vaccine to protect themselves, their families and society from this disease," said Dr. Abdullah, who stressed that taking the vaccine is the most efficient way of securing self-protection. He also underscored the significance of individuals' commitment to the measures announced by the authorities concerned, including adherence to social distancing and avoiding all sorts of assembling. "Undoubtedly, many commercial and economic activities around the world have been seriously impacted by procedures undertaken by countries for protection against this dangerous disease, and the Sultanate is no exception. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Oman has undertaken elaborate measures that maintained a balance between

public health and business activities. Experts predict that the whole world will shift between closure and opening of business activities till such a time that the vaccine shows positive results in overcoming the disease," said Dr. Abdullah.

"Operating under close follow-up by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, we now witness the unfolding of a great plan for safe vaccination that covers all segments of society," said Dr. Abdullah.

In the meantime, the minister cautioned against entertaining widespread rumours pervading the whole world about vaccines. Scientists who are well-versed in epidemiology affirm that what is circulating about vaccines and immunisations is totally baseless and void of truth, said the minister, who underlined that the real danger is that believing these rumours increases chances of the pandemic proliferation.

"Many of those who believed the rumours caught the disease or transferred it to their family members, thereby causing immense suffering, culminating in death in many instances. This would have otherwise been avoidable if all ignored rumours and if all target segments took initiatives in accordance with the National Immunisation Plan," said Dr. Abdullah. — **ONA**



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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



Omani researcher receives Harold Johnson Award

MUSCAT: Dr Arwa Zakaria Al Riyami, Senior Consultant at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital's Department of Hematology, has won the Harold Johnson Award of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) for a research paper she submitted recently.

Dr Arwa, who is also the Director of Hematologic Disease Department at the Omani Medical Spe-

cialty Board, said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that her research was conducted in cooperation with members of the consultative council of the ISBT.

The paper, which represents the Middle East region, was titled "Impacts of Coronavirus on Workers in Blood Banks in the World in the First Months of the Pandemic," she added. — ONA



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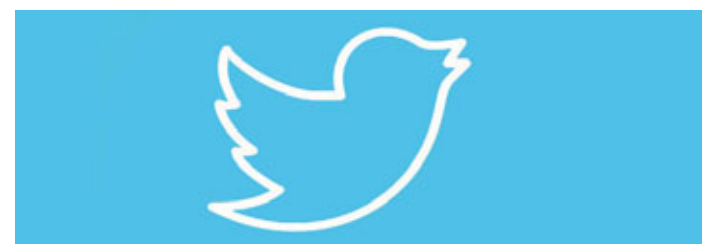


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TWITTER SUSPENSION

US, EU condemn Nigeria's Twitter ban



BRUSSELS: The US and the European Union (EU) have raised concern over Nigeria's announcement suspending Twitter and proposing registration requirements for other social media.

This indefinite suspension came on Saturday after the social network deleted a tweet by President Muhammadu Buhari. "We strongly support the fundamental human right of free expression and access to information as a pillar of democracy in Nigeria as around the world and these rights apply online as well as offline. Banning systems of expression is not the answer," the diplomatic missions of the EU, US, Britain, Canada, and Ireland said in a joint statement issued on Saturday.

"These measures inhibit access to information and commerce at precisely the moment when Nigeria needs to foster inclusive dialogue and expression of opinions, as well as share vital information in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic," the

statement read.

On Wednesday, the microblogging site deleted a tweet by the President which Nigerians had criticised as a declaration of war.

In the deleted tweet, Buhari had made a reference to the country's 30-month civil war in 1967-1970, warning "those who wanted the government to fail" to desist from fomenting trouble.

"Many of those misbehaving today are too young to be aware of the destruction and loss of lives that occurred during the Nigeria civil war. Those of us in the fields for 30 months, who went through the war, will treat them in the language they understand," the president had tweeted on Tuesday night.

Later on Saturday, the Nigerian President had expressed disappointment regarding the recent removal of his post by Twitter, saying that the company's censorship policy failed to understand the acute issues the country has to deal with. **ANI**

India urges caution as cities gradually reopen

Delhi, which has been under a lockdown since April 19, is set to gradually restart business activities



NEW DELHI: India's capital New Delhi is preparing for its coronavirus infection to peak at around 37,000 cases daily in the coming days as the city begins to ease restrictions, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday.

Delhi, which has been under a lockdown since April 19, is set to gradually restart business activities that were so far limited to essential items.

Markets and shopping malls will be allowed to open, with shops with odd house numbers and those with even operating on alternate days.

Offices can open with half of

the workforce in person and the Delhi Metro is to resume services with half of its seating capacity. Last week the city allowed construction sites and factories to reopen.

"...The Covid-19 situation is still under control, and we have less than 500 fresh cases in the last 24 hours," Kejriwal said in a news conference.

"It is important to bring the economy back on track... As and when the situation keeps improving, more relaxations will be announced..." he added. The minister still urged people to work from home where possible.

Maharashtra and Gujarat ease COVID measures

Delhi, which faced a dire oxygen shortage in April and May, is also building up an oxygen storage capacity of 420 tons. The city will also set up genome sequencing labs to study the new variants, Kejriwal said.

Other Indian states have also started easing restrictions, as COVID cases continued to decline. The northern state of Uttar Pradesh will only have night curfews in many of its districts.

From Monday, the city of Mumbai is to open stand-alone

shops and malls, theaters and restaurants with 50% capacity. Offices in the finance hub can open as well as parks.

Public transport is run only for essential services and medical workers. Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, would allow malls, movie theaters and restaurants to operate in areas with low cases.

Gujarat state, meanwhile, has allowed the reopening of the public sector and private businesses, with some recreational activities also approved.

Southern Tamil Nadu state has allowed grocery shops to remain open for most of the day.

India faces vaccine shortage

Daily infections across India have dropped to about 120,000 from more than 400,000 in May, according to official statistics.

The country's vaccination drive is making slow progress due to shortages and disagreements between the central government and state authorities.

Some 180 million people, about 14% of the population, have received one dose of a COVID vaccine and 45 million, or 3.4%, have received two shots. **DW**



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Djokovic pleased by comparison with Lewis Hamilton

Djokovic's streak of appearances at this stage surpasses the 11-year stint managed by both Nadal and Roger

PARIS: World number one Novak Djokovic was honoured and pleased by the comparisons between him and Mercedes Formula One championship driver Lewis Hamilton.

This comparison was made by ITV4 commentator Jim Courier as the Serbian ace demolished Ricardas Berankis 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 in straight sets at ongoing Roland Garros. With this win, Novak has reached French Open last 16 for a record 12th consecutive year. Djokovic's streak of appearances at this stage surpasses the 11-year stint managed by both Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer between 2005 and 2015.



"It's like the dominance of Lewis Hamilton and the Mercedes team. Berankis is a great driver and maximises everything under the hood. But Novak Djokovic is driving a completely different race car," suggested the American who himself is a 1991 and 1992 French Open champion.

"Berankis can't do the same things. On the same track, he can't

race the same. Novak can drive how he wants."

Djokovic was very glad to hear this comparison but was 'embarrassed' to talk about his driving in front of 7 times F1 champion, Lewis Hamilton.

"Well, I'm honoured to be compared to Lewis. I respect Lewis and everything he does in his career, but also, off the court with

his activism. Something that truly inspires me and a lot of athletes," said the 18-time winner.

"I don't want to talk about my driving next to Lewis' name. Honestly, it's embarrassing to speak about my driving, and in the same sentence with Hamilton. But I like to drive fast but I have to respect the rules, I guess," he joked. "I was never racing. But the analogy and the comparison of my game with an F1 car is definitely something that pleases me."

The 2016 champion is well aware of his next opponent in the round of 16.

"I think Lorenzo is very nice. First of all, very nice kid. Very nice guy. We did hit a lot in practice. We never faced each other, but we did practise actually this season on this surface in Monte-Carlo couple of times and other tournaments. I really like how he plays," revealed the top seed, who knows the youngster's repertoire well.

"I know very much that he is a big challenge to me. So there is no question I have to go out playing on a high level because he will not have much to lose. I'm sure he's gonna come out and really try to play tennis of his life playing on one of the two big courts." **ANI**

Nadal, Federer storm into fourth round of French Open



PARIS: Defending champion Rafael Nadal on Saturday stormed into the fourth round of the ongoing French Open.

Swiss tennis maestro Roger Federer also stormed into the fourth round of the ongoing French Open.

Federer defeated German lefty Dominik Koepfer in a gruelling 7-6(5), 6-7(3), 7-6(4), 7-5 battle to reach the last 16 of the tournament. The 39-year-old began well, as he served smartly. But his 59th-ranked German opponent immediately showed that the game was not going to be a cakewalk as he hit heavy groundstrokes on both wings to keep the Swiss back.

Nadal defeated England's Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 at Court Suzanne Lenglen in the third round at the ongoing Grand Slam

event. The 35-year-old Nadal dropped just three games in the first set and he was able to win it 6-3, not giving the opponent any chance and he sent the alarm bells ringing.

The Spaniard continued with his momentum in the second set, and he went on to win it, and as a result, he just needed to win another set to progress to the next round of the French Open.

Nadal then did not lose his touch in the final set and he ended up progressing to the next round of the ongoing French Open. Earlier on Saturday, world number one Novak Djokovic on Saturday progressed to the fourth round. Djokovic outclassed Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 at Court Philippe-Chatrier to progress further in the tournament. **ANI**

FORMULA ONE

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen curses 'stupid' qualifying at Azerbaijan GP

BAKU: Red Bull Formula One championship driver, Max Verstappen was clearly not the happiest person in Baku as he was denied another shot at pole position after red flags prematurely ended qualifying - for the second round in a row - in Azerbaijan.

Frustrated after qualifying third in an incident-packed Q3, the Dutchman cursed the "stupid qualifying". "Ah, just a stupid qualifying to be honest. Anyway it is what it is. Still P3, we have a good car, a good recovery from FP3 of course and everything was working out fine and all this shit is all the time happening. I don't care. In Q3... it's just unfortunate. It's a street circuit so these things can happen. Like I said, our car is strong so I just hope tomorrow in the race we can look after our tyres and score good points," 23 years old said in the FIA post-qualifying press conference.

Verstappen - who crashed in final practice on Saturday morning and lost out on 30 minutes of running - was denied a late shot at pole because AlphaTauri's Yuki Tsunoda crashed in the final minutes of qualifying. Coincidentally, once again, Charles Leclerc was on the provisional pole at the time, so will start from P1 on the grid in Sunday's race.



Despite all the accidents that occurred in qualifying, Max is still looking hopeful to get a clear start on Sunday against Lewis Hamilton, in front.

"Yeah, I know. We are still up there. Of course I would have liked to start a bit further ahead, but it's still all to play for. As you can see, qualifying there are a lot of things happening, so maybe in the race these things can happen again. But

let's hope for a clean start and we'll see from there."

"There are three different cars as well. It's always good to have that."

Verstappen starts on the second row, behind pole-sitter Leclerc and championship rival Lewis Hamilton in P2 - as the Red Bull driver aims to consolidate his four-point lead in the standings at Azerbaijan GP. **ANI**

TOUR CONTRACTS

Sri Lanka players refuse to sign contracts, England tour in jeopardy

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka players have refused to sign their tour contracts and as a result, the side's upcoming series against England is now under severe threat.

The players have already been showing resistance towards the contracts scheme, which they believe lacks transparency and does not adequately compensate senior players, reported ESPNcricinfo. Thirty-eight Sri Lanka cricketers have signed a statement refusing to sign the tour contracts and it is an increase from 24 players who had previously made their resistance to the new scheme.

"Because of the problems with the transparency of the ratings system devised by SLC, the players will not sign the tour contract," the release signed by 38 top players said.

"The tour contract also refers to matters of the annual main contract for 2021, which is yet unsigned. In the event, the annual contract is not settled and a dispute is pending, the validity of the tour contract referring to an unsigned contract is also an issue," ESPNcricinfo quoted the players' lawyer as saying.

There is now a serious confrontation expected between and players and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). Sri Lanka men's team is



expected to leave for England on Wednesday, June 9.

Players who have refused to sign the tour contract are: Kusal Perera, Dimuth Karunaratne, Angelo Mathews, Dananjaya de Silva, Dinesh Chandimal, Kusal Mendis, Niroshan Dickwella, Suranga Lakmal, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Lasith Embuldeniya, Pathum Nissanka, Lahiru Thirimanne, Dushmantha Chameera, Kasun Rajitha, Lakshan Sandakan, Vishwa Fernando, Isuru Udana, Oshada Fer-

nando, Ramesh Mendis, Lahiru Kumara, Danushka Gunathilaka, Ashen Bandara, Akila Dananjaya, Chamika Karunaratne, Asitha Fernando, Binura Fernando, Shiran Fernando, Avishka Fernando, Ishan Jayaratne, Charith Asalanka, Dananjaya Lakshan, Nuwan Pradeep, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamil Mishara, Praveen Jayawickrama, Roshen Silva, Minod Bhanuka. Sri Lanka and England are scheduled to square off in three T20Is and three ODIs, beginning June 23. **ANI**

ENGLAND VS NZ

Southee scalps six as NZ extend lead to 165 after Burns show

LONDON: Pacer Tim Southee scalped six wickets in the first innings while Rory Burns registered a ton for England as New Zealand extended their lead to 165 runs on Day Four of the ongoing first Test here at the Lord's Cricket Ground on Saturday.

At stumps on Day Four, New Zealand's second innings score read 62/2 and the visitors have extended their lead to 165 runs. For the Kiwis, Tom Latham (30*) and Neil Wagner (2*) are unbeaten at the crease. After gaining a lead of 103 runs, New Zealand openers Latham and Devon Conway saw out the new ball. While the run-scoring was slow, both players kept the England bowlers at bay.

The openers put on 39 runs for the first wicket and England finally got the breakthrough in the 19th over of the second innings as Ollie Robinson clean bowled Conway (23). Skipper Kane William-



TEST MATCH: The openers put on 39 runs for the first wicket and England finally got the breakthrough in the 19th over of the second innings as Ollie Robinson clean bowled Conway (23).

son (1) failed to leave the mark with the bat as he was adjudged leg-before wicket on a ball bowled by Robinson.

Nightwatchman Neil Wagner next came out to the middle and along with Latham, he ensured that New Zealand reach stumps with eight wickets in hand.

Earlier, resuming Day Four at 111/2, England was given a major blow at the start of the day as overnight batsman Joe Root (42) was sent back to the pavilion by Kyle Jamieson. Ollie Pope then joined Burns in the middle and the duo put on 29 runs for the fourth wicket, but the stand was cut short by Southee, as he dismissed Pope (22) in the 53rd over. Soon after, Dan Lawrence (0) and James Bracey were also sent back to the pavilion by Southee, reducing England to 140/6.

Robinson then joined Burns in the middle and both batsmen en-

sured that the side does not lose more wickets before the lunch interval, taking the team score to 164/6 with the hosts still trailing by 214 runs. After the lunch break, both Robinson and Burns fought it out and they saw off the first hour pretty easily after the interval.

The 63-run stand for the seventh wicket was finally ended in the 85th over by Southee as he had Robinson (42) caught at the hands of Jamieson at fine-leg. In the very next over, Mark Wood was dismissed for a duck by Jamieson, and England was reduced to 207/8. Stuart Broad (10) also failed to stay at the crease for a long time as he was clean bowled by Neil Wagner and this brought number eleven, James Anderson, to the crease.

Burns who continued to play a lone hand for the hosts, brought up his third century in Test cricket in the 94th over of the innings. **ANI**

WORK-FROM-HOME TREND

Negative demand created by the work-from-home culture along with a reduction in fresh leasing activities due to a weaker economy can easily shave 40 per cent off annual demand over the next few years, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,965.50 points, up 0.84 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.12 per cent at 565.37 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 7.39 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser.

PDO inks pact with contractors to create Omani rig medic jobs

Under the terms of the Memorandums of Collaboration, PDO will train the nationals who will then secure work with Abraj Energy Services and KCA Deutag on the successful completion of their training

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has signed agreements with two contractors to employ more than 55 Omanis as qualified medics on rig sites.

Under the terms of the Memorandums of Collaboration (MoCs), PDO will train the nationals who will then secure work with Abraj Energy Services (AES) and KCA Deutag (KCAD) on the successful completion of their training. The initiative is part of a wider move by PDO to Omanise all rig medical personnel across its entire operation.

PDO External Affairs and Value Creation Director Eng. Abdul-Amir bin Abdul-Hussein Al Ajmi signed the MoCs with AES Managing Director Abdullah Al Hadi and KCAD Country Manager David Troost at a virtual ceremony on June 3.

He said, "We are constantly striving with our contractors to identify meaningful and rewarding jobs for Omanis across the wide spectrum of our activities. The health and welfare of those

working with us are paramount, and those employed through this new programme will take on the vital responsibility of caring for them in the field. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners for working with us to enable dozens of nationals to take up such important positions."

The trainees will undergo familiarisation training with PDO for a period of two to five months, gaining the required knowledge and experience for the roles. Forty will then be employed by AES and a further 18 by KCAD on their rig sites.

Al Ajmi said, "We are expanding our job creation horizons by qualifying Omanis to meet the fixed and fluctuating workforce required to serve different market demands in the energy sector."

"Our National Manpower Supply (Emdad) team have succeeded in localising thousands of jobs to date and will continue to go the extra mile to ensure that more nationals find work in the energy sector and beyond."

AES Managing Director Abdullah Al Hadi said, "We are proud



MEMORANDUMS OF COLLABORATION: PDO External Affairs and Value Creation Director Eng. Abdul-Amir bin Abdul-Hussein Al Ajmi signed the MoCs with AES Managing Director Abdullah Al Hadi and KCAD Country Manager David Troost at a virtual ceremony. - ONA

to be part of PDO's initiatives for offering job opportunities for national job seekers and localised medic positions at Abraj rig sites. This initiative will contribute to increasing the Omanisation percentage of the company from where it is currently at 92 per cent.

"This training programme is in line with Abraj's vision and commitment to delivering In-Country Value including creating job op-

portunities for local Omani nationals. We would like to extend our appreciation to PDO for funding this training and to every individual who played a role in making this co-operation possible."

KCAD Country Manager David Troost added, "After more than 50 years of being contracted by PDO, we continue to feel our responsibility to help the development of Oman. It fills us with joy that

we are signing an MOU today in which we commit to hire and train 18 Omani medical staff to support our drilling rigs in the field."

Previously, PDO had also signed two agreements for an on-job-training programme in health, safety and environment to provide 50 job opportunities for graduates in Arabian Industries Projects (AIP) and Special Technical Services (STS), in collaboration with

the Ministry of Labour.

The agreements facilitate a six-month training programme for graduates with HSE Bachelor's degrees from the Modern College of Business and Science and the International College of Engineering and Management.

Participants will be certified by OPAL upon successful completion of the programme and will be employed by the contractors.

LANDMARK DEAL



GLOBAL CORPORATE TAX: Hundreds of billions of dollars could flow into the coffers of governments left cash-strapped by the COVID-19 pandemic after the G7 advanced economies agreed to back a minimum global corporate tax rate of at least 15 per cent. - BNA

Tech giants and tax havens targeted by historic G7 deal

LONDON: The United States, Britain and other large, rich nations reached a landmark deal on Saturday to squeeze more money out of multinational companies such as Amazon and Google and reduce their incentive to shift profits to low-tax offshore havens.

Hundreds of billions of dollars could flow into the coffers of governments left cash-strapped by the COVID-19 pandemic after the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies agreed to back a minimum global corporate tax rate of at least 15 per cent, Reuters reported.

Facebook said it expected it would have to pay more tax, in more countries, as a result of the deal, which comes after eight years of talks that gained fresh impetus in recent months after proposals from US President Joe Biden's new administration.

"G7 finance ministers have reached historic agreement to reform the global tax system to make it fit for the global digital age," British finance minister Rishi Sunak said after chairing a two-day meeting in London.

The meeting, hosted at an ornate 19th-century mansion near Buckingham Palace in central London, was the first time finance ministers have met face-to-face since the start of the pandemic.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the "significant, unprecedented commitment" would end what she called a race to the bottom on global taxation.

German finance minister Olaf Scholz said the deal was "bad news for tax havens around the world".

Yellen also saw the G7 meeting as marking a return to multilateralism under Biden and a contrast to the approach of US President Donald Trump, who alienated many US allies.

"What I've seen during my time at this G7 is deep collaboration and a desire to coordinate and address a much broader range of global problems," she said.

Ministers also agreed to move towards making companies declare their environmental impact in a more standard way so investors can decide more easily whether to fund them, a key goal for Britain.

Current global tax rules date back to the 1920s and struggle with multinational tech giants that sell services remotely and attribute much of their profits to intellectual property held in low-tax jurisdictions.

Nick Clegg, Facebook's vice-president for global affairs and a former British deputy prime minister, said, "We want the international tax reform process to succeed and recognise this could mean Facebook paying more tax, and in different places."

But Italy, which will seek wider international backing for the plans at a meeting of the G20 in Venice next month, said the proposals were not just aimed at US firms.

Yellen said European countries

would scrap existing digital services taxes which the United States says discriminate against US businesses as the new global rules go into effect.

"There is broad agreement that these two things go hand in hand," she said.

Key details remain to be negotiated over the coming months. Saturday's agreement says only "the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises" would be affected.

European countries had been concerned that this could exclude Amazon - which has lower profit margins than most tech companies - but Yellen said she expected it would be included.

How tax revenues will be split is not finalised either, and any deal will also need to pass the US Congress.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said he would push for a higher minimum tax, calling 15 per cent "a starting point".

Some campaign groups also condemned what they saw as a lack of ambition. "They are setting the bar so low that companies can just step over it," Oxfam's head of inequality policy, Max Lawson, said.

But Irish finance minister Paschal Donohoe, whose country is potentially affected because of its 12.5 per cent tax rate, said any global deal also needed to take account of smaller nations.

The G7 includes the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. - BNA

POWER SECTOR

Mazoon Electricity embarks on intensive Omanisation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its concerted efforts to align with national directions and policies and add value to the national workforce in the power sector, Mazoon Electricity Company, the leading electricity provider in Oman, has embarked on an intensive Omanisation process.

The campaign is part of an initiative designed to recruit 800 Omanis in the emergency and maintenance contractors with electricity companies, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) and Nama Holding Company. This is with reference to APSR's announcement earlier to train and recruit Omani nationals for 800 technical positions.

To boost Omanisation, Mazoon Electricity has already formed many committees, including one main committee and six secondary committees, to carry out the required processes.

Evaluation and interviews process is underway to recruit qualified talents to join the contracts of emergency and maintenance companies which will replace the expatriate workforce.

As part of the first phase of the employment process, the company in the next few days will interview around 700 candidates out of which 300 will be selected for supervisory and technical jobs such as maintenance engineer, maintenance supervisor, HSE Officer, electrical technician, cable jointer (line extension) and lineman in the emergency and maintenance contractors' companies within Mazoon Electricity.

Eng. Majid Nasser Al Busaidi, Chief Operations Officer- Distribution of Mazoon Electricity Company said, "We are committed to recruiting and nurturing dynamic young Omanis to meet our manpower needs. This is in line with the directive of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to support Omani human resources and enable them to contribute to the overall national development."

He added, "We are keenly in-



BOOSTING OMANISATION: The campaign is part of an initiative designed to recruit 800 Omanis in the emergency and maintenance contractors with electricity companies. - Supplied picture

involved in the recruitment of qualified Omani candidates to the company. Within our existing payrolls, we have successfully used the skills of Omani talents including in the department of operations, customer services, HSE, IT, communications, HR, among others. We constantly encourage our contractors to hire Omani talents. The selected Omanis will undergo intensive training including theoretical, practical and on the job training. It is worth mentioning that the Mazoon Electricity service area covers almost 45 per cent of Oman. The nature of work at the company is technical and challenging. Despite this, we are confident in our Omani manpower and their capability to overcome these challenges. We are proud to state that our national workforce delivers high-quality, and results-driven performance. We are committed to making significant, ongoing investment in developing highly qualified Omani personnel at the organisation."

Being committed to the implementation of its optimised In-Country Value (ICV) strategy, Mazoon Electricity Company has achieved a major milestone of

98.5 per cent Omanisation during the year 2020.

In 2020, 26 nationals were recruited as a recruitment strategy. With the network expanding and the workload increasing, the number of employees in the company increased from 541 in 2019 to 549 in 2020. The process of recruiting 38 Omani engineers to its payroll has been completed in May 2021.

Taking inspiration from the Oman Vision 2040, Mazoon Electricity is proud to collaborate and embrace many of its national priorities, including building national capabilities, Omanisation, SME development, among others.

By according priority to nationals when it comes to job opportunities and sharpen job skills for students from different universities and colleges, Mazoon Electricity constantly provides on-the-job training and knowledge transfer to the trainees.

Specialised engineers' regularly expose Omani graduate apprentices to relevant stages of the work, including 'maintenance and operation of the network, planning and execution of new projects and the central control of the electricity network'.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Cables Industry, up 7.39 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,965.50 points, up 0.84 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.12 per cent at 565.37 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 7.39 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of United Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,195 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.4 million, with more than 27 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded stocks, 26 advanced, 9 declined and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR449,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR367,000 followed by foreign investors for

OMR82,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,230.53 points, up 1.23 per cent. Oman & Emirates Holding, Al Anwar Investment, Vision Insurance, United Finance and Muscat Finance were up 7.27 per cent, 5.10 per cent, 4.35 per cent, 4.29 per cent and 3.92 per cent respectively. Taageer Finance was the only loser by 1.35 per cent.

Industrial Index closed at 5,649.40 points, up 1.13 per cent. Oman Cables Industry, Gulf International Chemical, National Aluminum Product, Al Maha Ceramic and Jazeera Steel Product were up 7.39 per cent, 5.77 per cent, 1.47 per cent, 1.18 per cent and 0.53 per cent respectively. Al Hassan Engineering, Raysut Cement and Al Anwar Ceramic were down 16.67 per cent, 1.35 per cent and 1.27 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.78 per cent closing at 1,666.67 points. **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	3,967.25	3,931.77	3,965.51	3,932.60	32.90	0.84
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,230.53	6,199.91	6,230.53	6,154.67	75.86	1.23
Industry Index	5,661.78	5,588.13	5,649.40	5,585.91	63.49	1.14
Services Index	1,666.68	1,647.50	1,666.68	1,653.83	12.85	0.78
MSX Shariah Index	566.09	564.91	565.37	564.68	0.70	0.12
MSX TR INDEX	4,763.82	4,721.21	4,761.72	4,722.21	39.51	0.84

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
26,793,939	3,464,520	1,195	21,341,882,262	26	9	13	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 6

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
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REGULAR MARKET

OM000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	20,000	19,760	2	0.988	0.988	0.988	0.988	0.920	-0.068	7.391	0.988	0.972	0.984	0.100	88,623,600
OM000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,532,496	364,786	124	0.102	0.105	0.102	0.103	0.098	-0.005	5.102	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.100	20,600,000
OM000001620	VISION INSURANCE	45,000	3,285	3	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.079	0.006	4.286	0.073	0.070	0.075	0.100	7,300,000
OM000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,414,013	75,424	75	0.052	0.055	0.051	0.053	0.051	-0.002	3.922	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.100	16,278,755
OM000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	12,500	4,830	2	0.386	0.388	0.386	0.386	0.380	-0.006	1.579	0.388	0.380	0.388	0.100	38,600,000
OM000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,364,136	952,793	132	0.396	0.406	0.396	0.404	0.398	-0.006	1.508	0.404	0.404	0.404	0.100	1,444,087,816
OM000000505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	290,122	99,955	34	0.342	0.346	0.342	0.344	0.340	-0.004	1.176	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.100	18,920,000
OM000000398	SOHAR INT BANK	131,160	12,067	7	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	-0.001	1.099	0.092	0.091	0.093	0.100	223,974,620
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	253,465	202,763	14	0.792	0.800	0.792	0.800	0.792	-0.008	1.010	0.792	0.792	0.800	0.100	600,000,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	538,000	203,688	24	0.376	0.380	0.376	0.378	0.376	-0.002	0.532	0.376	0.374	0.378	0.100	47,211,429
OM000001749	OMAN CEMENT	51,148	12,787	5	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.249	-0.001	0.402	0.250	0.244	0.250	0.100	32,714,178
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	2,436,857	253,433	74	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.107	0.100	24,648,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	102,811	12,451	10	0.120	0.122	0.120	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.100	35,324,156
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	1,947,842	194,731	93	0.100	0.102	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	9,900,000
OM0000003968	QOURED	4,645	1,887	3	0.408	0.408	0.406	0.404	0.400	-0.006	0.406	0.400	0.408	0.408	0.100	262,981,469
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	363,420	94,828	32	0.153	0.153	0.150	0.151	0.152	-0.001	-0.658	0.151	0.150	0.151	0.100	12,835,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	18,159	8,506	4	0.470	0.470	0.468	0.468	0.474	-0.006	-1.266	0.468	0.464	0.468	0.100	102,960,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	6,400	1,871	4	0.286	0.286	0.282	0.282	0.286	-0.004	-1.351	0.282	0.283	0.297	0.100	58,400,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	42,000	17,340	6	0.408	0.418	0.408	0.412	0.418	-0.006	-1.435	0.418	0.410	0.418	0.100	25,216,160
Total		15,574,174	2,497,185	648												

Parallel Market

OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,037,000	61,368	45	0.058	0.060	0.058	0.059	0.055	-0.004	7.273	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	7,190,625
OM0000002028	GULF INT'CHEM	29,836	3,282	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.104	-0.006	5.769	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.100	2,310,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	311,178	17,896	13	0.055	0.058	0.055	0.058	0.055	-0.003	5.455	0.058	0.053	0.058	0.100	41,435,568
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	6,434,578	311,349	166	0.047	0.050	0.047	0.048	0.046	-0.002	4.348	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.100	16,758,352
OM0000004735	SEMBOOR SALALAH	29,150	20,399	9	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.079	-0.007	3.297	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.100	78,374,500
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	751,833	144,723	47	0.198	0.199	0.190	0.192	0.185	-0.007	3.784	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.100	312,181,700
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	5,400	810	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.145	-0.005	3.448	0.150	0.145	0.150	0.100	13,500,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	48,587	4,556	4	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.091	-0.003	3.297	0.094	0.092	0.095	0.100	9,400,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	486,237	45,033	48	0.091	0.095	0.091	0.093	0.091	-0.002	2.198	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	12,090,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	806,544	38,482	36	0.046	0.049	0.046	0.048	0.047	-0.001	2.128	0.048	0.048	0.051	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000001517	HISBC BANK OMAN	30,000	3,060	3	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	-0.002	2.000	0.102	0.100	0.110	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	6,892	379	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.084	-0.001	1.832	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100	97,114,809
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	778,003	107,076	72	0.137	0.139	0.135	0.138	0.136	-0.002	1.471	0.137	0.137	0.145	0.100	4,632,860
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,583,300	188,055	67	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.096	-0.001	1.042	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	16,375,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	27,665	4,316	4	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.155	-0.001	0.645	0.156	0.156	0.163	0.100	280,427,960
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,173	233	3	0.199	0.199	0.198	0.191	0.191	-0.008	-0.000	0.198	0.187	0.198	0.100	5,730,000
OM0000001301	DHOOFAR CATTLE	350	34	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.090	-0.007	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	7,842,450
OM0000001596	OMAN FISHERIES	4,000	324	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	-0.001	0.000	0.081	0.072	0.083	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	429	40	2	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.141	0.147	0.100	12,129,010
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	5,460	257	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.040	-0.007	0.000	0.047	0.043	0.050	0.100	10,387,470
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	3,476	334	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.094	0.099	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000007407	DHOOFAR GENERATING	12,000	2,040	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	33,330,000
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	1,560	148	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	-0.001	0.000	0.095	0.085	0.095	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	21,000	1,942	3	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.094	0.085	0.094	0.100	60,237,822
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	40,000	2,830	4	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.075	0.100	18,512,070
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	65,000	6,120	3	0.066	0.066	0.064	0.064	0.066	-0.002	-3.020	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	15,776,678
Total		13,128,251	965,207	540												

CHINA BULK MERCHANDISE INDEX

China's bulk commodity market growth eases in May

BEIJING: Growth of China's bulk commodity market moderated to a five-month low in May, with sales, supply and stocks reporting month-on-month contraction, industrial data showed.

The China Bulk Merchandise Index, a gauge of domestic bulk commodity market growth, stood above the boom-or-bust line of 100 per cent at 100.2 per cent in May,

down 3.1 percentage points from April and returning to contraction after three consecutive months of growth, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP).

The sub-indices for bulk commodity sales and supply posted slower month-on-month expansion in May, while the sub-index for stocks continued to decrease

from the month before, pointing to an earlier-than-expected slack season and greater operation pressure in the sector.

Though June is seen as a traditional off-peak period, the market is expected to be shored up by demand that had been weighed down during the past few months due to surging prices, the CFLP said. -Xinhua

REPORT

Work-from-home trend may significantly damage office space market: Ind-Ra

MUMBAI: Negative demand created by the work-from-home culture along with a reduction in fresh leasing activities due to a weaker economy can easily shave 40 per cent off annual demand over the next few years, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

Struggle

The agency said this can result in over 500 basis points increase in vacancy levels over FY21 to FY23. "The impact on upcoming office space providers is likely to be particularly sharp as these may struggle to let out their upcoming properties."

Nearly 83 per cent of employees surveyed recently by Accenture favoured a hybrid work model with the ability to work remotely 25 to 75 per cent of the time.

Hot-desking policy

Ind-Ra said such a transition to

working remotely can seriously hamper office real estate demand as it may allow companies to use a hot-desking policy where the same desk may be shared by a number of employees who report to work on different days.

If 2.5 per cent of overall employees are asked to report to work on alternate days and use the hot-desking policy, it may result in a net 1.25 per cent reduction in office space required in a country.

On a base of 635 million square feet of office space occupied in the top eight cities of India at FYE20, said Ind-Ra, it will result in a negative demand of 7.9 million square feet which is 21 per cent of the average annual demand seen during FY19 to FY20.

"A larger impact of hot desking might shave off several years of demand in the short run and create significant hardships for office real estate providers."

Besides, a number of international companies have announced hybrid work models where the employees will need to report to the office only on a few days of the week. Ind-Ra said it can be easy to infer that the space that may be subject to the hot-desking model may be a lot more than 2.5 per cent as envisaged.

Real estate investment trust

Ind-Ra said occupancy at a large real estate investment trust (REIT) focusing on office portfolio declined to 86.8 per cent in 4Q FY21 from 92.2 per cent in 1Q FY21.

Occupancy at another listed REIT declined to 81.8 per cent in 4Q FY21 from 87.1 per cent in 2Q FY21. Occupancies at other listed REITs and companies also declined by around 500 basis points over the last four quarters, said Ind-Ra. -ANI

FITCH SOLUTIONS

Nepal economy on a gradual recovery path

SINGAPORE: Fitch Solutions has maintained FY21 (mid-July 2020 to mid-July 2021) real GDP growth forecast for Nepal at 2 per cent and forecast growth of 3.5 per cent in FY22.

This is below the Asian Development Bank's 3.1 per cent projection and the World Bank's 2.7 per cent projection.

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Contact: +968-96180303
shiv60769@gmail.com

Administration & Public Relations

Female, Omani nationality, available to work having 06 years' experience in administration and public relations. Highly motivated, good communication and interpersonal skills, fluent in English and Arabic with a passion to learn and grow and very adaptable. Fluent in Arabic and English. Very professional with a positive attitude.

Contact Ebty420@gmail.com, Tel : 9337 9044

Software Professional

Indian female, 27 years, Software professional (MCA), having 4 years experience in MNC seeks a suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit visa.

Contact 78037607

HR & Administration Professional

With Executive Assistant Exposure, Well Experienced With Oman Labour Law, Well Versed In Office Management, New Office Induction & Administration, Indian Male, With Valid Oman Driving License, NOC Available, Seeks Suitable Placements.

GSM: 94 94 86 76

ACCOUNTANT

Indian female having MBA with 15yrs exp as Accountant and Accounts Officer looking for suitable placement. Having Valid Visa, NOC.

Contact: 98783111
Email: anjubinus@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer

Indian B.E., (Mechanical) with 19 years Oman Experience in MEP system Design, Supervision, Execution & Maintenance of Comm./Res. Buildings, hotels, Hospitals, HyperMarkets, PDO & Govt. Palace and RGO is looking for suitable Opening, Valid D/L, NOC available.

Contact: 92672761
email: tnrajan76@gmail.com

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Contact: 78072563

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Contact 94947706

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

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

Accounts/Finance/Audit Professional

ACCA,CIA, CRMA and Masters Degree with 9 years of diversified experience and valid Oman driving licence; looking for suitable opportunity in Finance/Accounting /Audit.

Contact No: +96891735780
Email: cia.acca1989@gmail.com

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GSM: 78259755

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Contact 94575782
Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

IT

Indian, diploma holder in Computer hardware engineering, MCSE & CCNA also 2 year experience as system admin. Looking for job.
Contact 79500069

LOGISTIC

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272
Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

Logistics Coordinator, Indian Male, Age 27, with 2 and a half years experience in supply chain and knowledge of ERP looking for a suitable placement. Contact 71423342
Email: zakwansheikh@gmail.com

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Email: Muheenpatgar08@gmail.com

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Finance Manager, Indian: 22Yrs experience (UAE&Oman), looking Job Change. Contact 90473368

HSE Advisor/Manager With 14 yrs exp. 8 years in Oman with D/L. Expertise in Construction & COVID measures in large scale. Currently in Oman in a reputed company. Available in August. Contact 97477573.
Email hse.muscatoman@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING

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Indain male kerala 31 with 6 yrs of experience in Oman(FMCG sales and other) Oman D/L looking for any suitable placement [now on visa]. Contact 78104649

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272
Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

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FEATURES

GOLD MINERS IN BRAZIL ATTACK INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AMAZON

Wildcat miners have reportedly burned down the home of a leader of the indigenous Munduruku people.
Brazil's top court has already ruled against illegal mining on protected lands

INDIGENOUS Munduruku people in Brazil said the attacks by illegal gold miners on their leaders were continuing.
A police operation had earlier attempted to remove the illegal squatting by miners on the land of the indigenous Munduruku and Yanomami people.
Miners fired at a village of the Munduruku group, and burned down the house of one of their leaders, Brazil's main indigenous organisation said.
"Criminals are terrorising the leaders of the Munduruku people for opposing illegal mining. In an act of terrorism

they torched the home of (Munduruku leader) Maria Leusa Kaba and are continuing to threaten other people in reprisal for the Federal Police operation in the region to kick out invaders," said Sonia Guajajara, a leader of the Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB).
Police did not confirm the new attacks alleged by the indigenous people.
Brazil's top court had ordered the protection of indigenous groups, whose communities in the Amazon forest are threatened by wildcat mining.
Federal police launched an operation

against illegal mining on land belonging to the Munduruku and Sai Cinza people near the town of Jacareacanga.
However, there were reports of protesting miners trying to destroy police vehicles and equipment, with authorities saying they were surprised "by a group of miners protesting the operation that protected indigenous lands."
Reinforcements have been sent to help police forces, and act as mediators to diffuse tensions. Governor Helder Barbalho of the Para state, where the attacks have been reported, said that he is "worried by the tense situation."

Why are tensions on the rise?
Clashes between miners and indigenous people in the Amazon have been occurring for decades, but have increased in the past few years. Violence has increased since Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who is supportive of mining in protected lands, came to power in 2019.
Gold and diamond mining in the Amazon is a lucrative activity, but is extremely harmful to the environment. A Supreme Court ruling said the government must "immediately adopt all the necessary measures to protect the life, health and security of the indigenous people." -DW



ROUND-UP

Toyota Corolla available with ‘Biggest Excitement’ benefits



The Corolla’s distinct personality is completed by its expansive and comfortable cabin, which displays exceptional quality and finishing throughout

MUSCAT: Toyota’s most popular sedan – the Corolla is an iconic model that has always succeeded in offering owners exciting, fuel-efficient and cost-effective ownership experiences. The present generation Corolla too takes these experiences to even greater levels with its quality, technologies and more. Customers looking forward to

owning the Corolla can benefit with a cash gift from OMR 1,950 up to OMR 2,600, service 2 years / 20,000km (Whichever is earlier), 1-year insurance, 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. (Prospect-

ive 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. The Corolla’s distinct personality is completed by its expansive and comfortable cabin, which displays exceptional quality and finishing throughout. The interior design adopts a simple yet appealing style, with comfortable spaciousness and integrated functional parts combining to create a refined elegance. The ergonomically designed seats feature new cushion material, while the armrest and ample legroom offer superior comfort for the rear-seat passengers. The cabin is accentuated with an extensive range of features, which vary based on the trim level. Oc-

cupants also benefit from AC vents for the rear seat, a moonroof, 4.2 or 7-inch colour multi-information display (MID), 7-inch touch-screen multimedia infotainment display, rearview camera, cruise control, six-speaker sound system, and 60:40 split-folding rear seats. Exemplifying Toyota’s continuous commitment to providing environmentally-friendly vehicles is the addition of a hybrid-electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and an electric motor. The class-leading model offers the lowest fuel consumption value in its category at 27.6km/L (Fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions), enabling customers to contribute to a greener future while enjoying the increased driving satisfaction provided by its advanced tech-

nologies which offers exceptional cabin quietness and smooth acceleration, especially when accelerating from a stand-still. The Corolla’s striking looks are complemented by an exciting drive personality imbued by three powertrain options; these include a newly developed 2.0-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine which produces 168 hp and 20.39 kg-m of torque and 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. Meanwhile, the new electrified hybrid powertrain combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and an electric motor with a combined power of 121 hp. It is also mated to an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable

Transmission, which provides an outstanding fuel consumption value of 27.6km/L (Fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions) while improving the driving experience. As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the Corolla, which includes a comprehensive array of features to protect its occupants, such as four SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Brake Assist, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), among many others. In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota’s outstanding product quality. No wonder that today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

TECH EVENT

NBO kicks off registration for Innovation Incubator

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has kicked off registration for the most exciting tech event of the year, Innovation Incubator. A collaboration with the SME Development Authority, Oman Academy for SMEs, and Paradigm Consulting, the initiative will take successful applicants on a three-month-long course that will challenge them to come up with ideas for a FinTech start-up. The winners will then get the chance to pitch to investors. All IT students and fresh graduates with a head for FinTech and a passion for entrepreneurship are invited to apply through the bank’s website between June 6 and 20, 2021. With only 30 participants to be selected, the race is on to see who could be Oman’s next FinTech superstar. Sherifa Al Maskari, Head of Brand at NBO, said, “We’re excited to begin the selection process for our highly-awaited programme. Oman has a huge pool of young talent and this competition is going to find out what they’re made of! FinTech’s role is becoming more vital than ever, not only in the banking industry but as part of the Sultanate’s vision to be a technologically advanced nation. Innovation Incubator offers young people an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about it, get ahead of the game, and maybe even make it their career.” As part of the bank’s active corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, the programme is aimed at college students and fresh graduates. Selected participants will go through a tailored programme delivered by specially trained NBO employees. At the end of the course, three out of the 30 will be selected to pitch their ideas



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Sherifa Al Maskari
Head of Brand at NBO

to potential investors, connecting them to bigger opportunities. With a range of youth-centred initiatives and programmes including Etimad, Outward Bound Oman, and the Hackathon, NBO continues to foster Oman’s young people and equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to contribute to the development of the nation. To sign up for Innovation Incubator or find out more, visit www.nbo.om/fo.

BANK MUSCAT

Excellent response for Asalah and Al Jawhar referral schemes

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat’s ongoing Asalah and Al Jawhar referral schemes, which were launched by the bank in line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’, have been well received by customers. They offer guaranteed cash prizes to Asalah and Al Jawhar customers for all successful referrals of new customers. All existing Asalah Priority Banking Customers have a chance to win up to OMR 2,000 by simply referring new customers to join Asalah Priority Banking. Those who have a monthly salary of OMR 5,000 or with a savings deposit of OMR 30,000 are eligible to be upgraded to Asalah Priority Banking. Customers can fill up the form available at <https://bm.click/3cZp9HL> and email it to AsalahReferral@bankmuscat.com to take part in the scheme. The salary/deposit transfer of the referred customer should happen within a maximum of 30 days from the date of referral, for the referral to be eligible for participation in the scheme. A cash reward of OMR 100 will be credited directly to the referrer’s and referee’s account for each successful referral maintaining the eligibility criteria of Asalah over the review period. Al Jawhar customers on the other hand have a chance to earn up to OMR 5,000 by referring friends and family members to join Privilege Banking. All existing Al Jawhar customers are eligible to earn an OMR 50 incentive for every successful referral, up to a maximum of 100 referrals. New referrals who successfully open an Al Jawhar account before the scheme ends will also win OMR 50 each making the innovative scheme a win-win deal for



both current and new customers. More details as well as the forms to make referrals are available at <http://bm.click/JawharReferralEN>. Customers can download the form given in the document, fill it up and email it to AlJawharCampaign@bankmuscat.com. It must be noted that Asalah customers enjoy a range of benefits including access to a team of dedicated Relationship Managers, 35 Asalah Centres across Oman and a dedicated 24/7 Asalah Call Centre (24779999). Exclusive lifestyle benefits include the Asalah Entertainer App, which has more than 3,500 “Buy 1 Get 1 free” offers in Oman and at international destinations, as well as rewards of indulgence and merchant discounts across fine dining, entertainment, leisure, and the beauty and wellness segments. Asalah Visa Signature credit cardholders can enjoy airport lounge access at more than 1,000 lounges worldwide, up to 12 times a year, and a 24/7 global concierge service. The Credit Card also offers 1% cash back on purchases as well as free multi-trip travel insurance for customers and their direct family members. It must also be noted that a large number of high-value prizes have been

reserved for Asalah customers in the Al Mazzyona 2021 prize draw scheme including 10 monthly prizes of OMR 25,000 each and 10 mid-year and 10 end of year prizes of OMR 50,000 each. Asalah customers maintaining OMR 30,000 or more in their savings accounts will also be automatically entered into the draw for two mega prizes of OMR 250,000 each during the mid-year draw and the end of year draw. The Al Jawhar Privilege banking experience on the other hand opens a world of opportunities for its exclusive clientele. Al Jawhar customers are eligible for a number of exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the ‘Visa Offers MENA’ app on their smartphones. They have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of OMR 800, the chance to win a fixed salary prize of OMR 500 every month for a year as well as other exclusive and high-value Al Mazzyona prizes that are especially reserved for them in the new 2021 Al Mazzyona scheme. Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers who maintain a minimum balance of OMR 10,000 in their accounts are eligible to win one of the 20 monthly prizes of OMR 5,000 each.

ROUND-UP

ABQ schools shine bright despite COVID-19 related challenges

The three ABQ international schools, ABQ Azzan Bin Qais, ABQ Sohar and ABQ Seeb, were the first to offer Chromebooks to all students to ensure uninterrupted learning, facilitated in the most effective manner

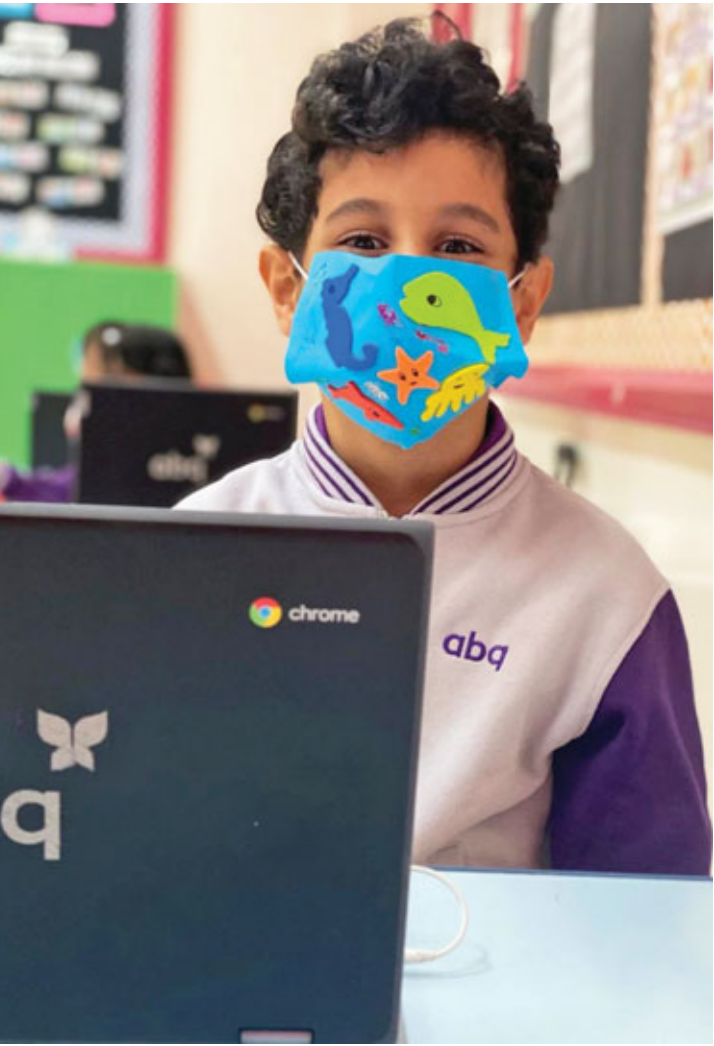
MUSCAT: Responding to the COVID-19 situation with a very comprehensive live online education offering, ABQ Education Group, the largest private school operator in Oman, is setting an exemplar standard in the sector. ABQ Education Group has been at the forefront of hybrid-based education when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Oman in recent times. The three ABQ international schools, ABQ Azzan Bin Qais, ABQ Sohar and ABQ Seeb, were the first to offer Chromebooks to all students to ensure uninterrupted learning, facilitated in the most effective manner. Constantly changing the future of education in Oman schools, under the ambit of ABQ Education Group, are continuously searching for ways to better prepare their students for the future and to identify the skills required to eventually be competitive in a global economy. Whilst they focus on the students in front of them, their eyes are always on the way forward. Humayun Kabir, Chief Executive Officer, ABQ Education Group, says, “Our goal for the students is the acquisition of relevant knowledge, suitable skills, and the ‘can



do’ attitude necessary to continuously learn and adapt in a rapidly changing world. This approach remains, irrespective of the mode of delivery whether it be face-to-face, live online or hybrid learning. We are prepared!” Commending the school for pioneering a strategic and responsive online educational experience for students over the past year, Zahra Mahmood Al Lawati, an ABQ parent said, “We have benchmarked the standard and quality of education at ABQ with other schools. ABQ stands exceptional in serving the community distinctively in the education stream. The same has been witnessed during the pandemic where our children continued so smoothly due to ABQ’s ability to

provide all the necessary platforms for education continuity.” ABQ has invested significantly in securing Chromebooks for all their students, as well as the sourcing of various suitable online resources, additional staff training, and personal protective equipment for all students and staff. This formed part of the tools supplied to all students to successfully complete their academic year, despite the challenges brought about by COVID-19. It is offered to ABQ students at no extra cost to the parents. Appreciating the school on its impeccable education delivery another ABQ parent, Muhammad Saleem, said, “The steps taken by the school to adapt to the new normal, by investing in technological tools to support teaching and

learning, are really appreciated. The teachers deserve commendation for their hard work, commitment, dedication and keeping the students actively engaged in learning.” Humayun Kabir further noted, “We live in a world where the pace of change is constantly accelerating - the past year even more rapidly than before. As an education provider, we cannot prepare our students for this new reality if we ourselves do not evolve and change. The reality of constant change is the fundamental driver of evolution at ABQ.” “We are noticing a significant drop in the standard of education of students currently writing our entrance assessments. COVID-19 has certainly had a direct impact



on the quality of education at many schools. To meet this challenge, we are introducing an innovative programme to ensure that every new student feels ready and equipped to embrace the 2021-22 academic year,” he added. This summer, ABQ is launching an online bridging course, the ABQ Get Ready Programme, for all KG to Grade VI students who join an ABQ school for the first time in September. Once enrolled, each student will receive their own ABQ 1:1 Chromebook laptop and be ready to engage with their specialist teachers. This forms part of ABQ’s ongoing commitment to quality education. Humayun Kabir concludes, “We are optimistic that schools will be able to open physically in Sep-

tember. However, ABQ Azzan Bin Qais, ABQ Sohar and ABQ Seeb are fully prepared for the 2021-22 academic year, irrespective of the mode of delivery required to give our students the best possible learning experience. Going forward, the tools and capabilities we have developed due to COVID-19 will always be part and parcel of our education delivery. The clock will not be turned back.” With over 45 years of cumulative school operating experience and 300+ educators, ABQ has a wealth of knowledge and expertise within their group. This has enabled them to become the largest private school operator in Oman - with 3 schools, more than 3000 students, 400+ staff members and 21 subjects offered.

BOEING 787 DREAMLINER

Qatar Airways to resume service to Sharjah with daily flight

DOHA: Qatar Airways announced that it will resume services to Sharjah, UAE starting July 1 with a daily flight. The Sharjah services will be operated by the airline’s state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner featuring 22 seats in First Class and 232 seats in Economy Class. The resumption of services will enable passengers flying from and to Sharjah to benefit from the airline’s extensive international network in Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas, which currently stands at over 130 destinations with plans to increase to more than 1,200 weekly flights to over 140 destinations by the end of July. Sharjah will be an alternative gateway for passengers to and from the other cities especially Dubai in the UAE. Qatar Airways flight QR1036 will depart from Hamad International Airport at 14:35, arriving at 16:45 to Sharjah. Qatar Airways daily flight QR1037, will depart from Sharjah at 17:55, and arrive at Doha at 18:05. As travellers return to the skies with Qatar Airways, they can take comfort knowing that they are travelling with the only airline in the world that has, together with its state-of-the-art global hub Hamad International Airport,



achieved four 5-Star Skytrax ratings – including the prestigious 5-Star Airline Rating, 5-Star Airport Rating, 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating and 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating. These achievements highlight Qatar Airways’ commitment to providing its passengers with an

industry-leading experience at every point of their journey, including the highest possible level of health and safety standards that safeguard the wellbeing of its passengers both on the ground and in the air. A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named

‘World’s Best Airline’ by the 2019 World Airline Awards, managed by the international air transport rating organisation Skytrax. It was also named ‘Best Airline in the Middle East’, ‘World’s Best Business Class’, and ‘Best Business Class Seat’, in recognition of its ground-breaking Business Class

experience, Qsuite. Qsuite is available on flights to more than 40 destinations including Milan, New York, Paris and Singapore. Qatar Airways is the only airline to have been awarded the coveted ‘Skytrax Airline of the Year’ title, which is recognised as the pinnacle of excellence in the airline

industry, five times. In addition to this, Qatar Airways home and hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA) was ranked the ‘Best Airport in the Middle East’ for the sixth consecutive year and rose to ‘Third Best Airport in the World’ by the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2020.

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