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A NEW APPROACH TO OMAN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Education Ministry has devised a General Framework of Operation of Sultanate's Schools. A set of health procedures termed "Health Protocol" is among the salient features of the new education system. The Health Protocol features the roles of all segments pertaining to the school community, including pupils, teachers and parents. **>A4**



ENSURE ALLOCATION OF FUND BEFORE EXECUTING CONTRACT

The circular instructs the named departments not to float any new tenders or assign any works or enter into any new contractual financial obligations by banking on the current budget. **>A5**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Desist from false claims on sanitisers

1 Hand sanitiser manufacturers and suppliers in Oman have been asked by the Public Authority for Consumer Protection to not publish misleading claims about their products, in order to attract more customers. The consumer protection watchdog added that any hand sanitiser would only receive permission to be displayed on shop shelves, once it had met all of the Ministry of Health's requirements in terms of safety and the health benefits provided to people. **>A3**

SPORTS Thiem, Zverev into US Open men's final

2 Second seed Dominic Thiem of Austria and fifth seed Alexander Zverev of Germany defeated their respective opponents on Friday to reach the US Open men's singles final. Zverev completed a stunning comeback in his semifinal, rallying past Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to reach his first Grand Slam final while Thiem dug deep and displayed his trademark fighting spirit to outlast third seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia 6-2, 7-6(7), 7-6(5). **>A8**

MARKET OMR6.6bn investment in industrial cities



3 Investments for projects in the industrial cities of Madayn were about OMR 6.6 billion until the end of 2019, a growth rate of 1.54 per cent compared to 2018. The General Director of Planning and Business Development in Madayn said, "The amount of growth in the total volume of investments in all industrial cities during the year 2019 amounted to OMR101 million, as Sohar Industrial City had the highest rate of increase in the total volume of other investments of Madayn." **>B1**

HIS MAJESTY



Royal Decree issued to form CBO Board of Governors

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik issued a Royal Decree, No. 117/2020, forming the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

Article (1) structures the Central Bank of Oman's Board of Governors under the chairmanship of Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, and with member-

ship of the following: Minister of Economy as Deputy Chairman, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, Chief Executive Officer of Capital Market Authority, Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan Al-Lawatia, Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Salim Bahwan Al-Mukhaini, Ahmed bin Mohamed bin Abdullah Al-Abri.

The Board's membership will be for 5 years from the date of enforcement of this decree.

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contradicts with its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced with effect from its date of issue. **-OMA**

HIS MAJESTY ISSUED 28 ROYAL DECREES ON AUGUST 18, SELECTING NEW MINISTERS, MERGING SOME MINISTRIES, AND MAKING NEW APPOINTMENTS ON KEY GOVERNMENT POSTS

THE GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING IS AIMED TO ESTABLISH A NEW PHASE IN OMAN'S DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL HELP REACH NEW MILESTONES AND OVERCOME CHALLENGES

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO CREATE JOBS, BOOST GROWTH



Limiting the role of the state's administrative apparatus is in line with Oman Vision 2040

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Welcoming the new appointments made by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Majlis Al Shura members have said that this is in line with Oman's 2040 vision and aimed at boosting the country's growth.

His Majesty issued 28 Royal Decrees on August 18, selecting new ministers, merging some ministries, and making new appointments on key government posts.

In this context, Younis bin Ali Al Mandhari, a member of the Shura Council, representative of

the Wilayat of Izki in Al Dakhliyah Governorate and the chairman of the Youth Committee, said, "The Royal Decrees issued by His Majesty involved merging and establishing of public institutions. The appointments are in line with Oman Vision 2040.

"There is little doubt that what has been implemented through the recent Royal Decrees is in connection with limiting the role of the state's administrative apparatus in line with Vision 2040," he added. "This is what we all hoped for."

Commenting on why this had taken place, he said, "An expanded

government will require more allocation in terms of finances, which in turn puts strain on the state's budget. Reducing government costs is in line with Vision 2040, as well as the current economic conditions experienced around the world, because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Challenges

Al Mandhari also shed light on the key challenges this government needs to address, saying: "Omani society has many aspirations, but to achieve these, we must learn from the failures of the past, including the issue of job seekers, which is a much-discussed topic among people here, as well as on social media.

This is an ongoing issue that has still not been solved, and there is high demand for job creation among fresh graduates and job seekers.

"Appropriate solutions must be found at the earliest, because the number of graduates coming out of colleges and universities every year increases by thousands," he added.

"We also hope that the new government agenda is presented soon, so that we know its priorities and can work towards implementing them. We aim to remove the obstacles for both citizens and residents. There is no doubt that the best evaluators of the government will be citizens and residents of the Sultanate."

Dr Fadhilah Sulaiman Al Ruhaili, the Shura representative for Wilayat Sohar in the North Al Batinah Governorate felt that the plans of His Majesty are geared towards Oman's sustainable development to benefit future generations.

"The government restructuring is aimed to establish a new phase in Oman's development which will

see us achieve new milestones, and overcome challenges," she said.

"Part of the strategies is a national model that underlines the need for a proper framework and responsible performance for all."

Al Ruhaili went on to add: "This paves the way for reviewing and updating the system of legislation and laws in the country, providing mechanisms for work that reinforces professional ethics and help uphold the values and principles of work, and to promote continued innovation and development by creating an administrative structure by adopting a mature mindset and a scientific methodology to provide a clear picture of one's performance."

Adding to this, Nasser Al Farsi, the Shura member for Masirah in South Al Sharqiyah, was confident the new government appointees would carry out the jobs assigned to them by His Majesty. **>A3**

GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLERS

Coming to Oman? Get insured for COVID

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passengers arriving in Oman must have insurance that will cover the costs for at least 30 days of COVID-19 treatment, the country's Civil Aviation Authority has said.

The guidelines were issued by the CAA ahead of the planned reopening of airports in the country, which has been scheduled for 1 October. All passengers are required to follow them to minimise the spread of the disease.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, an official from Oman Airports said: "These precautionary measures at Oman's airports were previously applied for unscheduled flights. Starting 1 October, they will be in place across all scheduled flights."

One month cost coverage

"All incoming passengers must have health insurance that covers the cost of their care for a period of up to one month," said the government authority. "The temperature of all arrivals will be checked, and those who display the symptoms of the coronavirus will be subject to further examination.

"Transfer passengers must



abide by the guidelines issued, both while on board and at the airport," they added. "Incoming passengers must submit all documents required of them, as well as follow the requests made of them by the authorities, which could include taking a medical examination or entering quarantine.

"Physical distancing must be maintained in all areas in the airport, and all those who enter the

country are required to register on the Tarassud Plus COVID monitoring app prior to their arrival," added the CAA.

Currently, non-Omanis are not allowed to enter the Sultanate, without a travel permit issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, based on applications put forward by their sponsors, or the country's national carriers, Oman Air and SalamAir. Only

these two airlines can currently carry transfer passengers.

All arrivals into the country will also be subject to PCR tests, the results of which could take between one and seven days, and must enter 14-day quarantine, during which period they must wear an electronic wristband to monitor their whereabouts.

"Foreign nationals coming to the Sultanate must show confirmation of reserved accommodation, and pay for their 14-day stay in institutional quarantine," the Civil Aviation Authority said, adding that aircrew are currently exempt from institutional quarantine, but must follow the guidelines issued for cabin crew by the Ministry of Health, while foreign diplomats can undergo home quarantine for the aforementioned period.

People are not allowed to wait in the arrivals area of the airport to receive passengers, unless they have been given authorisation to do so. As part of its guidelines, the CAA also recommended that all passengers arriving to and leaving Oman complete whatever procedures they could before coming to the airport.

>A3



UNGA adopts resolution to encourage cooperation in response to COVID-19

A6



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Don't make false claims on sanitisers

Authorities have sought to remind sellers and manufacturers that violations are punishable with imprisonment, as well as a fine

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hand sanitiser manufacturers and suppliers in Oman have been asked by the Public Authority for Consumer Protection (PACP) to not publish misleading claims about their products, in order to attract more customers.

Any hand sanitiser would only receive permission to be displayed on shop shelves, once it had met all of the Ministry of Health's requirements in terms of safety and the health benefits provided to people, PACP added.

A statement from PACP said, "Whether the hand sanitiser is in

the form of gel or spray, it is important for all suppliers and manufacturers to adhere to the laws currently active in Oman, as well as fulfil all of these products in terms of formula, before they can be introduced to the local markets, so that the safety and health of the consumer is guaranteed, while using these products. The authority said that all products of this nature had "to stay away from false or misleading advertising targeted at customers who intended to buy such products, and to ensure the products kept the customer safe from harm, assuming it is used the way it should be."

Those manufacturers and/or suppliers of sanitisers who have

fallen foul of the ministry's regulations have to ensure they begin following them once again within the next 14 days. Violations of this nature are punishable by the imprisonment of those who falsely market such goods, as well as a fine, which is in accordance with Royal Decree No. 66/2014, and the regulations regarding its putting into practice, which is governed by Ministerial Decision No. 77/2017.

"The authority would like to add that it will monitor the sale of sanitisers in the markets, through inspection campaigns and consumer feedback, after which it will accordingly enforce the laws on those found guilty of violating them," added PACP.

ACCIDENT

One person killed in house collapse

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Emergency crews pulled out the body of an expatriate, who'd died after a house collapsed on him. The incident, which took place on 12 September, trapped two people underneath the rubble.

A Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance (PACDA) statement said: "Search and res-

cue teams were asked to deal with a house collapse involving two people of Asian nationality that was reported in Wilayat Muttrah in the Governorate of Muscat,

"One person was provided with emergency medical care, and was subsequently transferred to hospital with moderate injuries, while the other was dead when his body was recovered," added the authority.

ADMINISTRATION

Competent team

"We wish them success in carrying out the tasks entrusted to them by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, may God protect him, and remember that their service is to serve Oman and its people." The new team members are competent and skilled in their areas of specialisation, added Saleh bin Ahmed Al Badi, the chairman of Nakheel Al Shamal LLC. "The formation of the new government is distinctive, as it clearly and obviously shows the competence, specialisation and skill of the new representatives, such as the ministers, undersecretaries, and all those who have been

appointed by the Royal Decrees. It is in the correct sense, a technocratic government, and such governments have a history of achieving clear results, because of a focus on goals and achievement. "This can only be done when you have people with the right capabilities and skills," he added. "Now, we need to choose people with the right competencies in the executive teams of the ministries. There will be a transitional phase as people adjust to the new performance standards, after which there will be the readiness for working towards and achieving Oman Vision 2040."

GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLERS

Comply with rules

"Please comply with the regulations, checks and procedures in force in the country of destination," said the CAA. "It is preferred that passengers complete their pre-travel checks electronically, and also fill out the electronic health declaration form which says you are free of COVID-19 and its symptoms."

Passengers are only allowed to bring one handbag and one duty free bag each, during their time inside the airport, to avoid congestion at security checkpoints. It is also to be noted that while those who plan to travel have to be at the airport at least three and a maximum of four hours before departure, they will not be allowed to enter, should they display any of the COVID symptoms listed by the Ministry of Health.

"All travellers must adhere to wearing masks in the correct manner upon arrival at the airport and for the duration of the flight," added the CAA. "Non-travellers, those who drop passengers to the airport, and members of the public are not allowed to enter the departures building, with the exception of an escort for people with special needs.

"Omanis in the country who

wish to travel overseas must have health insurance that provides coverage for COVID-19, and all travellers will be bound by the rules of their destination country. Nationals and residents can leave the country without the issuance of a travel permit."

The guidelines include steps to be followed both inside the airport and on board the aircraft. These include agreeing to temperature checks, agreeing to enter quarantine if needed, and to inform a doctor of any symptoms of COVID-19 passengers might have, should they experience them.

People within the airport have to commit to social distancing protocols, and follow the instructions listed on floor stickers and wall signs. "Make sure you regularly visit the toilets to wash your hands with soap and water, and ensure you sterilise your hands after exchanging documents with the concerned persons," added the organisation. "Sterilisers are available in all airport areas. Passengers must agree to take off their masks whenever asked by police officers, whether at passport desks, at security checkpoints, or anywhere in the airport."

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BLENDED LEARNING: A NEW APPROACH TO OMAN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM



The Health Protocol features the roles of all the segments pertaining to the school community, including pupils, teachers and parents — who are all exhorted to undertake precautions.

DR. MADEEHA BINT AHMED AL SHIBANI, Minister of Education, has said that the education sector is being accorded great attention by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, notably under the current exceptional conditions.

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to make School Year 2020/2021 as a year of Blended Learning, an approach to education that combines traditional classroom-based methods of teaching with online classes or distance learning through electronic platforms or television channels.

The minister added that, in implementation of the Royal directives, the Ministry of Education continued to exert efforts to prepare plans and programmes for the operation of schools in a manner that guarantees the health and safety of pupils and teaching and administrative staff. The Ministry consults the best regional and international experiences and practices that fit in the Sultanate's educational context, said Dr. Madeeha, noting that the efforts produced the General Framework of Operation of Sultanate's schools.

The minister made the statements during the 15th press conference of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (Covid-19).

During the press conference, the minister outlined plans for the forthcoming School Year 2020/2021 (which starts in full swing by 1 November 2020), noting that the Education Ministry devised a General Framework of Operation of Sultanate's Schools.

The Minister explained that a set of health procedures termed "Health Protocol" is among the salient features of the Sultanate's education system. The Health Protocol features the roles of all the segments pertaining to the school community, including pupils, teachers and parents — who

are all exhorted to undertake precautions like maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks, washing hands, using sanitisers and operating school buses at half capacity.

Another feature of the Sultanate's educational system this year is the School Operation Programme, which endorses the system of hours rather than the system of classes, said the minister, who explained that schools have been put in three categories, depending on density as follows:

- Low density schools that operate with not more than 16 students per class in a day at a rate of 3 hours per 'school day'.
- Medium density schools that operate at a rate of 4 hours a day at half capacity (number of students) during the first week and the other half during the week that follows.
- High density schools operate at a rate of 5 hours a day at one-third capacity in every week. Students have to be put in three sets (to attend in three weeks), except Class 12th students, who will be put in two sets, with the first group attending in the first week and the second in the week that follows.

It is stated clearly that students belonging to medium and high density schools have to continue their education online via educational platforms and television channels during the course of the week in which they stay at home.

The minister explained that the third feature of the educational system in the Sultanate this year pertains to the syllabus and assessment criteria.

The ministry adapted the content of the curricula to 180 days of teaching that imparts knowledge, skills and basic sound values to students. The Ministry also developed a learning assessment system that tallies with the syllabus and styles of direct and on-



line teaching/learning, said Dr. Madeeha, noting that her ministry endorsed an ongoing assessment method and a system of one-time examination to be taken at the end of the school year.

Dr. Madeeha said that the Ministry of Education, as part of its keenness to provide all types of support to teachers, is conducting a number of training programmes to augment the competency of performance in the field of online education.

Dr. Madeeha said that in keeping with the policy of decentralisation, the Ministry granted its directorates general full discretion to undertake precautionary measures to protect the health of students and all other education workers.

The minister pointed out that school buses will operate at half capacity, since the number of students will not exceed 16 in one classroom (low density schools) or half classroom capacity (medium density schools) or one-third of number of students (high density schools). She added that only 97 schools will work with full capacity (in terms of number of students per classroom) because those schools fall beyond the range of internet cover.

Yet the actual presence of students inside classrooms will be subject to assessment in liaison with the Ministry of Health and the Supreme Committee, said the minister, adding that a number of committees have been formed for

The General Framework of School Operation is flexible and, if deemed necessary, schools can be closed and full online education can be applied again. As for students who reside in places that get no internet access, the Ministry will enrich their experience through the operation of specialised television channels.

this purpose to closely follow up the condition of students.

The minister explained that the General Framework of School Operation is flexible and, if deemed necessary, schools can be closed and full online education can be applied again.

As for students who reside in places that get no internet access, the Ministry will enrich their experience through the operation of

specialised television channels.

Dr. Madeeha pointed out that the Health Protocol sets out clear-cut health procedures, including temperature tests, use of sanitisers and application of social distancing inside classrooms. She added that, according to the World Health Organisation, first class pupils need not wear face masks.

Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Saidi, Minister of Health, member of the Supreme Committee, said that Covid-19 infection and mortality rate figures are fluctuating and again started to rise since last week. He explained that the Sultanate is experiencing the first wave, hoping that the new high is provisional, not constant.

A second wave of coronavirus is inevitable, "but we can avoid it through full commitment to precautionary measures (wearing face masks and following up healthy habits), said the minister, adding that the government does not mull partial or total lockdowns. He stressed that any further lockdown that might turn to be necessary in future, God forbids, may entail serious losses for the national economy.

The minister said that a committee was formed last week to devise a plan for the re-opening of mosques and the plan will be announced later by the departments concerned. The Ministry's job is to set precautionary measures for mosques, he added.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, said that the General Framework explains the Blended Learning concept (explained earlier), using classroom teaching, TV channels, CDs and electronic materials, not only online education. He referred to the fact that some bilingual and community schools already started the school year last week because they are linked to international curriculum, but they will revert to direct education by November 1st.

Dr. Saif bin Salim Al Abri, Director-General of Disease Surveillance and Control at the Ministry of Health, said that his ministry is still maintaining epidemiological detection despite the decline of infection cases. A daily report on the number of cases is being maintained because the Ministry detected a rise in number of infection cases in governorates where no high numbers were registered before."

Dr. Saif added that the Ministry of Health submitted (to the Supreme Committee) a list of chronic diseases whose patients can be considered for non-attendance at the workplace or school. This has been made in response to a large number of requests from different parties, he said.

Dr. Zuweina bint Saleh Al-Maskariya, Director-General of the Centre for Educational Assessment, reaffirmed the Education Ministry's keenness to calibrate assessment regulations and documents to come up with a uniform measure of assessment. This is because the volume of syllabus has been cut down by 30 per cent, said Dr. Zuweina, adding that the uniform assessment system will be in favour of students, notably because examinations will be taken at the end of the school year.

-DNA

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Ensure allocation of fund before executing contract

The circular instructs not to float any new tenders or assign any works or enter into any new contractual financial obligations by banking on the current budget

MUSCAT: All the ministries, government units, authorities and public establishments have been told to stick to procedures and ensure the availability of credit allocations in the budget prior to concluding contracts, according to the Financial Circular No. 19/2020 issued by the Ministry of Finance on Thursday.

The circular also advised them to get contract procedures endorsed by the Ministry of Finance in line with the provisions of the Financial Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 47/1998 and its Executive Bylaw issued under Royal Decree No. 36/2008, as well as the provisions of Royal Decree No. 48/1976 on signing foreign and local financial transactions.

The circular instructs the above-mentioned departments not to float any new tenders or as-



DIRECTIVE: The Ministry of Finance directed government units to provide its Treasury Department with detailed statements of all sums expected to be disbursed. - **ONA**

sign any works or enter into any new contractual financial obligations by banking on the current budget. In addition, no operation orders or letters of good intent shall be issued to engage companies or establishments to carry out government projects or offer supply tasks or services unless prior approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Finance. Only after obtaining approval shall the Ministry of Finance be approached for financial ratification procedures.

The Ministry of Finance directed government units to provide its Treasury Department

ment with detailed statements of all sums expected to be disbursed (whether on current, capital or developmental budget) within the cash liquidity approved for each department on a quarterly basis.

The Ministry said it will continue to advise ministries and government units to rearrange their spending priorities in a manner that conforms with available financial resources. It is also asking the departments in question to fully adhere to government directives aimed to cut down general expenditure and limit the State's Budget deficit. - **ONA**

NATURE PARADISE

Daymaniyat Islands - home to rich marine, bird species

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Daymaniyat Islands Reserve is located between the Wilayats of Seeb in the Governorate of Muscat and Barka in the Governorate of South Al Batinah. It is situated about 18 km from Barka and 70 km west of Muscat.

In a statement, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism said: "The Daymaniyat Islands Reserve is a group of nine islands with a total area of 100 hectares. It is distinguished by its beautiful beaches, white sands and turquoise water. Rich in marine life, the



islands possess many types of coral reefs, and is home to a large numbers of sea turtles which lay their eggs on safe and sheltered

beaches. Countless migratory birds come here and local bird species live on the islands in their natural habitat."



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Ministry of Defence
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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SUPPLY OF ANTI-SPAM SOLUTION	31/2020	03/11/2020	10/11/2020	25 RO
SUPPLY OF DIETITIAN ITEMS (NUTRITION & DIETETICS DEPT) FOR AFH-AFH ALKHOUDH, AFH-SALALAH & MAM HOSPITAL	35/2020	13/10/2020	20/11/2020	160 RO
SUPPLY OF CARTRIDGE & EONER	36/2020	06/10/2020	13/10/2020	61 OR

1. Tenders documents can be obtained by following the procedures below:
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Account No : 3107 -201008-500
Bank : Oman Arab Bank
Branch : MAM
Swift Code : OMABOMRU
B. Send the payment notice to the MOD Email: (STC.SG@MOD.GOV.OM)
C. Once the payment notice received, the MOD will send the Tenders documents to the company/supplier.
2. For any inquiries contact the MOD on: (24332937) – (24336507) – (24336508)



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Companies specialized in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tenders documents for the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender No	No E- Tender	Description of Tender	Tender Fee	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date	Grade
PRE/ 20/050	2020/MM /QS-36	Annual Maintenance Contract for Data Center Systems (Re-Tender) (E- Tender)	Rial 25	08/10/2020	26/10/2020	Specialized

Tender Conditions :-

- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically accompanied with an electronic copy of bond issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat municipality. The bond shall be (1%) of the tender value valid for ninety (90) days starting from the last date of bids submission mentioned above. Any tenders which do not meet the required bond shall not be accepted.
- Tender Bonds shall be placed in the Tender Bond Box for E-Tendering in the first floor at Directorate General Of Quantity Surveying and Contracts in Directorate of Purchasing & Assets in Muscat Municipality Building, Ruwi, before 10:00 am as per the date Mentioned in the above table. All envelopes are to be clearly marked with the name of the Tender being presented and no other marks.
- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
- For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@ita.gov.om) or call (+96824166670).



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30,286 REACH



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom said in the media briefing.



COVID-19: WHO chief hails Pakistan
A news story on WHO chief praising Pakistan gathered 1,629 post clicks and reached 30,286 people on Facebook.



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

11,300 VIEWS



THIS ROAD IN MUSCAT MAINTENANCE



The Maghrib Minute wrapup
The Maghrib Minute wrapup received 11,300 views and reached 34,000 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

5,174 VIEWS





The Maghrib Minute wrapup
The Maghrib Minute wrapup in English got 5,174 views and 308 likes on Instagram.



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PEACE TALKS

Taliban releases 22 Afghan soldiers as goodwill gesture

KABUL: The Taliban on Saturday said it has released 22 Afghan soldiers in the southern Helmand province as a goodwill gesture.

"Today in the Helmand province, 22 soldiers of the Kabul administration, who were captured in different battles at different times were released from the prisons of the Islamic Emirate [the Taliban] due to the beginning of the intra-Afghan negotiations and

good intentions ... The expectation from the other side is also to take similar steps and make the most of the opportunities," the Taliban said in a statement. The much-anticipated peace talks between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban have opened in Qatar's capital Doha to end the two decades of war that has killed ten of thousands.

Abdullah Abdullah, the chair-

person of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, said peace can be reached when all sides respect the opinions of each other, adding that it was the time to end the 40-year conflict.

"Welcome to all of you who have come together for Afghan peace. I am speaking here on behalf of as a representative of the President of Afghanistan [Ashraf Ghani]. I thank the Taliban for agreeing to

the talks to the Afghan government. Today is the day to discuss ending the war, ending the pain of Afghans. We have come together to end the 40-years war to end political violence with the Taliban," Abdullah told reporters before the start of negotiations. Topics on the agenda during the talks include a permanent ceasefire, Afghanistan's future political system and a range of social issues. **ANI**

India's COVID-19 tally rises to 4.6mn after 97,570 new cases in last 24 hours

The current death toll due to coronavirus in the country rose to 77,472 after 1,201 deaths due to COVID-19 were reported in the last 24 hours

NEW DELHI: With 97,570 fresh COVID-19 cases reported in India-- the highest spike in new cases in the last 24 hours -- the national coronavirus cases tally has gone beyond the 4.6 million mark, the central government said on Saturday.

With this latest spike, the count stands at 46,59,985 of which, there are a total of 9,58,316 active cases while 36,24,197 patients have been cured/discharged/migrated from the disease, the Union health ministry said.

The current death toll due to coronavirus in the country rose



CORONAVIRUS: With this latest spike, the count stands at 46,59,985 of which, there are a total of 9,58,316 active cases while 36,24,197 patients have been cured.

to 77,472 after 1,201 deaths due to COVID-19 were reported in the last 24 hours.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected state from the infection with 2,61,798 active cases and 28,282 deaths due to COVID-19

while Andhra Pradesh in the second position has a total of 97,338 active cases and 4,702 fatalities.

Tamil Nadu has a total of 48,482 active cases and 8,154 deaths due to COVID-19. Karnataka, on the other hand, has 1,01,556 active

cases and 6,937 deaths. Delhi has a total of 25, 416 active cases, and 4,666 fatalities from the virus.

Over three-fourth of reported COVID-19 cases in India have either recovered or been discharged, the Ministry of Health and Family Wel-

fare (MoHFW) said on Saturday.

In a tweet, Union Health Ministry shared a picture that showed the country's recovery rate at 77.65 per cent while the percentage of active cases stands at 20.7 per cent.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected state from the infection with 2,61,798 active cases and 28,282 deaths due to COVID-19

"The gap between the percentage of Recovered Cases and percentage of Active Cases progressively growing wide. More than 3/4 of total cases (more than 36L) recovered & discharged," the tweet also read.

As per the latest updates, the global coronavirus count stands at 28,331,928 and 913,018 fatalities, according to Johns Hopkins University's latest update.

The US continues to be the worst affected country from the virus with 6,443,227 cases and 192,968 deaths while India continues to be the second-worst affected country from the virus, after Brazil, Johns Hopkins University added further. **ANI**

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION

UN adopts resolution for joint efforts to tackle coronavirus

UNITED NATIONS: The General Assembly on Friday adopted an "omnibus" resolution to encourage international cooperation in response to COVID-19.

The resolution, which was adopted 169-2 with two abstentions, identifies international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity as the only way for the world to effectively respond to global crises such as COVID-19.

It acknowledges the key leadership role of the World Health Organization and the fundamental role of the UN system in catalysing and coordinating the comprehensive global response to COVID-19 and the central efforts of member states.

It supports the UN secretary-general's appeal for an immediate global cease-fire, notes with concern the impact of the pandemic on conflict-affected states and those at risk of conflict, and supports the continued work of UN peacekeeping operations.

It calls on member states and all relevant actors to promote inclusion and unity in response to COVID-19 and to prevent, speak out and take strong action against racism, xenophobia, hate speech, violence and discrimination.

It calls on states to ensure that all human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled while combating the pandemic and that their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are in full compliance with their human rights obligations and commitments. The resolution calls on member states to put in place a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response with a view to strengthening their health system and social care and support systems, and preparedness and response capacities.

It calls on states to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights.

It urges member states to enable all countries to have unhin-



RESOLUTION: It identifies international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity as the only way for the world to effectively respond to global crises such as COVID-19.

dered, timely access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable diagnosis, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, and essential health technologies and their components, as well as equipment, for the COVID-19 response.

It recognises the role of extensive immunisation against COVID-19 as a global public good once safe, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines are available.

It encourages member states to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation necessary to combat COVID-19 and to bolster coordination toward rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines.

It reaffirms the need to ensure the safe, timely and unhindered access of humanitarian and medical personnel responding

to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It strongly urges states to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. It calls on member states to ensure protection for those most affected, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants, and the poor, vulnerable and marginalised segments of the population, and prevent all forms of discrimination.

It calls on member states to counter the increase of sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage.

The resolution calls on member states and other relevant stakeholders to advance bold and

concerted actions to address the immediate social and economic impacts of COVID-19, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

It welcomes the steps taken by the Group of 20 and the Paris Club to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries and by international financial institutions to provide liquidity and other support measures to ease the debt burden of developing countries, and encourages all relevant actors to address risks of debt vulnerabilities.

It emphasises that COVID-19 has disrupted the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and the flow of essential goods, and reaffirms that emergency measures must be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary, that they must not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains. **Xinhua**

BRIGHTER FUTURE

Bahrain, Israel to establish full diplomatic ties, announces Trump



WASHINGTON: Bahrain became the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel. The move comes as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish state into the Middle East.

Trump announced the agreement on Friday, following a three-way phone call he had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

"This is a historic breakthrough to further peace in the Middle East," Trump, Netanyahu and King Hamad said in a joint statement. "Opening direct dialogue and ties between these two dynamic societies and advanced economies will continue the positive transformation of the Middle East and increase stability, security, and prosperity in the region."

Potential for 'regional transformation'

Trump and Netanyahu both held news conferences providing details on the deal.

The US president lauded the deal's potential for "regional transformation," adding that other countries "want to very much

come in." Trump outlined a brighter future for the troubled region.

"The sand was loaded up with blood, now it will be loaded with peace," he said.

In turn, Israel's Netanyahu said he was "moved" by the news of the deal with Bahrain.

"This agreement adds to the historic peace with the United Arab Emirates," Netanyahu said in a statement.

Bahrain will join the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in signing an agreement to normalise relations with Israel next week.

Trump, Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa will take part in a signing ceremony at the White House on Tuesday, according to the US president.

The announcement comes after two weeks of intense lobbying on the part of the Trump Administration, particularly the president's son-in-law and senior advisor Jared Kushner and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, both of whom personally visited the king and crown prince of Bahrain, urging them to open full diplomatic relations with Israel. **ow**



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TRAGIC: There are currently an estimated 100 wildfires raging across 12 western US states.

Wildfires in US state trigger mass evacuation

Hot, dry winds sparked dozens of infernos across the state on the country's northwest Pacific coast

WASHINGTON: More than 40,000 people in the US state of Oregon have fled wildfires and some 500,000 have either been ordered to leave their homes or to prepare to do so, said Governor Kate Brown. The governor's latest statement seems to be dialing back previous announcements by state officials, who said half a million people have already been evacuated.

Officials say hot, dry winds

sparked dozens of infernos across the state on the country's northwest Pacific coast.

"Firefighters are prioritizing life and safety as they battle a record 900,000 acres (364,000 hectares, 3,640 square kilometers) of wildfires," the state's government said in an earlier statement.

Governor Kate Brown told journalists that the exact number of fatalities was not yet known, although a news agency reported

that at least four had been confirmed by local officials.

"We have never seen this amount of uncontained fires across the state," she said

"This will not be a one-time event. Unfortunately, it is the bellwether of the future. We're feeling the acute impacts of climate change."

Wildfires extend to 12 states

There are currently an estimated 100 wildfires raging across 12 western US states.

One fire in Ashland, Oregon, close to the border with California, is being treated by police as possible arson.

"We have good reason to believe that there was a human element to it," Ashland Police Chief Tighe

O'Meara said, "We're going to pursue it as a criminal investigation until we have reason to believe that it was otherwise."

Oregon, Washington and California are the states worse affected by the blazes. At least 10 people have died in California alone in the past two days.

In northern California's Butte County, three people were confirmed to have been killed as firefighters battled flames through the night of Thursday.

Another dozen people are reportedly unaccounted for in the area.

Strong winds have now eased off across much of the state and severe weather warnings lifted for most of California, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. -**rw**

PROTEST

Over 150 arrested as 'Yellow Vests' protesters take to streets in Paris

PARIS: More than 150 people were arrested on Saturday after hundreds of "Yellow Vest" protesters took to streets in the centre of Paris to oppose President Emmanuel Macron's fiscal, economic and social policies.

Paris police department said 154 individuals had been detained by 13:00 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) in the capital for holding screwdriver, ice ax, cutting pliers and knives.

According to local reports, up to 5,000 protesters are expected to gather in the capital, including 1,000 members of the far-left anarchist group known as the "black blocs."

On February 29, the French government decided to ban all public gatherings with more than 5,000 people due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The ban has been extended to October 30.

In a bid to avoid the chaos in the capital, which had turned into battle field in previous "Yellow Vest" action, police prefect Didier Lallement banned two demonstrations in the capital's main avenue, and ordered demonstrators not to gather near the Elysee Palace, the

Paris police department said 154 individuals had been detained in the capital for holding screwdriver, ice ax, cutting pliers and knives

National Assembly and the prime minister's office.

"Demonstrations are possible provided that they take place peacefully, that there is no destruction," said Lallement, calling for respect for barrier gestures.

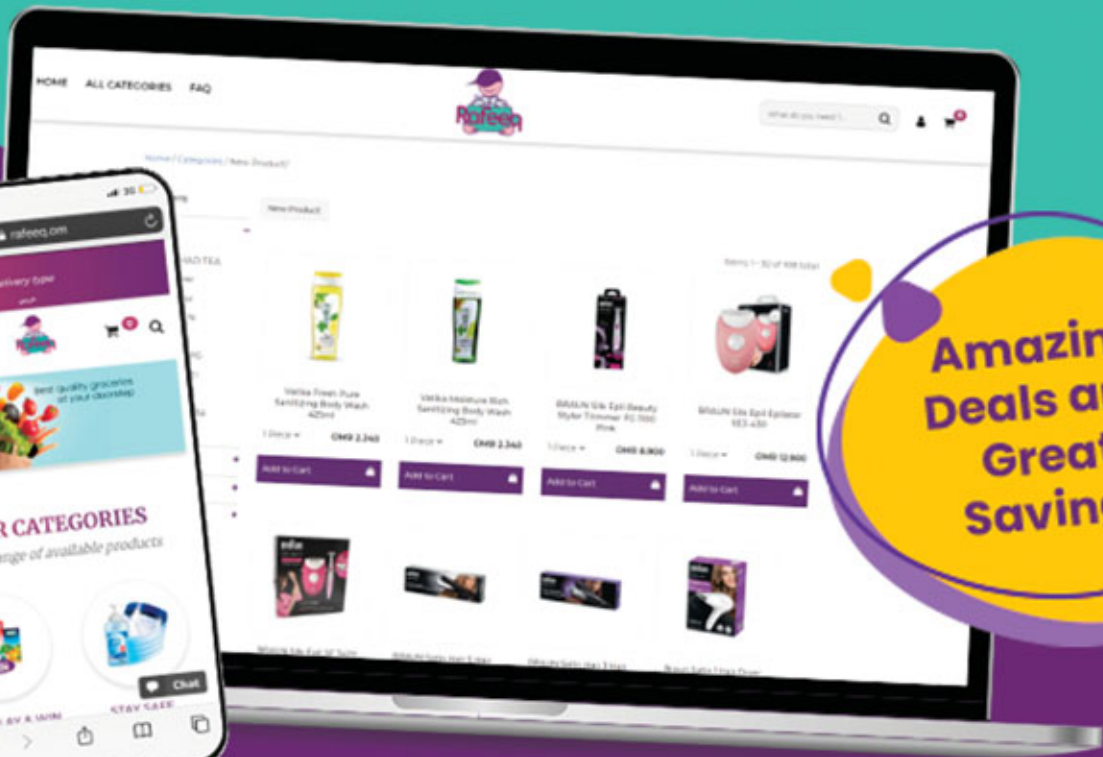
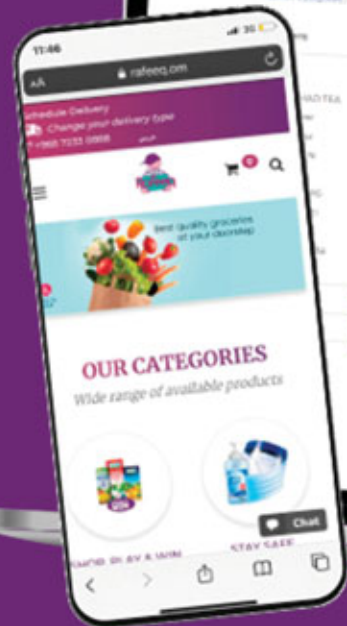
Other protests are also planned in Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon, Lille, Nantes, Nice, Bordeaux and Strasbourg.

The "Yellow Vest" movement, a nationwide protest against weak economic performance and stagnant income increase, started as a campaign against surge in fuel prices in November 2018. **Xinhua**





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SPORTS



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Thiem sets up summit clash with Zverev in US Open final

Zverev completed a stunning comeback in his semifinal, rallying past Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to reach his first Grand Slam final while Thiem dug deep and displayed his trademark fighting spirit to outlast third seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia 6-2, 7-6(7), 7-6(5)



WASHINGTON: Second seed Dominic Thiem of Austria and fifth seed Alexander Zverev of Germany defeated their respective opponents on Friday to reach the US Open men's singles final. Zverev completed a stunning comeback in his semifinal, rallying past Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain

FIGHTING SPIRIT: Both Thiem and Zverev are seeking their first ever Grand Slam title, and Thiem might have a slight mental advantage, winning the past three matches against the German. — Xinhua

3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to reach his first Grand Slam final while Thiem dug deep and displayed his trademark fighting spirit to outlast third seed Daniil Medvedev of

Russia 6-2, 7-6(7), 7-6(5). After the first two error-strewn sets, Zverev drastically reduced his unforced errors and took control of the semifinal.

"I was looking at the scoreboard when I was down two sets to love. I was like, 'I cannot believe it. I'm playing in a semifinal where I'm supposed to be the favorite and I'm

down two sets to love and I have no chance'. I'm playing that bad and I knew I had to come up with better tennis. I knew I had to be more stable," Zverev said.

"I started taking the ball much earlier. I started taking the ball more on the rise. I started giving myself the chance to be the one that is aggressive," Zverev added. "I think in the first few sets, Pablo was the one dictating much more than I did. This is how the match slowly turned around."

Head-to-head series

With the win against Medvedev, the 27-year-old Thiem improved to 3-1 in his head-to-head series with the Russian star and is entering his fourth Grand Slam final.

"I love these big matches. To face the best guys in the world is what I do the hard work for at home and in the off-season," Thiem said. "After the first set, it was great tennis from both of us. I could have easily been down two-sets-to-one. I'm really happy to be through. It was a great semifinal."

Both Thiem and Zverev are seeking their first ever Grand Slam title, and Thiem might have a slight mental advantage, winning the past three matches against the German.

"It's all or nothing," Thiem said. "It's going to be a completely open match. I'm really looking forward to that. We have such a great friendship and rivalry. It's amazing that we're going to face each other in a Grand Slam final."

In women's doubles, German player Laura Siegemund and Russian veteran Vera Zvonareva defeated third seeds Nicole Melichar of the United States and Xu Yifan from China in straight sets to win the title.

— Xinhua

CRICKET

Australia record first CWC Super League points with 19-run win

MELBOURNE: Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh each registered 70s with the bat before Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa took seven wickets between them to seal the win despite a maiden ODI century from Sam Billings.

Returning to the side having missed the final T20I with a dislocated finger, England captain Eoin Morgan won the toss and elected to bowl first.

Jofra Archer produced a peach of a delivery to take the top of David Warner's off stump to provide England with an early breakthrough. Aaron Finch also fell within the first Powerplay, nicking off to Mark Wood's first delivery.

Marcus Stoinis, batting at three in the absence of Steve Smith who was left out as a precautionary measure after taking a blow to the head while training on Thursday, raced to 43 before he fell in a similar fashion to his captain to the same bowler.

Marnus Labuschagne and Alex Carey both fell to Adil Rashid, who has now claimed eight wickets across four matches against Australia this year, before Marsh and Maxwell came together.

By the time Archer removed Maxwell, the all-rounder had already racked up 77 runs from 59 balls and the pair had more than



SUPER LEAGUE: The result means that Australia have registered their first points in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League from their first match in the tournament, moving equal with Ireland on 10 points. — ICC

doubled the score, from 123/5 to 249/6. Wood trapped Marsh in front before he was able to really tee off at the death, but Mitchell Starc's innings, including a last-ball maximum, lifted the total to 294/9.

Chasing what would have been a record chase at Old Trafford in ODIs, England's reply quickly fell into trouble as Josh Hazlewood claimed the wickets of Jason Roy and Joe Root to reduce the host to 13/2 after 7.1 overs.

Morgan managed to get the innings moving with a brisk 23 before he fell to Adam Zampa, who then had Jos Buttler caught in his next over to leave England again needing to rebuild.

A pair of sixes

Jonny Bairstow combined with Sam Billings and after a period in which both batsmen struggled to find their timing, the opener got going with a pair of sixes off Zampa. But it was also the leg-spinner

who put an end to Bairstow's charge after 84 runs and 107 balls.

Billings took the lead then, and kept England in with an outside chance even as wickets tumbled at the other end. The Kent batsman reached his maiden ODI century but was unable to keep up with the rate, and eventually fell for 118 from the final ball of the innings as Australia sealed a 19-run victory.

The second ODI will be played on Sunday, 13 September, at the same venue. — ICC

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Hazlewood elated with his performance against England's top order

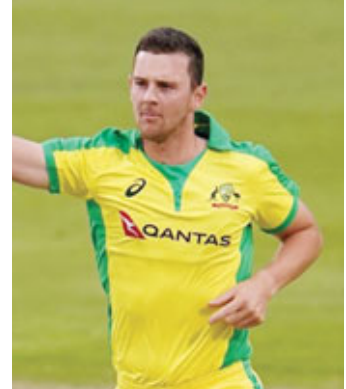
MELBOURNE: After guiding Australia to a 19-run win over England in the first ODI, pacer Josh Hazlewood exuded confidence and said he was very happy with his performance against England's top order.

Hazlewood took three wickets and gave away just 26 runs in the match. He dismantled England's top order dismissing Jason Roy and Joe Root for single-digit scores. "I think it's right up there for me. I've got a couple of five-fers in one-day cricket over the years but against this line-up, this top order, to bowl that well on this wicket, I was very happy with how they were coming out," cricket.com.au quoted Hazlewood as saying.

"England's top order has probably been the form top order of the last three or four years so it's a good measure of where you're at," he added.

Hazlewood was adjudged the player of the match for his spectacular bowling performance. The right-handed bowler credited accuracy and length for his scintillating spell with the new ball.

"The length I hit was really good, I didn't try to do too much at all - it was just about being accurate and the wicket was probably nipping around a little bit and do-



Josh Hazlewood. — ANI

ing enough," Hazlewood said.

"I looked at the way they bowled a little bit. It did a bit early on so we were expecting the new ball to not really swing much - it was quite windy - so it was just about hitting the wicket hard, getting a bit of variable (movement) up and down, as well as sideways," he added.

With this win, the visitors have gained a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series and have also registered their first points in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League.

The two teams will next lock horns in the second ODI on Sunday, September 13 at the same venue. — ANI

TENNIS

Azarenka ousts Serena, books final clash with Osaka



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus. — Xinhua

WASHINGTON: Former world number one Victoria Azarenka of Belarus rallied to beat 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams of the United States in the US Open on Thursday to reach her first Grand Slam final since 2013, where she will play 2018 champion Naomi Osaka.

"Seven is my favourite number, so I guess it's meant to be," Azarenka said, joking about the gap between major final appearances. "I'm very grateful for this opportunity, to be able to play such a champion in a semifinal. The road to the final requires you to beat the best players, and today was definitely that day."

Two-time Grand Slam winner Azarenka seemed headed for an agonizing loss after being hammered 6-1 by Williams in the first

set, but the 31-year-old turned the tide, raising up her level and reducing the unforced errors before securing the 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

"She dug me in a big hole in the first set. I had to climb my way out of there one by one, and I was happy to turn it around, because it wasn't easy. I think it's the daily work I've been doing to find that calm mind and match it with an excited body, because I had to keep moving and bringing the energy. There's no crowd to get energy from, so I had to give it to myself," Azarenka said. Azarenka will play Japanese star Osaka in the women's final. In the other semifinal, Osaka overpowered American 28th seed Jennifer Brady 7-6 (7-1), 3-6, 6-3 to reach her second US Open final in three years.

The Japanese superstar fired 35

winners to 17 unforced errors to take down the American. "Sometimes I think I have no choice but to play as hard as I can, because my opponent isn't giving me any looks," Osaka said of the hard-fought match. "For me, normally if I focus that much, then the match potentially could be over in two. But I felt like it just kept going on."

In a showdown between two clinical power-hitters, Osaka and Brady split the opening two sets, with Osaka claiming the tiebreak in the first and Brady taking the sole breaking chance in the second. In the decider, the 22-year-old Osaka finally created her first break chances, and converted en route to a 4-1 lead. After that, Osaka never looked back.

"I consider New York my second home, I really love the atmosphere,

even though sadly there are no people here, I really feel this court really suits me well," Osaka said.

In the men's doubles final, Brazilian Bruno Soares and Mate Pavic of Croatia defeated eighth seeds Nikola Mektic from Croatia and Dutch player Wesley Koolhof 7-5, 6-3 to take the title.

It's the first Grand Slam title for Pavic and Soares as a team as both men had previously won majors with different partners.

"It means a lot. That's what we practice for. That's what we were trying to do in these five months off, working for this moment," Soares said. "Extremely happy. Tough year for everyone. Really glad the work that everyone put into this event to give us the opportunity to get back on the court," he added. — Xinhua

INDIA'S AUTO INDUSTRY

Sales of passenger vehicles rose by 14.16 per cent during August in India, as compared to the same month last year, thereby showing a positive sign of growth in the auto sector, said the latest data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. - **Xinhua**

MARKE

BUSINESS & FINANCE



OMAN'S OIL PRODUCTION

Average daily production of crude oil in Oman during August 2020 reached 720,300 barrels according to the monthly report by the Ministry of Oil and Gas. The daily average of August oil production has increased by 7.26 per cent month-on-month.

Investment in Madayn industrial cities reached OMR6.6bn in 2019

Besides, the workforce number at the end of 2019 reached 61,213, with 34 per cent Omanisation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total investment volume in Madayn's various industrial cities touched OMR6.6 billion by the end of 2019 marking a growth rate of 1.54 per cent compared to the same period in 2018, according to a senior official of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn).

Besides, the number of the workforce at the end of 2019 reached 61,213, with an Omanisation percentage touching 34, said Hasan bin Marhoon Al Marhoon, Director General of Planning and Business Development at Madayn.

"Through the development of Madayn Vision 2040, we aim at establishing world-class business cities while maintaining the Omani identity. Madayn aims at emphasising its role in promoting comprehensive and sustainable economic and social development through enhancing public-private partnership to develop and operate integrated business cities," Al Marhoon pointed out.

The number of investment projects in the industrial cities reached 2,313 projects at the end of 2019, of which 1,759 are existing projects, 285 are under construction and 269 projects have been allocated with spaces. Moreover, the total area of Madayn's industrial cities reached 114,306,724 square metres by the end of 2019 with a utilisation rate of 52 per cent of the total investable area.

Al Marhoon elaborated that the growth amount in the total volume of investments in all the industrial cities during 2019 amounted to OMR101 million. Sohar Industrial City had the highest increase in total investments during 2019 compared to the other industrial cities of Madayn. "The total investments in Sohar Industrial City increased by OMR24 million, bringing the cumulative volume of the



INVESTMENT PROJECTS: The number of investment projects in the industrial cities reached 2,313 at the end of 2019, of which 1,759 are existing projects, 285 are under construction and 269 projects have been allocated with spaces. - **Supplied picture**



investments by the end of 2019 in Sohar OMR2.2 billion compared to OMR2.1 billion at the end of 2018. This increase is attributed to the investments of companies that were introduced in Sohar Industrial City during 2019," he said.

The number of workforce increased by 1,143 during 2019 compared to 2018, marking a growth rate of 2 per cent. Al Rusayl and Sohar Industrial Cities account for nearly two-thirds of the total workforce within Madayn's industrial cities. The percentage of the workforce in the two industrial cities is 35 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

Al Marhoon added that 102 projects have been localised during 2019 at various stages of imple-



mentation, noting a growth rate of 4.6 per cent compared to 2018. Of these projects, 76 per cent are existing projects, 12 per cent are under construction. These projects vary in terms of activities, as 58 per cent are industrial projects, 20 per cent are commercial projects, 14 per cent are service and logistical projects, 7 per cent are technical and 1 per cent are housing and real estate projects.

Additionally, Al Buraimi Industrial City topped the other industrial cities in terms of the total number of projects. By the end of 2019, the number of projects in Al Buraimi Industrial City touched 508 and is followed by Sohar Industrial City with 416 projects.

In 2019, around 9.7 million square meters were added as an expansion to Madayn's gross area. With this expansion, Madayn's total area reached nearly 114 million square metres, compared to 104 million square metres at the end of 2018.

Al Marhoon explained that the year 2019 witnessed the implementation of Madayn's approach of public-private partnership as the management and operation of Al Rusayl Industrial City was transferred to Oman Investment and Development Holding Company (Mubadrah). With this approach, the development of infrastructure and superstructure in the industrial city has accelerated as phase (2A) was launched

at a cost exceeding OMR32 million, as well as the redevelopment and rehabilitation project of the entrances to Al Rusayl Industrial City and the introduction of new entrances to be in line with the business growth and demand at Al Rusayl at a cost of approximately OMR3 million.

Additionally, the logistics project has been completed at Al Rusayl Industrial City at a value of more than OMR5 million. Moreover, the company has begun preparing technical and consulting studies for the development of phase (2B) and rehabilitation of the entire old area, which extends to nearly 5 million square metres. Al Marhoon emphasised that by the end of the current year, the experience of privatising Al Rusayl Industrial City will be evaluated from all aspects.

Investment regulations

Al Marhoon affirmed that Decision No. 169/2020 issued in May this year, which amended some provisions of the investment regulations in Madayn's industrial cities, has granted more powers to Madayn and more advantages and incentives to the investment environment in the industrial cities. This amendment will undoubtedly contribute to localising more local and foreign investments in the various industrial cities, says Al Marhoon.

The investment regulations play a key role in setting rules, procedures and legislative frame-

works to organise the process of attracting local and international industrial developers to invest in building, managing and operating specialised investment cities; determining the period of usufruct contracts and investment agreements for developers to be 99 years according to the project; and opening the way to attract global and regional experiences and expertise in the field of building, managing and operating economic cities, and organising the contracting with them according to management and operation agreements of up to 25 years.

The regulations also grant the management of the industrial cities in the various governorates full authority to approve investment applications of up to 100,000 square meters for industrial lands. Besides, the regulations set a maximum period of ten days to answer the investor regarding the investment request and specify 30 days from the date of approval of the investment application to sign contracts and complete investment procedures in Madayn's various industrial cities.

The investment regulations link the practice of investment activities in the industrial cities with activity license that is renewed annually, and this shall not be granted or renewed except to investors who meet the conditions specified in the law.

One of the major conditions is achieving the Omanisation rate in the projects. The rights of investors and obligations are clearly defined and so are Madayn's obligations towards investors. Moreover, the cancellation or suspension of the license is only made in specific and restricted cases in a manner that guarantees the interests of investors and does not threaten their investment activities.

Al Marhoon added that to ensure Madayn's commitment to development and use of best management practices in providing services, the investment regulations include specific dates and periods for granting approvals and licenses. The regulations clarify that lease contracts are set for investors for 30 years, renewable for a similar period, and restrictions have been put in place for subletting and not allowing except the license holder to engage in any activity inside the industrial cities to limit shadow investment and not perform any activities that conflict with applicable laws and regulations.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



NCSI DATA: The inflation rate of August rose by 0.13 per cent compared to July 2020. - **File photo**

Oman's inflation falls 1.3% in August

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation declined by 1.34 per cent in August 2020 compared to the same month in 2019, according to the latest data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) on CPI.

According to the report, the inflation rate of August rose by 0.13 per cent compared to July 2020.

The food and non-alcoholic beverages group witnessed a price rise by 0.40 per cent; health by 0.29 per cent; and education by 2.21 per cent. The prices of furnishings, household equipment, and routine household maintenance also rose by 0.23 per cent.

However, the prices of housing,

water, electricity, gas, and other fuels fell by 0.42 per cent; communication by 0.02 per cent; miscellaneous goods and services by 1 per cent; and restaurants and hotels by 0.32 per cent in August 2020 compared to the same month of 2019.

Meanwhile, among foods and non-alcoholic beverages category, a marked rise was witnessed in the price of fruit; vegetables; and meat by 1.98 per cent; 2.72 per cent; and 1.49 per cent, respectively. However, the price of bread and cereals; fish and seafood; and milk, cheese and eggs fell by 0.08 per cent; 4.93 per cent and 0.49 per cent, respectively. Non-alcoholic beverages registered a price rise of 0.21 per cent. - **ONA**

MADAYN

Opportunities in innovation, scientific research explored in Sohar Industrial City

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Intending to explore opportunities in scientific research, innovation and technical and vocational training in the industrial cities, Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, visited Sohar Industrial City, which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn.

Al Mahrouqiyah was accompanied by Dr Muna bint Salim Al Jardaniyah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Vocational Training, Dr Bakhait bin Ahmed Al Mahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Higher Education, Dr Saif bin Abdullah Al Haddabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Research and Innovation, and Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, CEO of Madayn.

During the meeting, Eng. Abdullah bin Salim Al Kaabi, Director General of Sohar Industrial City, elaborated on the key development indicators and current projects in the industrial city, stating that, "During 2019, the volume of investments in So-



MEETING: Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, visited the Sohar Industrial City. - **Supplied picture**

har Industrial City amounted to OMR2,165,632,684 with an estimated growth rate of 1.16 per cent compared to 2018. Sohar Industrial City had the highest increase in the total volume of investments during 2019 compared to other industrial cities of Madayn, as the total investments during 2019 increased by OMR24 million. This increase in the total investments of Sohar Industrial City is owed to the investments of companies that were introduced in the industrial city during 2019."

The number of workforce in Sohar Industrial City during the same year exceeded 17,000 with an Omanisation rate of 36 per cent. "By the end of 2019, the number of projects touched 416

in Sohar Industrial City, of which 285 are existing projects, 72 are under construction, and 59 projects were allotted with space. It should be noted that the total area of Sohar Industrial City during the same period reached 29,883,548 sqm, of which 21,157,520 sqm have already been developed," Al Kaabi pointed out.

The visit included a tour at phase 7 of Sohar Industrial City, which is being implemented by Madayn on an area of 8.5 million sqm. The project includes road works, water and sewage networks, sewage treatment plant, rain drainage channels, water tanks in addition to safety and security requirements.

The Minister of Higher Edu-

cation, Research and Innovation also visited Sohar Aluminium Company, which was formed in September 2004 to undertake a landmark greenfield aluminium smelter project in Oman.

Moreover, the minister visited Omani Euro Food Industries Company, which was established in 1997 at Sohar Industrial City. The company is manufacturing HACCP & ISO 22000-2005 certified baby food and health food, which include baby cereals, biscuits, rusks, among other products. The company is implementing all food quality and safety requirements in addition to hygiene and public health procedures to match the highest international quality standards.

MARKET

Oman’s daily crude oil production reaches 720,300 barrels in August



MONTHLY REPORT: The per day average exported quantities of Oman Blend crude oil was reported at 744,736 barrels, a drop of 4.3 per cent compared to the previous month. - **File photo**

The daily average of August oil production has increased by 7.26 per cent month-on-month compared with July 2020 daily average production

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Average daily production of crude oil in Oman during August 2020 reached 720,300 barrels according to the monthly report by the Ministry of Oil and Gas. The daily average of August oil production has increased by 7.26 per cent month-on-month compared with July 2020 daily average production. Furthermore, the per day average exported quantities of Oman Blend crude oil was reported at 744,736 barrels, a drop

of 4.3 per cent compared to the previous month. Throughout August, out of the total Oman Export Blend, China’s imports has declined by 2.58 per cent month-on-month, compared to July 2020. Similarly, India’s import percentage has weakened and dropped by 9.03 per cent month-on-month. Nevertheless, the August imported volume has witnessed some movements from Myanmar, Japan and Malaysia in purchasing Oman Blend. Oil prices for all reference crude oil grades around the world have experienced a bullish trend during the trading days of August 2020, for October 2020 delivery, compared with the trading of July 2020. The average price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) Crude Oil at the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) settled at \$42.75 per barrel, an increase of \$1.84 only. Whereas the average price of North Sea Oil (Brent) at the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) in London averaged \$45.02 per barrel, a rise of \$1.80 only compared with trading during July 2020. The average price of Oman’s Crude Oil futures contract at Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME) simi-

larly increased by 1.6 per cent compared to the previous month. The monthly official selling price for Oman Crude oil for October 2020 delivery, traded during August 2020, was announced to be \$44.32 per barrel, an increase by \$0.70 compared to July 2020 official selling price. The daily trading marker price ranged between \$42.85 per barrel and \$45.74 per barrel. Crude oil prices experienced an overall optimistic sentiment during the trading of August 2020 due to several factors, which had a direct and positive impact on prices. The main factors that supported positive trading sentiments were significantly the decrease in US inventories and the devaluation of the US dollar’s exchange rate. Besides, the full commitment of Opec + producers with their global agreement on cuts in July. What helped in the price increase was also a statement by US officials that China adhered to the first stage of the trade agreement between the two countries. Also, the suspension of more than half of the production in the offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico before Hurricane Laura.

AUTO SECTOR

India’s automobile industry shows signs of growth as sales rise by over 14% in August

NEW DELHI: Sales of passenger vehicles rose by 14.16 per cent during August in India, as compared to the same month last year, thereby showing a positive sign of growth in the auto sector, said the latest data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). In all, 215,916 units of passenger vehicles were sold in the previous month, compared to 189,129 units sold in August last year, according to the SIAM data released late on Friday. Industry insiders said this was a good signal of the revival of the Indian economy in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic and the prior overall economic slowdown. Normally, October-November is the festive months in India when most people indulge in buying, particularly vehicles. The growth in sales of vehicles during August is also seen as a big boost ahead of the festive season. The SIAM data also revealed that the total production of passenger vehicles, including 3-wheelers, 2-wheelers and Quad-



REVIVAL SIGN: 215,916 units of passenger vehicles were sold in the previous month, compared to 189,129 units sold in August last year, according to the SIAM data. - **Photo used for illustrative purpose only.**

ricycle in August was 2,162,367 units, as against 2,231,355 units in August 2019 with a decrease of 3.09 per cent. A total of 14,534 3-wheelers were sold in August, compared to 58,818 units sold in August 2019, marking a decrease of 75.29 per cent.

However, 2-wheeler sales were 1,559,665 units in August, compared to 1,514,196 units in August 2019, showing a growth of three per cent. Meanwhile, owing to the lockdown imposed with effect from March 25, the overall sales in the current financial year (April-August)

have been dismal as compared to the same months last year. According to the SIAM data, a total of 552,429 passenger vehicles were sold in April-August, compared to 1,091,928 units sold in April-August 2019, showing a decrease of 49.41 per cent. - **Xinhua**

BEST INDUSTRY PRACTICES

Reserve Bank of India issues new compliance guidelines for banks

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued new guidelines for banks to tighten their compliance functions and ensure that chief compliance officers (CCOs) follow the best industry practices as required by supervisory expectations. Banks currently follow diverse practices in this regard, it said. “The policy should lay special thrust on building up to compliance culture, vetting of the quality of supervisory and regulatory compliance reports to RBI by the top executives, non-executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board and Audit Committee of the Board (ACB) as the case may be.” The policy should be reviewed at least once a year, said the RBI. Besides, banks need to have a board-approved compliance policy spelling out its compliance philosophy, expectations on compliance culture taking into account accountability, incentive structure, and effective commu-

The CCO could be hired from the market with age not over 55 years and experience of at least 15 years

nication and challenges. In addition, the central bank said the CCO should be appointed for at least three years and the ACB, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer should factor in this requirement while appointing a CCO. The CCO could also be recruited from the market with age not more than 55 years and overall experience of at least 15 years in the banking or financial services. Of this, a minimum of five years should be in the related management functions, said the RBI. - **ANI**

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PARIS AGREEMENT

Mena investors have a key role in the drive towards net-zero by 2050

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Investors based in the region play an important role in helping the drive towards net zero 2050 as they must challenge the corporate pledges to reduce emissions, according to investment experts at Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI). Growing numbers of countries, cities and companies in MENA and around the world have pledged to become net-zero by 2050 to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. Global estimates suggest, collectively, these net-zero pledges represent nearly 25 per cent of world emissions and 50 per cent of global output. In some sectors, cost-effective technologies exist to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero through electrification. However, for industries like aviation, construction materials and agriculture, reducing emissions to zero will be technically complex, impossible or prohibitively expensive, and so residual emissions will remain. In July Saudi Aramco, the world’s biggest oil company pledged to reduce the carbon intensity of their fossil fuel production to between 20 and 21kg of carbon dioxide per barrel of crude by 2025, or 13 per cent below 2017 levels. The pledge is part of its commitment to the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) which



includes Shell, BP and ExxonMobil. And earlier this year Etihad Airways committed to a minimum target of zero net carbon emissions by 2050 and halving of its 2019 net emission levels by 2035. Eva Cairns, ESG Investment Analyst at ASI said, “The concept of net-zero means these residual emissions need to be removed from the atmosphere through negative-emission technologies, including carbon capture and storage, or natural carbon sinks such as forests. “However, many negative-emission technologies cannot currently operate at scale, so companies may pledge net zero to signal their future intentions. This makes it difficult to hold companies to account for emission reductions. “Moreover, the extent of negative emissions required to satisfy the Paris agreement depends on the cli-

mate change scenario chosen and assumptions about policy and technological developments. Hence, there is huge uncertainty on how exactly we might attain net-zero. “To help investors understand the substance behind net-zero pledges, it is useful to understand the scope; genuine emission reduction versus offsets; and, if pledges are reflected in today’s actions.” Most businesses pledge net-zero on their Scope 1 and 2 emissions - the direct emissions from their operations and energy consumption. But Scope 3 emissions, which includes upstream supply chain emissions and downstream emissions from products sold, must also be considered. In sectors like oil and gas, automobiles and financial services, most of the emissions are Scope 3. For example, 85 per cent of oil and gas emissions are Scope 3. Companies have no direct control over these emissions and largely rely on policymakers to set the right incentives. Some companies choose to offset their emissions through voluntary offsetting schemes, but credibility is crucial and any offsetting scheme must meet specified criteria to be externally verified. Eva continued: “One issue is that it’s currently far cheaper to offset emissions than to invest in sustainable long-term solutions that will genuinely reduce carbon. However, expected growth in de-

mand for offsets should ultimately push up the price to the optimal Paris-aligned figure. “For example, in 2019, EasyJet announced it was offsetting its flight emissions over three years for £25 million per year. This equates to £3 per tonne of CO2 - a cheap way out. While arguably better than nothing, could the £25 million be spent more effectively on advancing decarbonisation solutions for the industry? “Another problem is that around 60% of all offset schemes require land. Shell estimates that, for the energy sector alone, an area about the size of Brazil would need to be reforested to reach net-zero by 2070. There are also social implications, given people may need to be displaced to enable such large-scale planting.” Edris Alrafi, Head of Middle East & Africa for ASI said, “Many governments in the region have pledged towards the net-zero 2050 commitments and have developed sustainable visions for the country that organisations and businesses must align to, thereby helping to create one unified drive towards net zero. “However, active investors in MENA also have an important role in challenging the alignment of projects to net-zero pledges by asking how targets have been factored into capital investment decision-making.

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Heavy equipment spare parts Co. Hiring below posts.Accountant with experience & Good skills (INDIAN & PHILIPINO Nationals only)Sales Man (PAKISTANI & INDIAN National only). Send CV - vacancy.aro@gmail.com

Looking for Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter, Foreman, Office Staff. Contact 24709144 Email atf24704415@gmail.com

SKILLED/UNSKILLED

Looking for a gardener knows skill of propagating plants, pruning & training. Experience in green house is must working with plants, vegetable & flowers. Basically junior horticulturist. Contact 99466062

MEDICAL

Staff nurse required with MOH License for a Clinic at Ruwi.Mail CV to asainabery@gmail.com

SALES / MARKETING

Urgently required for Manufacturing industry, **Sales executive** with min. 8yrs exp in the field of construction industry, building material, electrical products and should have good knowledge of Sales in the local market with valid GCC driving license, age limit below 35yrs Email : vacancyinoman123@gmail.com

Salesman for Kitchen Company, marketing skill, computer knowledge, driving license prefer. Contact 99520598. Email alrashidtrading@gmail.com

Looking for Indoor salesperson (M/F) for Sports shop - Contact by whatsapp only 99321960

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ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

Electrical Engg. Diploma / ITI Electrical, with 5-6 years' industrial experience

Send CV to:
info@omanipackaging.com or Fax - 24446654

REQUIRED

Certified Male Senior Accountant

for a Real Estate company in Muscat with high communication skills with clients. Minimum 5 years' experience in Oman.

To apply:
aldent@omantel.net.om

JOB VACANCIES

WANTED LICENCED OPERATOR

for Grader, Load-all / Tele Handler, Mechanic for Heavy equipment

Contact 99310448 / 99333506 / 95208455

E mail:
support@afaqwadi.com

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Part time Accountant doing upto finalization. Contact 99019491

Accountant with good experience upto finalisation lookong for job. NOC&DL available. # 95380650

Accountant cum Inventory Controller with 15 yrs experience capable to manage from quotation till finalization on tally. NOC available. Contact 96414771

Looking Accountant job Senior position, 10 yrs experience DL. Contact 79202007

Senior Accountant with 7 years experience upto finalization of accounts well knowledge of tally erp nd MS excel Having Oman valid D/L. Contact no: 93346724 Email Mariamrash123@gmail.com

CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Mechanical Engineer

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

E-mail: ja2377e@gmail.com

ACCOUNT/ADMIN

Omani 6 yrs exp in Account/Admin with diploma.

Contact 99340475 saidzadjali@gmail.com

SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR – CIVIL ENGINEERING

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

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

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Admin / HR. **Contact 95425764**

Indian Male, 12 Yrs. experience in Oman, seeks job for HR/Admin/Office Asst./Secretary. **Contact 96992190 / 97841713**

Indian female, 14 yrs experience in leading automotive industry as sales coordinator, office assistant and secretary. Looking for suitable position and ready to join immediately with NOC. **Contact 91791424**

31 year Female MBA with Omani DL, seeks placement in Admin or Finance. **Contact 96711850**

Omani male seeks PRO position with reputable company. 14 yrs experience, excellent references. Clean driving licence. Fluent in Arabic, English & Hindi. **Contact 92049106, 95422144**

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Autocad draughtsman 14 yrs experienced in Oman seeking job. **Contact 96395748**

DRIVER

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

Bangaldeshi looking driver job. **Contact 99007210, 96409814**

Looking for driver's job having 3 yrs experience in Oman Market. Languages know English, Hindi& Arabic. **Contact 96701574, 9899350**

Looking for heavy driver job. **Contact 94087276**

Looking for driving job. 5 yrs experience with Car. **Contact 96176918**

Looking job for driver, 5 yrs experience in Oman market. Languages known English, Arabic, Hindi. **Contact 79163077**

Looking for driving job, having 6 yrs exp. Knowing English, Arabic & Hindi. **Contact 97133246**

Looking for driving job, 3 yrs experience in Muscat. **Contact 96196278**

Looking for driving job with Car or without. Have 3 yrs experience. **Contact 95283531**

Looking for Driver Job. # 93227735

ENGINEER

Indian male, 18 years experience in Electrical engineering & Procurement. Seeking projects & operation field. Willing to join immediately with NOC. Posses driving licence. BE E.E.E, MBA. **Contact 72324160. Email globaleng360@gmail.com**

Civil engineer (B.E) 15 yrs experience, 12 yrs in Oman. Looking for suitable position with Omani DL. **Contact 97432396. email jamal_rangun@yahoo.com**

JOB WANTED

INDIAN MALE, EXPERIENCE 23YEARS (18YEARS GCC) IN ELV/BMS/FIRE SYSTEMS, SEEKS JOB WITH NOC.

CONTACT 72144127, RAMESH4974@GMAIL.COM

LOGISTICS / HR / ADMIN / ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL

OVER 9 YEARS IN OMAN
B. COM., INDIAN, MALE, 31 YEARS OLD, DRIVER'S LICENSE AND NOC AVAILABLE
READY TO START IMMEDIATELY

Contact 968-71532254

Contracts Manager / Project Manager

Indian Male BE Civil Engineer with 13+ Year's Experience in Oman, Knowledge in AutoCAD, MS Office, Staud Pro, Water Cad, 3D, Project scheduling, BBS & other softwares. Widely experienced all over construction field including landscape & irrigation, structural erection, portacabin, MEP, Consultation, Tendering, Bidding etc.. looking for suitable placement. Ready to join immediately with D/L & NOC.

GSM: 98446050 E mail:deneeshdaniel@gmail.com

PLANNING ENGINEER had 13 years of experience in Oil and Gas, EPC, Construction Projects as Sr. Project Controller and Planning Engineer using Primavera (P6), worked with OQ, OGC, PDO, OCEP, BP, Tatweer Petroleum (Bahrain), BAUER. **NOC available.**

Contact 95263661 / 90913876 Email narasimha42@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

Civil Site Engineer/Inspector, total 12 yrs of experience out of which 6 yrs in consultancy firm supervision, looking for suitable opportunity, more preferably in a Consultancy firm with Omani DL. **NOC available. # 78368484**

Civil Engineer Diploma, Indian, 15yrs exp in building construction looking for suitable job. Omani D/L, **Contact 79673007**

Mechanical engineer (25 yrs) qualified in MEP, NEBOSH, Autocad (Revit) seeking job. **Contact 79165700, 92015294. Email melvinisolomon16@gmail.com**

Mechanical engineer seeking job, 4 years' experience in (MEP) structural steel, HVAC & firefighting field. With Omani DL, **NOC available. Contact: 79572873**

Electrical engineer 7 years experience, CEP, Safety courses, Duqm Refinery experience, D/L, **GSM: 79474387**

Project Engineer 14 yrs experience in EPC. Currently available in Muscat having NOC. Ready to join with 30 days. **Contact 94051915. Email tabish.alam@yahoo.com**

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having more than 12 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. **Contact No. 92180869, E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com.**

DCE Civil Engineer 17 years of Oman Experienced worked for various govt. projects including Residential Commercial and Industrial Projects with Roads Culverts handled independently. **Contact: 92624819**

HSE engineer/officer NEBOSH holder with very good experience seeking for suitable job. **Contact 90989114**

Electrical engineer, experience 12 year in Oman seeks job. # 98148034

BSc. Civil Engineer 12 years experience in construction and road works. **Contact 99715328**

Civil Engineer, Indian-male 49, Diploma Civil Engineer, Exp 29 years (17 years Oman). Looking suitable Job (Joining immediately) with Omani DL, **Contact 96229731**

HVAC Engineer/MEP Coordinator, BE Mechanical engineering having 9+ yrs of experience including 5+ yrs in Oman. Efficient in design, BOQ, project follow up, valid Omani DL. Looking for any full time/part time job. **Contact 91690765**

MULTI-SKILLED INDIAN MALE

25+ years (7 years GCC) Well experience in Accounts/ Administration/HR Available to join immediately with Release and D/L.

Contact 78093227

ACCOUNTANT

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

Contact 98195964

Piping / Stress Engineer

Indian, 36 male, Piping / stress Engineer, 13+years experience in onshore / offshore / pipeline in Oil & Gas. Knowledge in Caesar, AutoCAD, Mavis work, MsOffice, PDS looking for suitable job, join immediately.

Contact no. 94342605; shahahmed142@gmail.com

Senior Construction Professional Looking for Employment

Chartered Engineer (UK) with B. Tech (Civil) with over 18 years experience in Construction, Facility Management & Cost Management. Currently working as Assistant General Manager in a reputed Group in Oman. Seeking opportunities in a reputed company.

Contact Email - promanagement2000@gmail.com

B.E. CIVIL

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

Contact : 94657347

Looking for a job for the post of **Electrical Engineer**

Btech and 15 years exp in Oman. NOC and Release available.

Contact 92254336 ameen1667@gmail.com

12+ Years Experienced HSE Professional

9+ years in Gulf & 7+ Years in a managerial role in Oman. Engineering background with MBA in HSE, Nebosh IGC, INTL. Dip.Nebosh, 3 CPD-UK certificates, etc., seeks senior/manager the position holds Oman driving license & NOC, can join immediately.

Contact details: 99377048

Bsc In Civil Engineering, MBA in Project Management, PMP certified, having 14 yrs experience (12yrs in Oman) with experience of construction of 4 star hotel, Airports, commercial & residential buildings, factories, Oil stations, is looking for a suitable placement. Having Oman Driving licence.

Contact 99721926, tanvircivil@gmail.com

IT

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

IT operations manager in a field of IT service management with 12+ years of experience is looking for suitable position. Presently in Malaysia. **Contact no:+60163721367. Email id:azmat.aly@gmail.com**

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

8 years of experience in Health and safety. Nebosh and IOSH Certified HSE Officer looking to work. NOC and DL available. **Contact 97009665 Email amharqs@gmail.com**

M.Sc qualified, 16 yrs experienced Quantity Surveyor, seeking employment. **Contact 93973236 Email amharqs@gmail.com**

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

PURCHASE/LOGISTICS

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

Procurement specialist/logistic coordinator, 8+ yrs experience in Oman with MNC Oil & Gas co.D/L & NOC available. **Contact 96095376**

Procurement Officer 20 years experience in Oman looking for suitable position. **Contact 97903411**

Project Procurement / Supply Chain Professional with 18 years of experience (13 years in Muscat) MBA + B.Tech (Mech), PMI-ACP, Proficient in latest procurement & contract management systems and practices looking for suitable opportunities. Expat with NOC / Drv licence. **Contact 79790072.**

Looking for the position of Purchase/stores/Admin Manager in F&B, Wholesale, Retail or Hospitality Industry. Having 18 years of work experience in Oman, Kindly contact **96010598 or nkariappa@gmail.com**

Procurement officer with 19 yrs experience in construction. **Email u.bati307@gmail.com**

Indian male Purchase Assistant - documentation M.Sc Computer science 26 yrs old. experience 2 yrs Oman with valid licensense. NOC available. Visa status- employment. **Email tijukir@gmail.com Contact 92676197, 98944397**

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TOURS/TRAVELS

Looking for travel agency (IATA/ Non IATA) job ticketing & reservation. 5 yrs experience in non IATA travel agency. **Contact 99545973**

SALES / MARKETING

Experience outdoor sales rep having visa& vehicle seeks suitable placement in outdoor sales in capital area till Seeb on salary or on commission basis. **Contact 92892375 Email arscreeens04@gmail.com**

Indian male 34 yrs, 7 yrs exp in outdoor Sales Muscat/Sohar region. FMCG/Telecom, NOC available. Transferable visa. **Contact 98144874**

Salesman/office driver, 15 yrs experience. Valid D/L. Muscat area. **Contact 79818772**

B.E Civil Indian M 24 Y Sales Exp in Sales/Marketing/Team Lead/ Manager/Business Development. Available in Oman with NOC. Looking for Any Job. **Contact 78186546**

Indian Male 32, having over 9 years of oman exp in sales & Marketing is seeking for a suitable placement. NOC & Valid Oman Driving license available **Gsm 92460904**

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Sales associate, customer service, administrative office, real estate, rent a car, purchaser and Logistics with driving license. **Contact 97761075**

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SALES / MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with Driving License looking for suitable placement. **Contact 92085257**

Indian male, 18yrs of experience in outdoor sales of FMCG and electronics is seeking suitable placement. DL and NOC available. **Contact 91290046**

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

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

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

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

Accounts and Finance Manager with MBA Financial degree, 13 yrs in Oman & 15 yrs. in other countries seeking immediate job with Family status. **Contact 99883983 or uthayakumaransaravanan@gmail.com**

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



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JOB WANTED

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com, ICWA9(Inter) PGDBM head-ed Finance, logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

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

An Experienced HR Professional (Indian) (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately. On visit expires 6th Feb. IELTS: 6.5-Bands. Phone / WhatsApp: +968 94977347. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Civil Engineer Contact 78012115

Indian Male HR /Admin - MBA, BCOM having 9 years experience in Gulf 5 yr and India 4 yr looking for suitable placement. # 97914340. Email: rahulkv30@yahoo.com

Part time Accounts/Data entry. Experienced Accountant looking for part time Accounts/Data entry job. Please contact: 98649698

Indian Male, 15 years Oman experience with valid Oman D/L looking for job in sales. NOC available. Contact 95356820

Result driven business manager seeking an opportunity where 15 years of trading and management experience can be applied to improve the sales and enhancing the company revenue. # 95124176

Indian Male 29 years B.E (Civil) having 6 yr Gulf experience as Project coordinator looking for suitable placement. Oman D/L # 99682689. fayiz.yh@gmail.com

Indian Male HR /Admin and Purchase - MBA, BCOM having 9 years experience in Gulf 5 yr and India 4 yr looking for suitable placement. Contact : 97914340. Email: binthjumatrading@gmail.com

Indian Male - Accountant MCOM, BCOM having 7 years experience in Gulf 4 yr and India 3 yr looking for suitable placement. Contact : 97432723. Email: tonythomasjohn777@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

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

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

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

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

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

Indian male 29 yrs having 5 yrs experience in FMCG sales & marketing in Oman with D/L. Can join immediately. Contact 78057807. Email nozi70072@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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MARKET



MASERATI WHITE BOOK

Maserati MC20: First model that marks out new path to future

MODENA: For Maserati, this is the start of a new era. The Trident brand takes centre stage with revolutionary new cars, innovations and projects: for the brand, the focus is strongly on the future.

After the spark ignited by the Ghibli Hybrid, presented in July, the power of the Trofeo Collection launched in August, and the world premiere of the MC20 super sports car, revealed to the world with an unprecedented event, the time has now come for a real journey into the future of Maserati in Modena, where the brand's tomorrow is being built, starting from its roots.

Innovation, passion and uniqueness guide the brand in this phase of total renewal.

The starting point for this journey is the historic plant on VialeCiro Menotti in Modena. The Modena plant, where the Trident has had its

home for over 80 years, is a magical location that combines the Brand's "made in Italy" DNA and its Heritage with an irrepressible drive towards the future and innovation: the plant has been modernised with a new production, engine assembly and painting facilities specifically for the new MC20.

In fact the Nettuno, the supercar's ground-breaking V6 power unit, is the first creation of the Maserati Engine Lab, the new engine hub recently created within the Modena site, which has also, for the first time in its history, been equipped with a state-of-the-art, environment-friendly paint shop.

MC20 is the first step in the new era, the first model that marks out a new path to the future. The supercar's strikingly elegant design is achieved by finely balancing a series of opposites: a blend of



craftsmanship and engineering, elegance and performance, racing spirit and pleasure at the wheel. Designed by the Maserati Style Centre in Turin, MC20 is 100% developed, engineered and produced in Modena, and began to take shape in the laboratories of the Maserati Innovation Lab, the Trident brand's engineering hub, a

facility of excellence where all the Maserati models of today and tomorrow are brought to life.

In the Maserati Innovation Lab in Modena, digital processes support the product's development, applying the exclusive Maserati formula which adopts an integrated approach to prioritise the human factor right from the ini-

tial phases: customer-focus is incorporated in the world of virtual simulation with an exclusive hardware-software mix. In fact, more than 90% of the MC20's vehicle dynamics were developed with the aid of virtual models, using an innovative approach called Virtual Vehicle Dynamics Development, managed by Maserati in-house.

The Maserati Innovation Lab is therefore the perfect location for discussing the Brand's tomorrow, and its laboratories will bring forth the Folgoreand the new Grecale SUV. Folgore is the new strategy for electrification the Maserati way, and ignites the flame of new energy. An energy that will project the Trident into the future.

The new Maserati GranTurismo and GranCabrio will be the Brand's first cars to adopt 100% electric solutions; they will be engineered

in Modena and built at the Turin production hub. There will also be an electric version of the MC20, to be produced at the Maserati plant in Modena.

The first step in the range's electrification is Ghibli Hybrid, launched in June. The challenge facing Maserati was to enter the world of electrification without betraying the Brand's core philosophy and values. The result? The creation of the best possible hybrid. Keeping faith with its DNA, Maserati has chosen a hybrid solution focused primarily on improving performance, while also saving fuel and cutting emissions.

The future Maserati SUV will carry the name of a wind. It is to be called Grecale, after the fierce north-east wind of the Mediterranean Sea, and it is destined to play a key role in the Brand's development.

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Huawei empowers global developers with new technologies

HUAWEI ALSO INTRODUCED AN ADAPTIVE UX FRAMEWORK THAT ALLOWS DEVELOPERS TO QUICKLY REACH TENS OF MILLIONS OF NEW DEVICES AND USERS.

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SONGSHANLAKE: During Huawei Developer Conference 2020 (Together), Huawei announced major upcoming updates for Harmony OS 2.0, EMUI 11, HMS (Huawei Mobile Services), Huawei HiLink, and Huawei Research.

These improvements will empower global developers and ecosystem partners to provide enhanced and innovative user experiences for users. At the event, Huawei also unveiled six new products that will contribute to the company's all-scenario experience – Huawei MateBook X, Huawei MateBook 14, Huawei WATCH GT 2 Pro, Huawei WATCH FIT, Huawei FreeBuds Pro, and Huawei FreeLace Pro.

During the event, Huawei brought together developers from around the world through various exciting activities, including Lake-side Talks, Tech. Sessions, Tech. Hour, Codelabs and more. The itinerary provided opportunities for developers to network, collaborate, and explore ways to bring smart all-scenario experiences to every user.

“Huawei’s breakthrough in ecosystem development is a result of the strong support from global developers and partners. Huawei will fully open core technologies as well as software and hardware capabilities to developers, collaborating with them to drive further innovation of an all-scenario smart ecosystem,” said Richard Yu, Executive Director and CEO of Huawei Consumer Business Group. “Stars shine through even the darkest night. Each of our developers is a star. Together they form a brilliant array. That will light the way.”

HarmonyOS 2.0: Officially and completely open source

Huawei announced its all-scenario experience operating system, HarmonyOS, back in 2019. Since then, a robust line-up of devices has been developed for the system, facilitating quick device discovery, instant connection, hardware collaboration, and resource sharing between multiple smart devices. HarmonyOS 2.0 brings a comprehensive upgrade to its existing distributed capabilities, including software bus, data management, and security.

Huawei also introduced an adaptive UX framework that allows developers to quickly reach tens of millions of new devices and users.

With the latest update, HarmonyOS will officially be open-source and developers will be able to gain access to emulators, SDK packages, and IDE tools.

The open-source project, which is donated to OpenAtom Foundation, will be launched in stages with a mobile HarmonyOS beta release planned firstly for Chinese developers at the end of 2020. Richard



Yu announced the roadmap for HarmonyOS in his keynote speech. “Starting on 10 September, HarmonyOS is open to 128KB-128MB IoT devices, such as smart TVs, wearables, cars and more. In April 2021, we will open it to 128MB-4GB devices and in October 2021, HarmonyOS will be opened for devices above 4GB,” he said.

Based on the distribution technology in HarmonyOS, EMUI 11 enables interaction beyond smartphones. Instead, it allows devices to interact with HarmonyOS based IoT devices, bringing a unique all-scenario experience to users, including using the camera of a bigger-screen device for video calling. The process is powered by the touchless connection between smartphone and HarmonyOS

based smartphone home devices, enabling screen projection and more. EMUI 11 can be upgraded to HarmonyOS in the future.

HMS: Breaking ground as world’s third largest mobile app ecosystem

With the support of more 1.8 million registered developers worldwide, AppGallery and the Huawei Mobile Services (HMS) ecosystem has continued to show progress this year. AppGallery currently has over 96,000 apps integrated with HMS Core and more than 490 million global active users.

Besides, it also achieved a record 261 billion app downloads and distributions between January and August 2020.

In a single year, HMS Core 5.0’s

open capabilities have increased from 14 Kits to 56 Kits, while the number of APIs has jumped from 885 to 12,981 covering seven major areas, helping developers achieve innovation and simplify the development process.

Huawei is committed to fully opening its core software and hardware capabilities. It has opened up core software services, such as browsing, search, map, payment, advertising kits, to accelerate innovation in app development. Huawei has also opened up hardware capabilities such as its world-class camera capabilities, AR map capabilities, communication and transmission tools, as well as its leading privacy and security protection capabilities.

Through these, Huawei seeks to empower developers to create a new generation of well-loved innovative apps across different categories. Huawei also has extensive support to assist developers to explore business opportunities in China and other global markets, by providing relevant consulting service, localisation and integration, marketing and campaign services.

Going forward, Huawei continues to expand developer services. Huawei is building three global ecosystem cooperation labs in Russia, Poland, and Germany to serve global developers and provide enablement, testing, and certification services. Five global developer service centres will also be established in Romania, Malaysia, Egypt, Mexico, and Russia, providing local services and platforms to help developers better grow and innovate.

As the standardised language of IoT Devices, HiLink breaks down barriers between IoT devices from different brands and manufacturers, providing a unified platform where devices can connect easily, and interact seamlessly.

This year, upgrades to Huawei HiLink will be made in five key areas: connection, interaction, operation, solution provider, and authentication. The goal is to make billions of IoT devices connect easily, more convenient to manage and control, and interact seamlessly to enable an all-scenario hardware ecosystem. At present, 50 million active users are contributing more than 1 billion all-scenario device interaction requests every day, with a cumulative 400 million downloads of the Smart Life App

Huawei Research: The innovative research platform

Huawei Research, which focuses on front-end research, opens two key platform capabilities Huawei Research Kit and Huawei Research Cloud. These capabilities facilitate efficient innovative research processes, accelerate technological breakthroughs, incubate apps innovations as well as quickly achieve result transformation. As a result, scientific research institutions, innovation institutions, industry organisations, medical institutions and other industry partners are empowered, allowing industries from all sectors to prosper.

Huawei will continue to drive its software and hardware ecosystem moving forward. It is committed to opening up core technologies and capabilities further and empowering global developers and partners to create new possibilities together.

ZULAL WELLNESS RESORT

First world-renowned wellness resort in Middle East to be launched in Qatar



DOHA: Chiva-Som International Health Resort and Msheireb Properties, Qatar’s leading real estate developer, have announced the launch of Zulal Wellness Resort, a new wellness destination in Qatar.

The largest wellness destination in the country and the Middle East’s first fully immersive wellness resort, the property is to be the world’s first centre for Traditional Arabic Islamic Medicine (TAIM) located in Khasooma, a private coastal area north of the country.

The collaboration between Msheireb Properties and market-leading wellness resort brand Chiva-Som will shape the face of the wellness tourism industry in the region and establish its first wellbeing haven.

Spread across 280,000 square metres, the resort will be the world’s first centre for Traditional Arabic Integrative Medicine (TAIM), featuring a Family Wellness Resort of 120 elegant guestrooms and suites, and an adults-only resort of 60 suites and villas, catering to guests of all ages and needs.

The name “Zulal”, which refers to “purified water”, is inspired by the people’s historic journey across the Arabian Peninsula and their ever-present search for water, the seed of life. Drawing on Chiva-Som’s philosophy on holistic wellness, the resort presents the opportunity for families to experience, learn and practice wellness together, effectively introducing children to healthy living from an early age, as well as offering individuals and couples the exclusivity of totally immersing in the ultimate wellness retreat.

Zulal Wellness Resort is a unique wellbeing haven, brought to life by Qatar’s premier master developers, Msheireb Properties. Set to be Qatar’s largest wellness destination, and the Middle East’s first wellbeing resort, Zulal is expected to be a major tourism transformation driver, bringing the world’s attention to Qatar and the region. Located in Khasooma, a private coastal location to the north of Qatar, Zulal Wellness Resort brings visitors a ‘Luxclusive’

experience, offering the highest international standards that are inclusive of local family values. Zulal is an Arabic word which means ‘pure natural water’ and is used to reflect the rejuvenating properties of the natural water found in the desert. Zulal Wellness Resort offers two venues for health and wellbeing. Adults can access a wide range of therapeutic and lifestyle enhancement treatments based upon traditional Arabic and Islamic wellness principles through the destination. The Family Wellness Resort enables families to enjoy positive wellness experiences together, inspiring young children and their parents with fun, interactive activities that help them learn more about adopting a healthy lifestyle. Zulal Wellness Resort offers guests unique services and treatments, which are based upon Islamic wellness principles and use indigenous ingredients to the region.

For more than 25 years, the company behind the award-winning Chiva-Som has been a pioneer in

transformative wellness practices to global acclaim. Its commitment to an innovative, holistic approach which expertly balances mind, body and spirit, continues to this day with its flagship resort in Hua Hin, Thailand and the latest addition to the Chiva-Som family - Zulal Wellness Resort in Khasooma, Qatar.

Optimal, bespoke wellness lies at the heart of each Chiva-Som experience. With its unique synergy of indigenous traditions and evidence-based wellness, Chiva-Som partners with guests on highly personalised wellness journeys focused on complete lifestyle transformation. At the new Zulal Wellness Resort these extend to the entire family.

Guests are motivated throughout their journey by knowledgeable and caring staff, who addresses their goals with the unique heart of Chiva-Som Hospitality. Chiva-Som’s genuine approach to wellness extends to the wider community, with educational opportunities and global sustainability initiatives at the core of everything the brand does.

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB picks July winners of Hasaad savings draw

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) has announced the names of 132 winners from its July monthly Hasaad Savings Scheme. This included 95 winners from the monthly branch draws of OMR500 each, ten winners of OMR100 from the Children’s Account draw, 20 OMR 100 winners from the Youth Account draw, five winners of OMR500 from the bank’s salary transfer draw and two winners of OMR10,000 of the Elite draw from the Muscat branch.

Commenting on the results of the draw, Rashad Al Shaikh, Acting Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB said, “We continue to see a rise in the amount of savings from our bank’s customers, especially since the last few months and we are proud to see how the Hasaad scheme has contributed to this culture. It is important that we highlight and promote the need for having savings, which is beneficial for every individual’s financial stability in the long run. We continue to roll out exciting prizes until the end of the year as part of this highly successful scheme, with each month’s draws bringing in even more incredible prizes.”

The Hasaad scheme sees 95 lucky winners, with a minimum of one winner per month per branch, receiving a prize of OMR

500 and OMR1,000 at the quarterly draws. Besides, 10 winners are selected from the Children’s Account holders (aged 18 and below) and receive OMR100 each. Twenty winners are selected from the Youth Account holders (aged between 18 and 27), each receiving a prize of OMR100. There also two Elite winners of OMR10,000 each per month.

The monthly Elite draw is replaced by a Grand Prize draw of OMR50,000 for one lucky Elite customer, and occurs twice a year, in June and December. Oman Arab Bank also conducts a special ‘Big Prize’ draw of OMR 25,000 for one winner across its expansive branch network at the end of every quarter.

The Salary Transfer draw was introduced in 2020, which sees 5 winners per month receiving a prize of OMR500 each, as well as a guaranteed gift to both children and youth (up to 27 years old) once a year. Oman Arab Bank is the only bank providing a guaranteed gift to its youth customers.

“I congratulate all the winners of the July draw and wish everyone else the best of luck in the upcoming months. I hope that all our valued customers will continue to enhance their efforts to save more so that they can increase their chances of winning in the next draw,” Rashad added.

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