



HIS MAJESTY SENDS CABLE OF CONDOLENCES TO EMIR OF KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Nawaf Al Hamed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait on the demise of Sheikh Naser Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant his family patience. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 45 No. 200 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



OMAN TO PHASE OUT ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUBSIDIES

Residential electricity tariff in the Sultanate has not been changed since 1987

MUSCAT: Oman will phase out water and electricity subsidies starting from January 2021 until 2025.

Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR), issued decisions announcing the Cost-Reflective Tariffs (CRT) Regulation and the Permitted Tar-

iffs Regulation for connection and supply of electricity and amending some provisions of the drinking water supply tariffs.

These decisions come as part of an initiative to reorient electricity and water subsidy, which is one of the initiatives of the Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2024) that seeks to lay grounds for the Sultanate's financial sustainability and upgrade the

efficiency of government spending and the social security system.

Through this plan, segments of subscribers will be categorised, endorse tariffs structure, reinforce the social security system and reorient subsidy to beneficiaries in the electricity and water sectors.

New tariffs will be applied for electricity and water services gradually over the forthcoming years till the stage of non-subsidised tariffs that tally with the economic cost of electricity supply by 2025.

The new tariffs structure includes Large Consumers Category (or all segments of subscribers, except the Residential Category) among those who consume 100

megawatts/hour and more. The CRT applies to all subscribers of this category.

In the non-residential category, all segments of subscribers (industrial, commercial, government and tourism segments) are merged in a single tariff in which the Winter Tariff is set at 21 baisas per kilowatt and the Summer Tariff is set at 29 baisas per kilowatt. The tariff of agricultural and fisheries activities will continue to be applied as a special tariff for these two sectors, so that 12 baisas is set for consumption ranging from 0-3,000 kw/h, 16 baisas for consumption ranging from 3,001-6,000kw/h and 24 baisas for more than 6,000 kw/h consumption. **>A5**

WATER TARIFF			
Category	Tariff unit	Tariff in 2020	Tariff in 2021
Tariff for non-residential categories	Bs/M3	0.769	0.990 + 0.110 every year till 2024
Citizens account tariff	Bs/M3	0.440	0.550
Residents and additional accounts tariff	Bs/M3	0.440	0.660 + 0.110 every year till 2024

ELECTRICITY TARIFF		
Category	Threshold (kwh/month)	Tariff (bs/kwh)
Citizen account tariff	0 - 2,000 2,001 - 4,000 More than 4,000	15 baisas 25 baisas 30 baisas
Resident and additional accounts tariff		
	0 - 500 501 - 1,500 More than 1,500	20 baisas 25 baisas 30 baisas
Non-residential categories	From January to April & from October to December - from May to September	21 baisas 29 baisas



Oman Sail to host 2021 Asian windsurfing event

A8

ECONOMY

Foreign direct investment in Oman tops OMR15bn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Sultanate reached OMR15.06 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2020, according to the data of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Praising the efforts made by the Sultanate in promoting world trade, officials of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) said that Oman is a supportive partner in the activities of the WTO, with a long history in global trade.

The Sultanate's global trade legacy is being employed with high

efficiency through its membership and role as a supportive partner in the WTO and its pivotal role in the organisation at all levels.

The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of its accession to the WTO.

Support

They pointed out that the Sultanate has used its experience in joining the WTO to support other governments that are in the process of joining the organisation.

The Sultanate's agreements to combat harmful commercial prac-

tices have given Omani companies the right to protect their local products in case they are exposed to this type of practices. These agreements contribute to boosting foreign investment flows to the Sultanate over the past 20 years.

WTO's Deputy Director-General, Alan Wolff, emphasised the depth of trade and civilisation relations between the Sultanate and other countries of the world, considering the Sultanate as a reliable and supportive partner for WTO, and appreciating its role in disseminating and adopting leading international academic researches. **>A5**

ADVENTURE

Omani travels from Adam to Muscat on camel to show people the old ways

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani national has completed a week-long journey on a camel from Adam to Muscat to show people the importance of the traditional way of life.

Sixty-three-year-old Ahmed Al Mahrouqi, who came to Oman from his ancestral home in Tanzania when he was just a boy of four or five, made the trip between the two cities on his trusty camels, Rahhal and Luhderiya. With him were Danish blogger Rachel Maciver, who is based out of Muscat, and young hiker Mohammed Salim Al Jawhari.

"If you compare today with the way we lived in the olden days, we used to exchange our items with others, and this helped all of us live together," he added. "Now, all you need to do is order online and someone will come and deliver it to you. It is time to teach the youth of Oman to depend on themselves, and not rely on others

to do things for them."

Ahmed departed from Adam on December 9, and came to Burj As Sahwa in the capital on the weekend that had just gone by. On the way, they were joined by locals who went with them for some part of their journey, out of curiosity over their intentions, or to share in their expedition. Others, out of kindness for the trio, provided them with food and water for their journey.

"Our day would start at about 7:25am," said Mohammed Al Jawhari, narrating the nature of their travels. "On one particular day, we moved towards Izki, passing through Birkat Al Mouz, and then the village of Nazar, which has one of the oldest graves in Oman.

Encouragement

"We got to the campsite at Wadi Halfeeyin, having covered 30 kilometres in about six hours and 15 minutes," he added. "We were walking along the road, which was at times annoying due to the vehicles, but the encouragement from people who were able to spot us made us forget these issues and the tiring nature of our trek."

Ahmed had made it clear from

the start of his journey that the group would, for the course of their journey, live in the manner of his ancestors, camping under the stars and preparing food in a makeshift kitchen every night. They would also bathe whenever they came across a Falaj - an irrigation canal, built thousands of years ago to take water from naturally occurring reservoirs, to farms where it was needed, or a village with a well.

"We decided to go on this journey to mark the 50th anniversary of the Sultanate of Oman," recalled Ahmed. "Oman is also trying to open itself to tourism and invite people from around the world, so we must be mindful of our culture and how it has helped shape our country. As our leader, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik said in his speech, we must always show dedication, unity and loyalty to our country."

"There are actually a lot of younger people in Oman who are interested in discovering the way we used to do things earlier, because they have realised that those ways are healthy and sustainable. It makes us appreciate the things we have."



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Private sector tax sops to expire soon

1 The Tax Authority has announced the imminent expiry of taxation incentives offered to private sector establishments for taxes due during 2020. **>A2**

WORLD

UK flights banned by Netherlands, Belgium

2 The Netherlands and Belgium have banned UK flights after a case of a new coronavirus strain circulating around Britain was found in the Netherlands. **>A6**

MARKET

Over 12,000 housing plots allotted

3 The Ministry of Housing allotted 12,474 residential plots across the country at the end of November 2020, compared to 25,220 plots in the same period of 2019. **>B1**



Dhuhr.....	12.09pm
Asr.....	3:10pm
Maghrib.....	5:30pm
Isha.....	6:46pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:23am

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Times of Oman
21h

Offenders will bear the financial burdens and fines legally determined upon the expiration of the corrective period.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM
Over 45,000 expats apply to leave Oman
A statement issued online by Oman News Agency (ONA) said.

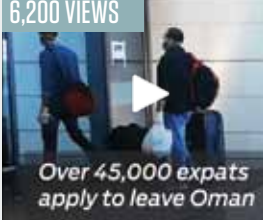
Over 45,000 expats apply to leave Oman

A story on expats leaving Oman got 6,254 engagements and reached 56,003 people on Facebook



📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

6,200 VIEWS



Over 45,000 expats apply to leave Oman



Morning Minute video on expats

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📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,777 VIEWS



The Morning Minute Video



The morning minute video got 1,777 views and 544 likes on Instagram

BY DECEMBER 31, 2020

Tax incentives offered to private sector due to COVID-19 pandemic to end soon

MUSCAT: The Tax Authority has announced the imminent expiry of taxation incentives offered to private sector establishments for taxes due during 2020.

The incentives were announced earlier by the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from COVID-19 pandemic with a view to handling the economic impacts of the pandemic and the resumption of business activities.

In a statement to ONA, the Tax Authority urged all tax payers to

submit their declarations and disclosure accounts of the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2019 and any other accounting period or fiscal year ending after this date.

The Tax Authority also called for the settlement of all due taxes payable for this tax year and before by December 31, 2020, at the latest, to avoid any fines or additional tax that might result from non-submission of tax declarations or disclosure statements.

-ONA



THE GREAT CONJUNCTION

Rare astronomical phenomena can be viewed with naked eyes in the Sultanate

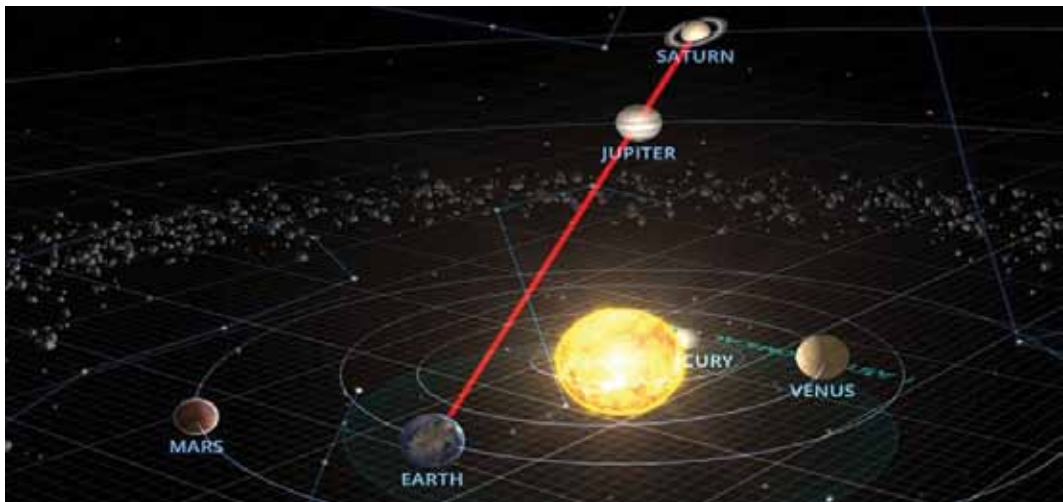
Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's sky will witness a rare astronomical phenomena on Monday night, December 21, 2020. This rare astronomical event will see Jupiter and Saturn line up very close to each other, which is an event that takes place about once every 20 years and will last for nearly two hours.

According to officials at the MERA Astronomy Affairs Department, this astronomical phenomenon can be viewed anywhere in the Sultanate through naked eyes. For those interested in astronomy, and for clear vision, it is recommended to enjoy the view away from cities where the lights are less and the sky clear.

"Due to the pandemic, sites have been prepared to witness this unique phenomenon for the general public, but the Astronomical Society will broadcast live video of the phenomenon when it occurs through social platforms."

Called the Great Conjunction, this event will occur at 2:02pm on December 21, 2020 in the skies



above Oman, the rest of the Arab World, and parts of the northern hemisphere.

This event involving the close proximity of the two giants of the solar system has not occurred since March 1226, and will not be repeated until 2080.

The reason it's called the Great Conjunction is because this event involves the two largest planets in our solar system.



Times of Oman

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From 19:30 - 23:00

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The Kitchen Restaurant, OMR 30 inclusive of soft drinks and juices
From 13:00 - 16:00

Boxing Day Brunch - 26 December 2020
The Kitchen Restaurant, OMR 30 inclusive of soft drinks and juices
From 13:00 - 16:00

New Year's Eve - 31 December 2020
The Kitchen Restaurant, OMR 55 inclusive of house beverages
Soi Soi New Year's Eve Dinner
Bukhara New Year's Eve Dinner
From 19:30 - 01:00

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MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Municipality reminds owners not to let their pets roam in open

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pointing out that close to 400 communications about animals being kept or found roaming in urban areas were received in the last in the last three years, Muscat Municipality has reminded animal owners of their responsibility of keeping them under control.

It has further said that besides impeding municipal landscaping efforts, stray animals like sheep are a source of annoyance to individuals in residential neighbourhoods. The Muscat Municipality still receives some reports from the community about the presence of animals wandering in residential areas within the cities, it said.

Cultural values

Pet owners leaving their animals unrestrained in public areas and residential neighbourhoods contravenes the cultural values and organisational efforts of municipalities to maintain an optimal urban environment. It also creates societal, economic and traffic safety risks as animals wander in the streets or residential areas and graze on public landscapes.

Talal Al Rahbi, head of operations at the Muscat Call Centre, said that in 2018 the centre received 193 reports of the presence of stray animals, including 90 reports related to the breeding of animals in neighbourhood homes and 103 reports of the presence of unrestrained animals.

Registered reports

In 2019, there were 95 registered reports, including 28 related to keeping animals in neighbourhood homes. Al Rahbi added that the Muscat Call Centre registered

102 reports this year, bringing the total number of registered communications during the last three years to 390.

The local ordinance no. 24/91 regulates animal husbandry according to a number of articles, as it obliges the individual to comply with the provisions and requirements for the organisation of animal husbandry within the prescribed scope and limits of Muscat Municipality.

Local ordinance

This ordinance prohibits of keeping animals in certain places in Muscat governorate, while allowing them to be kept in private farms and gardens or special places, provided that they are approved by the municipality, and meet the health conditions determined by them and issuing a licence to do so.

The local ordinance also states that animals are not to be left neglected in streets and squares, nor are they allowed to graze except without appropriate supervision, and only in places allocated for grazing. The regulation also authorizes any municipal employee or police officer who finds a stray animal to seize it and hand it over to the municipality corral. Anyone who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be punished with a fine, with the obligation of making appropriate compensation for any damage that the animal may cause to the property of others.

The Muscat Municipality expressed its appreciation for the cooperation of the community in reporting the presence of stray animals, and highlighted the role and responsibility of owners to abide by the local ordinance and preserve the property of others.

UPDATE

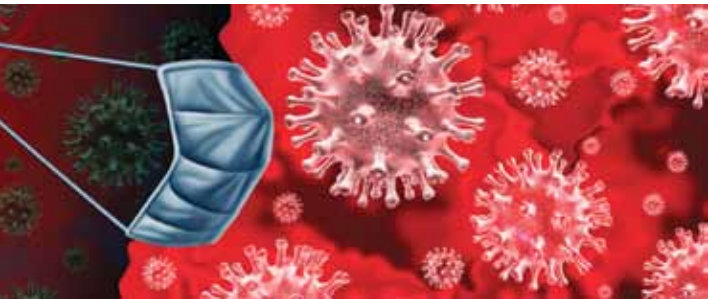
Confirmed COVID-19 case count in Oman at 127,667

MUSCAT: The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Sultanate reached 127,667, while the number of recoveries stood at 119,574, comprising 93.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, the total number of COVID-19 related death cases stood at 1,488, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry also pointed out that 15 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, adding that the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 102, of them 42 are in intensive care units (ICU).

-ONA



RECOVERIES: The number of recoveries stood at 119,574, which comprised 93.7 per cent of the total COVID-19 cases.

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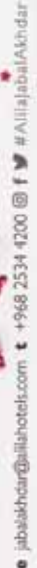
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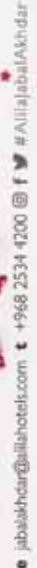
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RICH IN MANY TYPES OF CORAL REEFS, including rare corals, The Daymaniyat Islands Reserve, lies 18 km off the shores of Barka and is 70km west of Muscat.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, describing the reserve, said in a statement, “The reserve is a group of nine islands with a total area of 100 hectares. It is distinguished by its beautiful beaches, white sands and clear blue waters. It also includes rare groups of coral reefs and large numbers of sea turtles which take shelter in the islands to lay eggs and nest. There are countless migratory and settlement birds too which can be seen here.”

The islands are Kharaba, Big Mountain, Small Mountain, Mamlaha, Lumia, Qesma, Aljon, and Awald Jon. You can find different types of wild plants growing here. The Daymaniyat Islands Reserve is also a perfect habitat for the nesting birds like the red-billed tropicbird (phaethon aethereus), osprey (pandion haliaetus), roseate tern (sterna dougallii), white-cheeked Tern (sterna repressa), bridled tern (sterna anaethetus), sooty tern



(sterna fuscata) and common noddy (anous stolidus).

There are also various types of marine weeds and algae. The coral species that grow on either the rocky plains or the shattered coral reefs. They provide excellent habitat for the abundant reef fishes that provide the bulk of the harvest by fishermen. Loggerhead turtles nest here in large numbers. One can also find dolphins and whale sharks.

The Daymaniyat Islands are also home to some of the country’s best diving spots. According to the Ministry of Tourism, “These islands contain more than 22 known diving sites, in addition to being perfect for snorkelling. Also, some people like to camp in the islands, especially in the period from October to February.”





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NATIONAL SUBSIDY SYSTEM

< FROM A1 Total water supply soars by more than 180% from 2010 to 2019

The residential category of consumers is divided into “Omani residential account tariff” and “non-Omani account tariff and additional residential account tariff”.

The Omani account will apply to citizens (a maximum of two accounts per citizen) and it will be charged 15 baisas for consumption from zero to 2,000 kw/h, 20 baisas for 2,001-4000kw/h and 30 baisas for 4,000 kw/h or more of consumption.

The non-Omani and additional residential account applies to non-Omani names and additional accounts of not more than two per citizen. This will be charged 20 baisas for consumption from zero to 500 kw/h, 25 baisas for 501-1,500 consumption and 30 baisas for more than 1,500 kw/h of consumption.

The new tariff for non-residential category of consumers covers all non-residential uses and these are charged 4.5 baisas per one gallon and 990 baisas per one cubic metre.

The residential category of consumers is divided into two segments: the “Omani account” and the “non-Omani and additional accounts” segment.

The citizen water account applies to Omani citizens at rate of not more than two accounts per citizen. This will be charged 2.5 baisas per gallon, 550 baisas per cubic metre. The non-Omani and additional accounts will be charged 3 baisas per gallon and 660 baisas per cubic metre.

To ensure that the subsidy will reach the beneficiaries, the government developed the National Subsidy System (NSS), which sub-



sidises fuel, electricity and water consumption of eligible segments of citizens who are more vulnerable to financial impacts of the State's Budget.

The NSS provides direct social protection to citizens. It constitutes 33 percent of the bill within limited consumption of 4,000 kw/h a month for electricity while for water a similar mechanism will apply over the next stages.

The electricity and water sector witnessed considerable growth over the past decades, generating investments in the two sectors that crossed OMR8 billion.

Electricity accounts grew by 141 percent while the volume of supply increased by 253 percent. In the meantime, water accounts saw a growth of more than 187 percent while total water supply increased by more than 180 percent from

2010 to 2019.

As per the current method, the electricity and water subsidy is provided to all electricity consumers in the Sultanate, irrespective of the living standard of citizens. The subsidy also covers non-residential categories (like industrial, government and electricity segments and others).

Electricity residential tariff in the Sultanate has not changed since 1987, which entailed an annual growth of subsidy that grew from OMR650 million in 2016 to OMR750 million by 2020, constituting 5 percent of the State Budget and about 20 percent of the expected deficit during 2021.

If the government does not undertake any action about the subsidy, it may grow to OMR900 million by 2025.

— ONA

ECONOMY AND COMMERCE

< FROM A1 Sultanate a supportive partner of WTO: Official

“We are fortunate that the Sultanate is a member of the WTO for various reasons, in particular its long history in the global trade,” he said.

“While the WTO celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, the Sultanate's history in world trade is 100 times older than that,” he added.

Wolff pointed out that during the past 20 years, the Sultanate was not only an active member of the WTO but also a supportive partner and always ready to support others members as well.

For example, Oman, represented by the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) has hosted the first regional session of the WTO on trade policies for the Arab region and the Middle East during 2014 to 2017, where about 100 government employees were trained and they are now contributing to support the work of the WTO in their countries, Wolff said.

Ambassador Peter Allgeier, former US Deputy Trade Representative to WTO, said “The WTO has benefited from the constructive participation of the Sultanate, and we are looking forward to the Sultanate's continuous contributions at a time when the organisation seeks to address many challenges facing the global trading system.”

“The United States of America is grateful to the Sultanate as the first Arab country to recognise the United States of America as an emerging nation in the early nineteenth century,” he added.

Hilda bin Ali Al Hinai, Director of the Sultanate's office at WTO in Geneva, emphasised the multiple benefits and advantages of the Sultanate's accession to the WTO, which includes working on structural reforms, updating laws and regulations, and contributing to open the local markets for the products of all member states of the organisation, which helps in providing the Omani consumers with several choices in terms of quality and price, as well as to reduce monopoly.

She added that the Sultanate's accession to WTO has also contributed to help Omani products to reach new markets at the member states of WTO.

As many as 164 member states of the organisation have opened their markets for Omani products, which led to an increase in the volume of Omani non-oil exports during the past 20 years, as the Sultanate's exports expanded to reach North America and Latin America.

The Director of the Sultanate's office at WTO in Geneva pointed out that joining the organisation has given Omani companies the right to protect their local products in case they were exposed to harmful commercial practices, through agreements to combat harmful trade practices.

She also pointed out that the Sultanate has implemented some anti-dumping measures with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries against the products of some countries that have carried out harmful trade practices to the local factories.

In addition, the Sultanate's accession to WTO has given it a role in formulating new international trade rules and in protecting its interests in future agreements such as the negotiations currently underway to remove subsidies on fisheries, to combat overfishing and illegal fishing, and to submit proposals for reforming the WTO as well.

Hilda also emphasised that, the Sultanate's accession to the WTO has contributed in building the skills of national capabilities in the field of international business through the training programmes that was held at the Sultanate's office in the WTO, as well as it enable the Sultanate to following up on the trade policies of those may harm the interests of Omani exporters and importers, through the transparency mechanism and notifications.

She called upon the Omani private sector to take the advantage

of the opportunities that granted by the Sultanate's accession to the WTO and to play an active role in the organisation's work as well.

She stressed that, in case of raising a commercial dispute that is not resolved by bilateral means, the Sultanate has the right to utilise the dispute settlement system of WTO, if it is necessary.

Munir Akram, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York, said: It was an honour for me and my country, Pakistan, to be the head of the negotiating team concerning the Sultanate's accession to the WTO 20 years ago.

He stressed that the Omani negotiating team was distinguished by their knowledge despite the difficulty of the accession process; however, thanks to this knowledge, the negotiations were fairly smooth, without errors and were completed in a relatively record time, which was as an indication of the great skill of the Omani negotiator, his openness and flexibility.

He also stated that, over the past twenty years, the statistics showed that the Sultanate's GDP has increased four times from \$20 billion to \$80 billion, while the Sultanate has been enabled to achieve economic diversification and fixed trade surplus, which is a pride for the country.

He pointed out that the WTO system is based on the principle of comparative advantage. The application of trade rules on the basis of the principle of the most favored nation remain in effect, which gives hope for the future.

He also emphasised that the Sultanate is an example of an open country that depends on comparative advantage and efficiency, and is in a good position today, while within short time after its accession to the WTO, it has succeeded to play a pioneering role in building a new trade environment and a new trade system that contributes to the continuation of the history of global growth in trade and development.

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Netherlands, Belgium ban UK flights over new COVID strain

The ban, which starts at 6 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Sunday, lasts until January 1

AMSTERDAM: The Dutch government has put a stop to all passenger flights entering from the UK after finding a case in the Netherlands of a new coronavirus strain that has been circulating around Britain.

The ban, which starts at 6 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Sunday and lasts until at least January 1, came just hours after Britain announced a stay-at-home order for the south of England, including London, to



slow the more infectious variant.

The Dutch public health body, the RIVM, said it "recommends that any introduction of this virus strain from the United Kingdom be limited as much as possible by limiting and/or controlling passenger movements."

Prime Minister Mark Rutte's Cabinet said that other forms of transport were still under review.

On Sunday, Belgium also banned flights and trains from the UK for the same reason, a news agency reported.

Prime Minister Alexander De

Croo said he was issuing the order for 24 hours starting at midnight "out of precaution."

"There are a great many questions about this new mutation and whether it is not already on the [European] mainland," he said.

Germany, meanwhile, is considering its own ban, a Health Ministry source said.

The source said the measure is a "serious option" and that developments in the UK are being monitored very closely.

The newspaper Bild am Sonntag reported that ministers were drawing up a new regulation for the cabinet to approve.

The measure would also include a ban on flights to South Africa, where the new strain has also been discovered.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has revealed it is in close contact with British officials over the new variant. -DOW



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



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AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

74 Taliban militants killed

KABUL: As many as 74 Taliban militants have died in clashes with the Afghan armed forces in Kandahar province, the Afghan Ministry of Defence said on Sunday.

"74 #Taliban were killed and 15 others were wounded in Zheria, Dand, Panjwae and Arghandab districts of Kandahar province, yesterday," the ministry wrote on Twitter. The clashes happened

after the Afghan National Army launched an assault on Taliban who were preparing to attack positions held by the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, the ministry said, adding that a large number of weapons were also seized.

Kandahar province has been the site of fierce clashes over recent days.

-ANI

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ON PM'S RECOMMENDATION

Nepal President ratifies proposal to dissolve Parliament



DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT: Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari. - ANI

KATHMANDU: Hours after Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli recommended the dissolution of Parliament on Sunday, the country's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari ratified the proposal and announced dates for the elections to be held next year.

"Nepal President ratifies the proposal of parliament dissolution presented forward by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli," President Office said in a press release. Upon the recommendation of the council of ministers, President Bhandari also announced the date of the national polls to be held in two phases on April 30 and May 10 in 2021.

This comes after Prime Minister Oli had summoned an emergency meeting of the Council of

Ministers after a series of meetings with the party's leadership and ministers on Saturday.

Oli was under pressure to withdraw an ordinance related to the Constitutional Council Act that he had issued on Tuesday and got endorsed by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

The Nepal PM has been facing pressure from the rival factions of the NCP led by former prime ministers Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Madhav Nepal.

Earlier on Sunday, Prachanda reached PM residence to get firsthand knowledge on the issue. However, PM remained reserved and didn't say anything except that "he will take a firm action today".

Prime Minister Oli convened the cabinet meeting at 9:45am and

made the decision in less than an hour.

The latest step of the Oli-led administration comes amid a rising rift inside the ruling party and the house adjourned for the longest period of time in Nepal's history. Since the Constitution does not have a provision for the House dissolution, the move is likely to be challenged in the court.

Subsequently, the cabinet has forwarded the proposal of dissolution of the Parliament to the President for consideration. Usually, the President is consulted in advance on these issues by the Prime Minister.

Accordingly, the President should approve the dissolution of the parliament.

This will lead to strong opposi-

tion from the Prachanda and Madhav Nepal camp and they are likely to protest and even file a writ in the Supreme court challenging this position taken by Prime Minister Oli.

Reacting swiftly after the confirmation of the decision, Narayanankaji Shrestha, Spokesperson of the ruling Nepal Communist Party reacted calling it undemocratic.

"I got to know about the recommendation just now. The decision has been made in haste as all the ministers weren't present in the cabinet meeting this morning. This is against the democratic norms and would take the nation backward, this can't be implemented," Narayanankaji Shrestha, Spokesperson for the ruling Nepal Communist Party told ANI. - ANI

New guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine side effects issued

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention defined a 'severe reaction' as one where a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or requires hospitalisation

WASHINGTON: The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Saturday issued new guidelines to those who have been reported severe allergic reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine.

CDC has 'learned of reports' of some people experiencing severe allergic reactions after getting inoculated. The agency defined a 'severe reaction' as one where a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or requires hospitali-

sation, The Hill reported.

People who have a severe allergic reaction after the first dose should not get the second shot and those who have had severe allergic reactions to components in a COVID-19 vaccine should not get that specific vaccine, The Hill quoted CDC as saying.

The agency to consult doctors before getting inoculated. However, people with a history of severe allergic reactions not related to



vaccines or injectable medicines may still get vaccinated, CDC added.

The guidelines come after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it was looking into five severe reactions to Pfizer's vaccine reported this week, in Alaska, and the others have been reported in other states.

The agency wasn't sure what

caused the reaction, but said a chemical called polyethylene glycol, which is present in Pfizer and Moderna's coronavirus vaccine, "could be the culprit," Peter Marks, who leads the agency's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research said.

However, CDC said on Friday that people with a history of severe allergic reactions to any

component of the vaccine should avoid getting inoculated.

Earlier this month, the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency warned that people with "significant" histories of allergic reactions should avoid getting Pfizer's vaccine after two people reported adverse reactions.

ISS cosmonauts struggle to find an air leak: Russia

MOSCOW: The International Space Station (ISS) is still losing oxygen but the situation is under control, Russian space agency Roscosmos said on Saturday, adding that the agency was ready to send an additional supply of oxygen if the problem escalates.

The leak is affecting the Russian section of the ISS, with the fault apparently located in an access section to the Zvezda module. The exact location is not yet clear, Russian media reported.

"We have had this leak for quite some time, the rate is very small, nothing has happened. One of the leaks was found and reduced, but it still remains," Roscosmos Programme Director Sergei Krikalev told Russia's Interfax news agency.

Pressure to find the source of the leak is growing, as oxygen reserves and air pressure continue to decrease. - DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

EMBEDDED MALWARE



HACKING ATTACK: US President-elect Joe Biden, meanwhile, has expressed "great concern" over the hacking attack. - DW

Donald Trump downplays massive US cyberattack

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said it "may be China" who was behind the embedded malware found in US government networks and elsewhere around the world earlier this week.

Trump's comments on Twitter came after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed the hacking attack on Moscow. Speaking with US talk show host Mark Levin on Friday, Pompeo said the embedded malware was "pretty clearly" the work of "the Russians."

But on Saturday, Trump posted on Twitter that "Russia is the priority chant when anything happens" because the media is afraid of discussing the possibility of Beijing's involvement. He did not cite his reasons for suspecting China.

Russia denies involvement

On Friday, Pompeo said private companies and governments around the world had been targeted using third-party software to embed code in their systems.

"This was a very significant effort, and I think it's the case that now we can say pretty clearly that it was the Russians that engaged in this activity," he said, adding that the outgoing Trump administration had kept mute as a "wiser course of action" to allow

investigations to unfold following the initial alert made last Sunday.

Russia has already denied involvement, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissing the allegations.

US President-elect Joe Biden, meanwhile, has expressed "great concern" over the hacking attack.

18,000 accounts infected

On Monday, Texas firm SolarWinds disclosed that up to 18,000 users of its popular Orion network-management software had been unwittingly infected, blaming what it termed an "outside nation-state."

Microsoft President Brad Smith, in a blog post Friday, said roughly 80 per cent of affected customers were located inside the United States. Others were located in the UK, Belgium, Canada, Israel, Mexico, Spain and the United Arab Emirates.

Reuters, citing a British security source, said a small number of British organisations had been compromised but "not in the public sector."

"The scale is daunting," said James Lewis, vice president of the US Center for Strategic and International Studies, commenting on the disclosures.

"We also don't know what's been left behind. The normal practice is to leave something be-

hind so they can get back in, in the future," Lewis told a news agency.

"This will be a long ride," said Dmitri Alperovitch, former chief technical officer of cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, in an interview with The Associated Press. He added that networks would need to be redesigned. "Clean-up is just phase one."

'Complex' intrusions

The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said intrusions had begun as early as March this year, and the actor behind them had "demonstrated patience, operational security and complex tradecraft."

CISA said the hack had not reached the US nuclear arsenal but only "business networks" linked to the Department of Energy, which have since been disconnected.

The US government agencies that were reportedly breached include the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department and the State Department. Some breaches enabled emails to be monitored, but it was unclear what the hackers were seeking and what they did while infiltrating networks, said Reuters. - DW

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MUSANDAM

Oman Sail to host 2021 Asian windsurfing event

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has been chosen to host the 2021 Asian Windsurfing Championships, marking a return to elite international competition for the Techno293, Techno293Plus and the foiling Formula Windsurfing class, which is included for the first time in Asian Windsurfing Championship history.

Taking place in Khasab, Musandam, and anticipating fifty of the best windsurfers to compete over six days between 11-16 October 2021.

These include past champions and promising young riders from 15 countries in Asia. Conditions are expected to be perfect for sailing with a combination of powerful sea breezes and pleasant waves

making for ideal sailing conditions while shining a light on Musandam as one of Oman's most exciting and unexplored tourist destinations.

Piotr Oleksiak, International Windsurfing Association manager, said, "Oman has for many years now been a benchmark for the development of sailing in the region and we are happy that windsurfing has been part of that journey. When deciding to come to Oman with the 2021 Asian Windsurfing Championships, we not only took into account the great venues and fabulous hospitality, but we also see this as an opportunity to showcase the possibilities of building a windsurfing programme, not only in the neighbouring countries, but worldwide.

"The Asian Windsurfing Championships is an event many are

looking forward to and will include foiling for the first time with introduction of the Formula Foil."

Oman recently hosted the Techno 293 Asian Championships, taking place during Mussanah Race Week in February 2020, where young Omani rider Ali Al Sarhi claimed the gold medal in the youth class at, and compatriots Abdulrahman Al-Mujaini and Mohammad Al Sarhi who finished 3rd and 4th respectively.

Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, Oman Sail's CEO, said, "This is a great opportunity for Oman Sail to showcase the excellent sailing and surfing conditions in the waters around Khasab and allow promising windsurfers the chance to test themselves against the best in Asia.

"The Championships also allow us to introduce a new audience to

the wonderful hospitality on offer in Oman and build the capacity for Musandam to host additional events in the future. After such a long break, we are all very eager to get back on the water and into competition once again."

The Sultanate of Oman has previously hosted a series of successful events including the 2013 Laser World Championships, the 2015 RS:X World Championships and the 2019 International Asian and Oceanian Optimist Championships. In November 2021, Oman Sail will also welcome a 400-strong fleet of the world's best sailors and coaches for the 49er, 49erFX, and Nacra 17 class World Championships, a Paris 2024 Olympic Games qualifying event which is taking place in Asia for the first time in its history.



CONTEST: Fifty of the best windsurfers will compete over six days between 11 and 16 October 2021 in Khasab, Musandam.

Liverpool hammer Crystal Palace 7-0

Two goals from Mohamed Salah, who came on as a 57th-minute substitute for Mane, in the last 10 minutes rounded off the scoring on a day Liverpool again looked like champions-elect



GOAL SPREE: Liverpool produced three shots and scored three goals in the first 45 minutes and the story remained the same after the break.

LONDON: Liverpool assured they will spend the Christmas period as Premier League leaders by sending out a warning to their rivals with a 7-0 win over Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Any doubts about the tiredness of Jurgen Klopp's side after their dramatic late win at home to Tottenham on Wednesday night were soon dispelled when Takumi Minamino opened the scoring in the third minute.

Sadio Mane doubled the lead in the 35th minute and Roberto Firmino made it 3-0 on the stroke of halftime.

Liverpool produced three shots and scored three goals in the first 45 minutes and the story remained the same after the break with Jordan Henderson getting his name on the scoresheet in the 52nd minute before Firmino net-

ted his second.

Two goals from Mohamed Salah, who came on as a 57th-minute substitute for Mane, in the last 10 minutes rounded off the scoring on a day Liverpool again looked like champions-elect.

Mikel Arteta's return to Goodison Park, where he spent six seasons as a player ended in a 2-1 defeat to Everton which increases

the pressure on the Arsenal coach.

Rob Holding's unfortunate own goal in the 22nd minute put Everton in front. Although Nicolas Pepe's penalty after a foul by Andre Gomes leveled the score in the 33rd minute, Yerry Mina's powerful 45th-minute header gave Everton the three points.

The win lifts Everton into second place, while 14 points from 14 games is Arsenal's worst start to a season since the 1974-1975 season.

Raheem Sterling's 16th-minute goal was enough to give Manchester City a 1-0 win away to Southampton, who had gone into the match in third place.

Pep Guardiola's side was happy to dig in and defend their lead with John Stones producing another improved display at the heart of their defence in a slightly un- City-like performance in which grit took precedence over flowing football.

Newcastle United was held to a 1-1 draw by Fulham, who took the lead through Matt Ritchie's 42nd-minute own goal only for Callum Wilson to equalize from the penalty spot in the 64th minute. Fulham's Joachim Andersen was sent off for committing the penalty, but Newcastle failed to score a winning goal in the last 25 minutes. **Xinhua**

T201

Southee, Seifert help Kiwis take 2-0 lead

HAMILTON: Tim Southee's four-wicket haul and Tim Seifert's unbeaten 84-run knock helped New Zealand defeat Pakistan by nine wickets in the second T20I of the three-match series on Sunday here at the Seddon Park in Hamilton.

With this win, the Kiwis have gained an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Mohammad Hafeez played an unbeaten knock of 99 runs to take Pakistan's total to 163/6, but the hosts made light work of the chase and



in the end, the BlackCaps chased down the total with nine wickets in hand and four balls to spare.

Chasing 164, New Zealand got off to a quickfire start as openers Martin Gupthill and Seifert put on 35 runs in just 21 balls. However, Pakistan came back strongly as Faheem Ashraf dismissed Gupthill (21) in the fourth over of the innings.

Skipper Kane Williamson then joined Seifert in the middle and the latter did not let the momentum drop for the hosts. At the

halfway mark, New Zealand was sitting comfortably at 91/1, with just 73 runs away from the victory. In the end, Williamson and Seifert guided Kiwis to a nine-wicket win over Pakistan.

Seifert and Williamson remained unbeaten on 84 and 57 respectively.

Earlier, Hafeez's unbeaten knock of 99 runs helped Pakistan post 163/6 in the allotted twenty overs. For New Zealand, Tim Southee scalped four wickets. **ANI**



HONOURED: Waleed Rahim Al Balushi of Al Hail receiving best batsman award in C Division.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mohsin Raza of Manis Azad International scooped an amazing treble of E Division awards while Waleed Rahim Al Balushi of OCT Al Hail returned to claim C Division's Best Batsman prize after winning a similar award the previous night as Oman Cricket honoured teams and individual toppers from C to H Division at OCA ground in Amerat on Wednesday.

Mohsin was presented C Division's Best Batsman, Best Bowler and Best All-rounder awards by the chief guest Janab Al Sayyid Qais Khalid Al Said, OC Vice-Chairman, in the presence of senior OC officials.

Bank Muscat's C Division campaign ended with a champion's trophy with Zubair CT a close second. Here is a complete list of team and individual toppers: C Division

Champion: Bank Muscat. Runner-up: Zubair CT. Best Batsman: Waleed Rahim Al Balushi(OCT Al Hail A). Best Bowler: Mubashar Iqbal (Zubair CT).

D Division: Champion: Unique Elegant. Runner-up: Khalsa United. Best Batsman: Akbar Shaikh (Ideal International). Best Bowler: Aditya Dalvi (Unique Elegant).

E Division: Champion: Design



Group. Runner-up: Global Phone Tech. Best Batsman: Mohsin Raza (Manis Azad). Best Bowler: Mohsin Raza (Manis Azad). Best All-rounder: Mohsin Raza (Maniz Azad).

F Division: Champion: Spanion& VDD. Runner-up TR Engineering. Best Batsman: Ranjit Kumar (Spanio). Best Bowler: Avinash Sharma (Jotun CT). Best All-rounder: Doresh Devender (Danmark).

G Division: Champion: Gitacs. Runner-up: Vanderlande. Best Batsman: Arif Hussain (Gitacs). Best Bowler: Rafeeq Mohammed Al Balushi (Gitacs).

H Division: Champion: Desert CT. Runner-up: Rimal& Rock. Best Batsman: NahasTheparambilHaneefa (Ghantoot Group). Best Bowler: Hemant Gharti (Rimal& Rock).

LA LIGA

Messi equals Pele's record of most goals for one club

BARCELONA: Barcelona striker Lionel Messi has equalled Pele's record of scoring most goals for a single club across all competitions.

Messi achieved the feat against Valencia in La Liga on Saturday. With the goal in the first half, Messi brought up his 643rd goal for Barcelona.

Pele had scored the same amount of goals for his club Santos and with the strike against Valencia, Messi went on to equal the record, Goal.com reported.

The 33-year-old Messi achieved the feat as he struck a diving header into the goalpost in the first half against Valencia. In the first half, Messi had also missed a penalty as Valencia goalkeeper Jaume Domenech was up to the task.

The match between Barcelona and Valencia ended in a 2-2 draw and both sides got one point as a result.



CONGRATULATES: Brazilian football legend Pele has congratulated Lionel Messi for matching his record for goalscoring at a single club.

Barcelona

For Barcelona, goals were registered by Messi and Ronald Araujo while for Valencia, Mouctar Diakhaby and Maximiliano Gonzalez got among the scoring charts.

Barcelona has now slipped to the fifth spot in La Liga standings with 21 points from 13 matches and the side is eight points behind table-toppers Atletico Madrid.

The Catalan side will next take on Valladolid in La Liga on Tuesday.

Brazilian football legend Pele has congratulated Lionel Messi for matching his record for goalscoring at a single club, which has stood for almost half a century.

Messi achieved the feat against Valencia in La Liga on Saturday. With a goal in the first half, Messi brought up his 643rd goal for Barcelona. Pele had

scored the same amount of goals for his club Santos and with the strike against Valencia, Messi went on to equal the record, Goal.com reported.

"When your heart overflows with love, it is difficult to change your path, Like you, I know what it's like to love wearing the same shirt every day. Like you, I know that there is nothing better than the place we feel at home," the 80-year-old former forward wrote on Instagram.

Historic record

"Congratulations on your historic record, Lionel. But above all, congratulations on your beautiful career at Barcelona. Stories like ours, of loving the same club for so long, unfortunately, will be increasingly rare in football. I admire you very much, @leomessi," he added. **ANI**

GLOBAL PC MARKET TO GROW

Global shipments of personal computers (PCs) are expected to hit 143 million units in the last quarter of 2020, up 35 per cent year on year, according to the latest report by technology market research firm Canalys. This will bring total PC shipments in 2020 to 458 million units, an annual increase of 17 per cent.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Securities Market (MSM) general index (30) lost (1.7) point, comprising a decline by 0.05 per cent to close at 3,611.15 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 3,612.83 points.

MINERAL WEALTH

Port of Salalah expanding gypsum export capacity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Port of Salalah, with annual exports of 9 million MT of gypsum in 2019, is the world's largest exporter of gypsum and is working on expanding its capacity to meet the future market demand of this commodity as well as limestone exports.

The proximity to prime mining and quarrying locations has enabled the port and the exporters to grow the export volumes. Port of Salalah collaborates closely with the exporters on improving and adding to its portfolio of services. In addition to the deepwater berths of up to 18m of depth that can receive cape-size vessels thereby giving its customers increased flexibility, Port of Salalah has also been investing in new equipment and resources to improve productivity and reliability.

Oman has been blessed with a diverse range of mineral deposits ranging from copper to gypsum and limestone and the government has initiated several measures to unlock the vast opportunities and potential of this sector leveraging its strategic location on the global



EXPORT VOLUMES: The proximity to prime mining and quarrying locations has enabled Port of Salalah and the exporters to grow the export volumes. - Supplied photo

trade lane and proximity to destinations that have a high demand for these products like India and South East Asia in addition to traditional markets in the Far East.

The Government of Oman has invested and plans to continue investing in logistics infrastructure in the Sultanate to ensure that Oman plays an active role in global

commerce and progress its vision. "Oman is witnessing rapid changes in the year 2020. A reform in the government structure and new legislative laws are opening

the opportunity for foreign investments which will lead to increased profits due to economic diversification. The country's mineral wealth is being realised, thus focusing on investing in the downstream capabilities will increase the business generated from local raw materials. Port of Salalah has an extensive client portfolio and a well-equipped general cargo terminal that caters to the country's largest mining companies as well as provides services related to importing and exporting raw materials," stated Mark Hardiman, CEO of Port of Salalah.

Demand for Oman Gypsum continues to be strong for importers in South East Asia and the Far East. A diverse group of mining companies like Kunooz Gypsum. Global Mining, Dhofar Mining, Zawawi Minerals, Al Jood Natural Resources already operate mines in Dhofar while Majan Mining has a strong presence in Limestone exports.

Scott Watson the Chief Executive Officer of Kunooz Oman Holding commented, "Over the last 5 years I've witnessed Gypsum exports grow, making Oman through Salalah Port to world's

biggest exporter of Gypsum.

Combined with limestone exports, makes Salalah Port the key logistics Hub for exporting both commodities to India, South and South-East Asia, Japan, East Africa and South Africa. Salalah Port is also emerging as the export hub for the value-added business of Limestone, Gypsum Board, and Gypsum Powder."

Trade and manufacturing have been hugely impacted globally by the pandemic and the same has had an impact on the demand for aggregates in the 2nd quarter of this year. Despite these challenges, the mining companies have managed to recover the volumes in the last quarter and overall gypsum volumes for 2020 are expected to be close to volumes handled in 2019.

Strategically located on the trade crossroads between Asia and Europe and serving the markets of East Africa, the Red Sea, the Indian Subcontinent and the Arabian Gulf – the Port of Salalah is operated by APM Terminals as part of the APM Terminals global terminal network. The port operates both a container terminal and a general cargo terminal.

Over 12,000 residential plots allotted in Oman

The governorate of North Al Sharqiyah was allotted 2,040 residential lands at the end of November 2020, which is the highest among governorates

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing allotted a total of 12,474 residential properties across the country at the end of November 2020, compared to 25,220 plots in the same period of 2019, which is a decrease of 50.5 per cent, according to statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The governorate of North Al Sharqiyah was allotted 2,040 residential lands at the end of November 2020, which is the highest among governorates. This was followed by South Al Sharqiyah with



NCSI REPORT: The Ministry of Housing had allotted a total of 28,099 residential plots in 2019. - File picture

1,768; Al Dakhiliyah with 1,726 plots; Muscat with 1,680 plots; Al Dhahirah with 1,425; and North Al Batinah with 1,398 properties.

There were 1,158 properties granted in Dhofar, 661 plots in South Al Batinah, 269 in Al Wusta, and 199 in Musandam. Al Buraimi was allotted 150 plots, which is the

lowest among governorates.

Meanwhile, 342 residential plots were granted in South Al Sharqiyah in November 2020, and it was the highest among governorates.

Meanwhile, the governorates of Dhofar and Al Dhahirah witnessed a phenomenal increase in the number of lands allotted at the

end of November 2020 compared to the same period of 2019 whereas allotment of properties in the rest of the governorates showed a marked decline during the period of study.

The Ministry of Housing allotted a total of 28,099 residential plots in 2019. - **ONA**

SHELL

Tristar adds new fuel tankers to its fleet

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tristar Group, the global integrated energy logistics company, announced that it has successfully inducted six fuel tankers and 11 Scania trucks to its fleet in Oman, which are under contract with Shell.

The tankers have a capacity of 36.4 kilolitres and have safety features including emergency braking, lane departure warning signals, an electronic stability programme and state of the art air bags and inflatable curtains.

Scania trucks have safety features that will improve performance and reduce Co2 emissions.

Eugene Mayne, Group CEO of Tristar said, "We are pleased to announce the addition of these technologically advanced tankers and trucks to our fleet in Oman. As a key player in the maritime and road transport industry, it is our duty to take a leading role in improving safety conditions by ensuring all our vessels and vehicles are equipped with the latest technology. Tristar has been transporting fuels for Shell within Oman, and we look forward to continuing our partnership and work-



SAFETY FEATURES: The tankers have a capacity of 36.4 kilolitres and have safety features including emergency braking, lane departure warning signals, an electronic stability programme and state of the art air bags and inflatable curtains. - Supplied photo

ing towards improving road safety for all drivers."

Tristar Oman was established in 2002. Based in Muscat, Tristar Oman is one of the leading bulk liquid road transport companies in the Sultanate and is a key transporter for major international and

local oil and gas companies.

Tristar began its relationship with Shell Oman in the same year, transporting fuels across the Sultanate and bridging Jet fuel at Muscat International Airport.

In 2012, the relationship expanded to include the distribu-

tion of bulk and packed lubricants within Oman and UAE.

The same year, Tristar was awarded the 'Shell Best Haulier of the Year', recognised for its compliance with Shell global standards, operational excellence and customer service.

MASS PILOT PROGRAMMES

Lessons to draw from aviation industry to accelerate adoption of autonomous driving

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing with contactless interactions has accelerated mass pilot programmes of autonomous cars technologies, with several public and private organisations around the world using autonomous cars for the transportation of passengers, medical supplies, food, and parcels.

Given the potential benefits of autonomous cars, governments in the Middle East have the opportunity to seize the initiative and begin creating the right conditions for their adoption as it offers significant benefits in terms of transport efficiency, safety, and an improved urban environment according to Strategy& Middle East, part of the PwC network.

The worldwide market for autonomous cars technology is growing rapidly. It was worth an estimated \$54 billion in 2019 and should expand to \$557 billion by 2026, according to Allied Market Research. Nearly 100 cities worldwide have some form of pilot program underway, but many of them have focused on the scope of testing that companies can conduct on public roads. China, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore, Sweden, the UK, and the US have all led regulatory efforts to promote safe testing of self-driving cars.

However, despite significant advances in recent years, there are considerable barriers to adoption, including communication protocols, infrastructure standards, and liability considerations.

Within the region, the Dubai Government is aiming for a quarter of transportation to be autonomous in the emirate by 2030. Towards this direction, in early 2020, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) enacted new legislation for individuals, companies and public entities who want to introduce self-driving modes of transport in the emirate. Public transport modes such as first-mile-last-mile shuttles, BRT are making considerable progress towards achieving self-driving functionalities. Similarly, from the private sector, companies such as Noon.com have announced their intentions to test driverless vehicles designed to make last-mile deliveries in the UAE and Saudi Arabia in 2019.

"Technology is only one aspect of autonomous driving and likely not the greatest barrier to adoption," said Camil Tahan, partner with Strategy& Middle

East. "Governments need to sort through issues such as changes to infrastructure and regulations. Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and telecom companies will need to collaborate on communications standards. Insurers will need to rethink liability in a car accident. Consumers will also need to embrace the technology, primarily by believing that it is safe," he added.

These are challenging issues, but they are not new. Indeed, the commercial airline industry already operates mostly through automated systems and technical standards that are set internationally, under well-defined regulatory frameworks that govern the international civil aviation ecosystem. Governments, manufacturers, and other stakeholders can use the experience of civil aviation to develop the policies, regulations, infrastructure, and business environment that will enable the safe, effective, and widespread introduction of AV technology. According to the Strategy& report, autonomous driving stakeholders can learn from civil aviation in three key areas.

Infrastructure

Civil aviation uses a range of physical and technological infrastructure to maintain extremely high safety standards, such as multiple redundant-communication and collision-avoidance systems.

Regulations

International authorities set principles and regulations that airlines, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and air traffic control providers abide by. There are consistent, agreed standards for interoperability and safety, which encourage consumer demand.

Public-private ecosystem

Aircraft flying autonomously because of a plethora of back-up systems – including pilots, an airline operating control centres, air traffic control facilities, and other public- and private-sector bodies. There is also a network of public and private stakeholders responsible for operations, monitoring, and maintenance including OEMs, traffic authorities, telecommunications providers, data providers and more.

"The growing automation in the aviation sector can provide useful lessons for the automotive industry as it seeks to overcome barriers to adoption," said Gerassimos Skaltsas, manager with Strategy & Middle East.

MARKET

MSM index ends lower

The trading value stood at OMR4,419,237, comprising a rise by 273.4 per cent, compared to the last session



MUSCAT: Muscat Securities Market (MSM) general index (30) lost (1.7) point, comprising a decline by 0.05 per cent to close at 3,611.15 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 3,612.83 points.

The trading value stood at OMR4,419,237, comprising a rise by 273.4 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR1,183,508.

The report released by MSM

pointed out that the market value rose by 0.053 per cent to reach about OMR20.13 billion.

The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached OMR162,000, comprising 3.67 per cent. The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached OMR693,000, comprising 15.68 per cent.

The net non-Omani investment rose by 12.01 per cent to OMR531,000. - **OMA**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSM30 Index	3,616.36	3,609.77	3,611.15	3,612.83	-1.68	-0.05	
Financial Index	5,595.34	5,583.08	5,583.99	5,595.25	-11.26	-0.20	
Industrial Index	4,157.26	4,149.06	4,155.36	4,129.01	26.35	0.64	
Services Index	1,578.27	1,572.54	1,574.57	1,577.55	-2.98	-0.19	
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	511.87	511.60	511.85	511.60	0.25	0.05	
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,127.09	4,119.56	4,121.13	4,123.06	-1.93	-0.05	

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
36,772,113	4,419,237	331	20,125,301,052	4	4	31	39

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	10,000	900	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	35,028	13,591	30	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.386	0.002	0.518	0.388	0.386	0.388	0.100	252,566,361
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	12,500	5,000	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.392	0.400	0.100	40,000,000
OM0000001190	NATIONAL GAS	85,780	12,992	8	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	300,000	99,600	10	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332	0.330	0.332	0.100	268,180,413
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	375,092	90,022	18	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.244	0.100	79,408,450
OM0000002176	AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	127,047	17,027	7	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.134	0.139	0.100	16,736,327
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	2,873	2,023	2	0.704	0.704	0.704	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.704	0.700	0.704	0.100	525,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	385,510	131,073	24	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.338	0.340	0.100	80,379,400
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	382,132	55,156	8	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	223,974,620
OM0000003505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	30,812	6,296	6	0.206	0.206	0.204	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.203	0.204	0.100	11,220,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SER	195,000	13,290	12	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	19,851,592
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	993,163	389,545	56	0.396	0.396	0.388	0.392	0.398	-0.006	0.392	0.392	0.394	0.100	127,812,835
Total	13	2,934,939	815,494	183											

Parallel Market

OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	233,447	55,318	16	0.232	0.238	0.232	0.237	0.226	0.011	4.867	0.238	0.235	0.237	0.100	70,202,643
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	5,498	286	2	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINE. INVT.	250	25	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.097	0.100	12,120,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	39,643	27,750	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.716	0.100	110,250,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	94,000	14,316	7	0.152	0.154	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.154	0.153	0.155	0.100	247,143,846
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	142,867	12,858	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	180,028,151
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	30,002,000	2,580,172	3	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.090	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	31,838	17,291	2	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.000	0.000	0.550	0.550	0.566	0.100	27,479,685
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT	60,500	1,392	4	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.023	0.024	0.100	4,764,482
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	349,145	43,643	3	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.130	0.100	206,307,183
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	300,000	65,100	6	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.217	0.206	0.100	13,281,327
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	2,500	2,440	1	0.976	0.976	0.976	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.976	0.968	0.976	0.100	95,000,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	263,667	25,050	5	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	284,653,386
OM0000002820	GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	157,531	12,226	13	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	1,527,541
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON.	478,361	18,678	24	0.040	0.040	0.038	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.039	0.040	0.100	11,309,245
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	351,000	30,407	17	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	145,500,000
OM0000004768	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	130,749	9,545	3	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	12,775,000
OM0000004925	AL BATINAH POWER	9,400	428	4	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	300,000	54,000	3	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.170	0.180	0.100	300,493,600
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INS.	4,372	1,486	1	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.340	0.360	0.100	91,160,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	1,368	127	2	0.095	0.095	0.092	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.100	0.100	14,777,288
OM0000007407	DHOOFAR GENERATING COMPANY	247,688	46,318	10	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.187	0.190	0.100	41,558,880
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	42,750	18,297	9	0.428	0.428	0.428	0.428	0.430	-0.002	-0.465	0.428	0.428	0.440	0.100	38,391,600
OM0000004735	SEMCORP SALALAH	30,000	2,951	3	0.100	0.100	0.095	0.098	0.102	-0.004	-3.922	0.095	0.097	0.100	0.100	93,548,051
Total	24	33,277,174	3,043,743	145												

PERSONAL COMPUTERS

Global PC market to grow 35% in Q4

BEIJING: Global shipments of personal computers (PCs) are expected to hit 143 million units in the last quarter of 2020, up 35 per cent year on year, according to the latest report by technology market research firm Canalis.

This will bring total PC shipments in 2020 to 458 million units, an annual increase of 17

per cent, as the need for personal computing devices for skilled workers and students remains at an unprecedented high despite significant increases in supply, the report noted.

Growth in the PC sector will spill over into 2021, with shipments in the first quarter expected to rise 43 per cent year on year due

to a weak basis in Q1 2020.

“Shipments for 2021 are expected to increase by 1.4 per cent following an extraordinary year in 2020,” the report predicted, listing four key trends that will drive PC market growth in 2021 and beyond - remote working, digital learning, device as a service and emerging use cases. - **Xinhua**

NEW YORK

Sales tax deadline extended for restaurants suspending indoor dining

NEW YORK: Restaurants which are required by the government to suspend indoor dining will have their sales tax payment deadline extended by three months, according to an executive order signed by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo on Saturday.

Tax burdens for restaurants in communities where COVID-19 metrics necessitated additional restrictions would be eased with the deadline due on December 21 to be extended to March 2021, said a release by Cuomo's office.

The move also provides some temporary relief to restaurants as the state government asks for fiscal relief for these small businesses from the federal government, according to the release.

As much as 54 per cent of New York restaurants said they would likely not survive the upcoming six months without federal relief, according to a recent survey of 238 restaurants in New York by

Tax burdens for restaurants in communities where COVID-19 metrics necessitated additional restrictions would be eased with the deadline

the National Restaurant Association (NRA).

One out of every six restaurants in the United States has already closed, including over 8,000 in New York State and more than 4,000 in New York City, according to the NRA's estimate.

A group of people from the restaurant sector recently staged a

protest in New York City's Times Square calling for rent relief, a payroll protection programme, grants, governmental funding programmes, insurance relief and others, according to a statement by the New York State Latino Restaurant and Lounge Association.

New York City suspended indoor dining for at least two weeks starting from Monday due to the rise of COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations.

The restaurant sector in New York City had 23,650 establishments in 2019, employing 317,800 people and generating nearly \$27 billion of taxable sales, according to a report by the Office of the New York State Comptroller.

Restaurants in Chinatown and the Lower East Side of Manhattan account for 20.2 per cent of all businesses, the highest proportion among over 50 neighbourhoods across the city, according to the report. - **Xinhua**

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STABLE GROWTH

China's service outsourcing industry reports steady expansion

BEIJING: China's service outsourcing industry reported stable growth in the first 11 months of 2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Chinese firms inked service outsourcing contracts worth about 1.3 trillion yuan (about 187.9 billion US dollars) in the January-November period, up 12.9 per cent year on year.

The executed contract value stood at 922.6 billion yuan in the first 11 months, representing a year-on-year increase of 16.4 per cent.

Of the total, offshore service outsourcing contracts reached 765.88 billion yuan during the period, up 11.5 per cent year on year.

Outsourcing is the business practice of hiring a party outside a company to perform services and make goods traditionally undertaken by the company's employees.

During the period, the United States, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the European Union ranked the top three largest markets in business volume, the ministry said.

Service outsourcing with countries along the Belt and Road totalled 99.12 billion yuan in terms of the fulfilled contract value, up 8.1 per cent from a year ago. - **Xinhua**

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- BMW 630 i - 2007 MODEL
- KIA RIO - 2011 MODEL
- ASHOK LEYLAND BUS 28 SEATER - 2008 MODEL

PLEASE CONTACT: 99857720 / 99857724

FOR RENT

1 BHK , 2 BHK flats for rent at Azaiba - Next building Al Meera Hyper market. Contact 94934353 Email hotapaz@omantel.net.om

Rent flat near Badr al sama hospital in Ruwi, 4 Bedroom with AC & also Room for rent in Wadi Adel with AC. Contact 99345137

Flat for Rent in Wadi Kabir(2BHK), sitting room(3 bathroom) A/C split near Jalalah mosque. Contact 99324402

Furnished Bedroom with attached Bath & Kitchen, separate entrance available for Executive Bachelor in a Villa, opposite Star Cinema. Contact 99314807

Single room with attached bathroom with separate entrance for non cooking bachelor in Ruwi, Mumtaz area. 110 OMR/month (Water, electricity & WIFI included) Contact 99453837

Showroom + Warehouse for Rent in Al Amerat, Contact: 92878705/ 99374971. Plot 1: Total 2800m2 Area with 2000mm2 Warehouse & 300m2 Showroom. Plot 2: Total 7200m2 Area with 2800m2 Warehouse.

Labour Accommodation for Rent in Al Amerat - 36 Rooms for labours & 20 Rooms for Staff with Kitchen & Dining Rooms, Contact: 92878705/ 99374971

3BHK apartment is available for 03 months in Qurum near Oman Oil @ 200/-per Month. Contact 99219337

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OBG clinic for sale. Location Al khoud. Contact 99352793/99014851

Equipments/machinery including welding/drill/lathe machines suitable for fabrication Work-shop available for sale. Contact 99202278/99273774 mail: reachkvknair@gmail.com

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JOB VACANCIES

JOB VACANCY

A major Logistics Group has the following vacancies:

Job title: Operations Manager

Ref No.: JOBS - 001-2019

Qualifications and Experience requirements:

- Omani National
- Candidate must have at least 10 years' experience at management level.
- Should have a university degree or equivalent professional qualification.
- Must be fluent in English language and must have a valid driving license.
- Candidate with relevant experience in Oil & Gas will be preferred.
- Age not to be less than 35 years.

Interested candidates may forward their CV to jobseekers367@gmail.com quoting the job title and code.

WE ARE HIRING!

Well established FMCG group in Oman looking for experienced, young, talented, qualified, dynamic and enthusiastic Professionals who are ambitious, love challenges and have a passion for excelling

S#.	POSITION	EXPERIENCE & CATEGORIES
1	Van Salesman - For PET Bottles	Experienced in distribution of Water (Pet 250ml, 500ml, 1500ml) in Oman or GCC countries. Min Experience 2-3 years.
2	Sales Supervisor - For PET Bottles	Experienced in distribution of Water (Pet 250ml, 500ml, 1500ml) in Oman or GCC countries. Min Experience 4-5 years with a valid Oman driving licence.
3	Van Salesman - For 5 Gallon Bottles	Experienced in distribution of Water (5 Gallon bottles) in Oman or GCC countries. Min Experience 2-3 years.
4	Sales Supervisor - For 5 Gallon Bottles	Experienced in distribution of Water (5 Gallon bottles) in Oman or GCC countries. Min Experience 4-5 years with a valid Oman driving licence.

Interested Candidates can E-mail their Resume Or Contact the below-mentioned details.

E-mail : hr@m-riaz.net / Mob : +968-91353607

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 3. Monthly and Yearly Accounting
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Contact: 90608097

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Urgent Requirement Accountants in Sohar part time/ full time, visa available. Email: career.hrdinfo@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Draftsman Civil/ Mechanical & Technicians Needed. Email CV to dides.hr@gmail.com or Contact 92878705

CATERING

Required Indian Cook For Staff Mess. Contact 92187589

Urgently required experienced south Indian male cook (Veg/Non-veg). Interested candidate to contact Mob: 99273774/99202278

Indian Cook for private family with experience in Continental & Indian dish. Contact 99202640

DOMESTIC HELP

Housemaid for north Indian family in Al Falaj area. Contact 92187589

MEDICAL

Femal Nurse required for a Clinic in Al Buraimi. Contact +96892737149 Email drpkabbas@yahoo.co.in

ENGINEER

Sales Engineer Mechanical minimum 7 years experience in steel fabrication responsibility involves technical discussion with customers, cost estimation, quotations: Email : hr@tisco.co

MANAGER

Property Leasing Manager. Send CV to: vepsupervisor@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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

JOB VACANCIES

1. Civil Engineer
2. Land Surveyor
3. Site Foreman
4. HSE Supervisor

Qualified candidates with 5 years of experience in earthmoving in Oman may apply to:

muna_tmtm@yahoo.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A well-known Printing Press urgently requires

1. Graphic Designer

having minimum 2-3 years Oman experience in the relevant field.

Please send your CV to: nizwapress@gmail.com
 Contact +968-93764614

JOB VACANCY

A reputed hotel in Muscat is looking to hire

Male & Female Waiters

If interested please send your CV to munashalli@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

As a part of expansion, a leading vegetarian restaurant located in different parts of Muscat is seeking CVs from suitable candidates for the following position.

1. Captain/Cashier - 2 nos

2. Waiter - 3 nos

3. Woman Cashier for food court - 2 nos - Filipino preferred

Kindly contact Mr. Biju: 9271 3345

NOTICE

Dar Al-Bayan Al-Mutmayza for Trad & Construction ASSTD company announces that it is registered with the commercial register secretariat at the Ministry of Trad & Industry under No 1164526 announces that it is in the process of transferring its legal from ASSTD - company to(One Person) company in accordance with Article No 30 of the Commercial Companies Law No. 2019/18 .. and its amendment and on the all anyone who objects to this must submit the reasons for his objection to the Commercial Registry Secretariat at the Ministry of Trad & Industry within a period of one month from the date publishing of this announcement.

Alwan Al Batinah Trad ASSO company announces that it is registered with the commercial register secretariat at the Ministry of Trad & Industry under No 1094590 announces that it is in the process of transferring its legal from ASSO - company to(One Person) company in accordance with Article No 30 of the Commercial Companies Law No. 2019/18 .. and its amendment and on the all anyone who objects to this must submit the reasons for his objection to the Commercial Registry Secretariat at the Ministry of Trad & Industry within a period of one month from the date publishing of this announcement.

MATRIMONIAL

Kerala Pentecostal parents invite proposals for their son (28/155cm) working as a Sales Executive in Oman. Seeking suitable alliance. Contact 968 96614108

SERVICES

Accounting, VAT Implementation, Consulting, Advisory Services
 Contact: 99884291 / 99741875.
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

Pest Control treatments - Cockroaches, Ants etc Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289. Mail - sales@oceancentre.co

Disinfection & Sterilization Treatments. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289. Mail - sales@oceancentre.co

Carpet & Sofa Shampooing, General Cleaning- Offices, Villas, Flats. Ocean Centre LLC. Contact 9932 9289. Mail - sales@oceancentre.co

SERVICES

Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Contact Mundhir I-Rizaig trading. LLC # 24810137, 99450130

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant Indian Male, M.com 13 years experience in Oman with good knowledge in Focus ERP seeks placement. NOC available # 99757409

ACCA Accounting Manager/Chief Accountant 11 years experience in preparing Financials, Forecasts, Payroll, & Payments. Epicor, Tally, Quickbooks, Sage, Audit, Reconciliations, VAT, Banking, Oman DL, NOC. # 91718739, zaa.mct@gmail.com

Assistant Accountant, Indian male, B Com 12 years experience in Oman with D/L and NOC seeks suitable placement. Contact 96395258

Looking for Senior Accountant Position. Having 10 Years Experience, and driving license also . Mob - 79202007

Sudanese 32 yrs, 6 yrs experience in Oman in Accounting & Administrative assistant. Contact 94050251. email danygalaxy184@gmail.com

Accountant, office administration, back office. Contact 93403636. Email munafshaikh22@gmail.com

Part time accountant with more than 12 yrs experience in different financial sectors. Good working knowledge of ERP softwares & advanced excel. Can do audit & certification & consultancy work. Contact 94197499. Email ma.abdul1988@gmail.com

Indian female, M.com (Finance) & MBA (HR), 6 years experience seeking an opening in Muscat. Contact 95340104; sunilasunil30@gmail.com

Indian, Male working as Senior Accountant over 16 years of experience in Accounts looking for a Job. Contact: 95851920, 78258270

Available 31 years Oman experienced Data Entry Operator in English/Hindi/Marathi & knowledge of Accounting. Contact +968 92720543

Part time accountant having 13 yrs experience upto finalization seeking job. Contact 79102100

Manager/Senior Accountant with 25+ years of experience till finalization and other financial reports. Worked with trading, manufacturing, restaurants/cafes, transport, service providers etc. Looking for better opportunity. Release available. GSM 72637471. Email navimumbai706@yahoo.com

Pakistani diploma holder looking for part time or cashier job with valid DL. Contact 94110965

10+ Experience in Finance upto Finalisation, Bank Facilities, LC, Credit Recoveries. Contact 96239126

Indian male 18+ yrs experience in Debt collection, credit, trade finance, audit operation available for immediate joining. # 95500941, 78159940. Email tatabrazaziz@gmail.com

Indian Bcom graduate Looking for part time accountant job. # 91019796

Indian Male Bcom, MBA, 19 years experience in Finance and ERP, seeks suitable placement in Senior position. Contact 91190552/92243552

CARGO/LOGISTICS?



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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Smart Indian, excellent English, Research & Technical Writing Skills, Double Masters (Finance, Journalism & Mass Communication), Arabic Speaker, 17years Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC seeks role in Admin/HR/Projects/Corporate & Marketing Communications/Operations/Customer Relations/Role in Chairman/CEO Office. Immediate joining. NOC.

99283938 / rajansampath@hotmail.com

HSE Eng/Advisor, Msc Env & NEBOSH IGC with 10 years extensive construction, safety exp. Immediately available with NOC.

Contact 95193937

QUALITY MANAGER

Indian, Quality Manager, 18 years exp.4.3 years at Abu Dhabi, looking for top/senior management position in quality. Coordinating RFQ to Mass production, Time, Resource & Quality planning, Process design, Project execution, etc. Available to join shortly.

Contact: 91-9952022345, venkatavaradu@rediffmail.com

Chemical Engineer with over 5 years of experience in Oman Industry looking for a suitable position.

Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.com
GSM: 93823132

OMANI HR/PRO

Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.

Contact 97264447

FINANCE MANAGER

Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting, Income tax, VAT etc. Qualified CPA, CMA, CIA. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608 / soji_ansu@yahoo.com

ENGINEER

BTECH IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING *(EEE)*WITH 3 YEARS EXPERIENCES DIPLOMA IN PLC & SCADA. NOC, Oman Valid Driving License Looking for a suitable Job. **Contact 78227500**
Email: muhdfahiz007@gmail.com

CIVIL MANAGER

Indian with 23 years experience in construction and project management with reputed companies and government organisations. D/L and local release available.

CONTACT: 97236220

Chief Accountant MBA

Indian Male With 16 Years' Experience in all aspects of Accounting. NOC & Oman DL Available, seeks Suitable placement.

Contact: 97741485
Email: stm.crg@gmail.com

Execution Architect/ Finishing Manager

36, Male in design/ execution at consultancy & contracting with 13 Work experience in Hotel/Office/ Airport/ retail in Construction/Interior fit-out Space seeking Suitable placement. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/ Tendering/ Estimation. D/L and NOC available immediately.

Contact: 78371040; architdesign2020@gmail.com

MicroMasters in Supply Chain Management, B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering 3 years industry experience as a Sales Engineer, Valid Oman DL.

Contact: 99137115
Email: adimurali7@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER

16+ Years Experience In Site Supervision, Structural Engineering, ETABS, STAAD, ROADS, BRIDGES, Project manager, INDUSTRIAL. WORKED WITH SOHAR ALUMINUM AND OCC. WITH ALL SAFETY Training & KNOWLEDGE. Available Noc & Valid Driving License.

Call or Wts app 98333185

FINANCE

Indian, Group-Finance Manager, 19 years' world class experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting etc. Multiple Professional qualifications in Accounting and audit. Looking for Top/Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 99455353

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

EXPERIENCED IN MATERIAL MANAGEMENT (MATERIAL COORDINATION, CONTROL PROCUREMENT, LOGISTICS, INVENTORY CONTROL) PLUS , MARKETING, NEED PLACEMENT D/L, NOC AVAILABLE. (MBA - International Business + Diploma in Materials Management).

GSM: 95491377, psjanesh@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree looking for position in Office Administration/ Document Control, total 22 years of experience, 19 years in Oman with Oman driving licence. NOC available.

Contact No. 99757759

GM / NSM / Head Of Sales

Male 49 – Proven Business Manager with exceptional sales management skills. Chartered Institute of Marketing – UK, MBA in Marketing, 15+ years of FMCG sales & business management experience in GCC & OMAN. NOC/DL available.

Email: sljjobseeker72@gmail.com
Contact: 96223114

Omani DL holder Indian from Kerala looking for a job in F M C G sector.

12 year experience in Oman. Speak Arabic, English, Hindi and Malayalam. Work experience in all over Oman.

Interested please Contact 94022634

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian Male 43.yo seeking a suitable opportunity in Admin/Mktg/Ops Noc & D/L available. PH. 98274545

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

Indian female with 10 yrs experience in payroll, executive secretarial,general admin/HR with valid D/L,looking for suitable placement. Contact 96441865. Email reetteequ1779@gmail.com

Omani Male 35 yrs old, looking for a PRO job. Has experience 14 yrs in the same field. Contact 92049106, 95422144

Indian Female 10 years' experience in Muscat, for the post of Sales Coordinator, Secretary or Office cum Commercial Assistant. Contact 94048550, 95431427. E-mail: bmnair27@yahoo.com

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 6 years Gulf & 4 years India experience in HR / ADMIN & Purchase looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340, 92369044. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian female 29. Experience in telemarketing/secretarial/office admin work. On family visa. Ready to join ASAP. Muscat. 93605361

Smart Indian, Excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience including Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC. Immediate. Contact 99283938

Indian Female 7 years experience in Executive Secretary, HR/Admin Coordinator seeks suitable placement contact - GSM 92243552

Executive Secretary/Assistant, Graduate with 20+ years experience in Oman, high calibre, fluency in English/Hindi/Malayalam, seeks suitable placement. Ready to join from Jan'21. Contact 99649967 or sunilshankaran@yahoo.com

Indian Male having 17 yrs+ experience in real Estate, sales & marketing, management & ability to set new Business. Contact 99368876, 98720178. Email connecthasin@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Autocad Draughtsman, 16 years of experience in Oman(Structural & Architectural) looking for a suitable placement with valid Visa. Contact: 95289504
Email kvvinodk@gmail.com

Indian Male, CAD Draftsman / Designer, 12yrs experience (4 yrs in Oman) Experienced Infrastructure Roads & Utilities (Civil) seeks job NOC Available. Contact 79614786. Email faizullahaaasi@gmail.com

Civil/MEP Draughtsman (9 yrs experience)in OmanNOC available. Contact 94469729

ARCHITECT

9 years experienced Female Architect with Urban planning experience seeking for a job - 96146645.

DRIVER

Looking for job in driving, with 5 yrs experience. Contact 96189448

Driver need job with own Car. Contact 94087980

Driver, Electrician, plumber looking for job. Contact 96750080

Looking Heavy driver job. Contact 91703829

Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience. Contact 79352646

4wheel driven vehicle with driver. Indian Contact 99725003

IT

Indian Post Graduate with 21 years experience in Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, Forms, Reports, DBA, IT Manager, Orion ERP, Sage ERP with Accounts Knowledge and NOC. Contact 95398567 / 78141598 / anasd2k@gmail.com

IT sales and support. 5 years experience with IT network and hardware, BSc. Networking, Oman D/L. Contact 97060076

Mobile app developer - MCA graduate with 5 years exp in Mobile App development.Interested can contact below. Contact 96879202545

Experienced IT support person looking for job, 13 year's experience in Oman, valid DL with own vehicle. Experience in IT & Internal quality audit. Currently in Muscat with NOC. Contact 95832482

MANAGER

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

Smart Indian Manager, Excellent English, Arabic Speaker, 17years Oman experience, seeks Corporate Communication/Operations/Management/Administration/HR/Suitable Role. Immediate. 99283938.

Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experienced, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact: 98803439

General Manger/ Sr. Manager Role, Indian Professional (BE, MBA, PMP, FIDIC) with 25 years experience into Civil and Infrastructure Constructions And Project Management. NOC available. Contact 94634053

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

M/48, PM Civil Engineer, Indian 28 yrs exp (18 yrs in Oman) with consultants/client seeks placement. contact 92370274

Quantity surveyor having 10 yrs gulf experience with NOC & valid D/L.Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. Contact 79039342. Email abdulmajeednifraz@gmail.com

Indian Civil QA/QC Engineer, Inspector (BE Civil, PDO approved, QMS Auditor, Oman Driving licence, NOC) with 10 years of experience looking for new job. 96359447, +919901059827

Facility engineer. (BE) 12 years exper. in electrical or maint,engineer field, valid Oman DL. Seeking facility or maint,engineer job. Contact 94493654 or syamsk2255@gmail.com

Senior Planner for Infra projects highway and buildings (B.Tech.Civil with 17 yrs Exp) Immediate join. local transfer -NOC. Contact : 91170802. Email: vvrtaammu@gmail.com

Civil engineer Quantity surveyor, 14+ years experience in infrastructure,Road & Building Projects,Oman DL,Gulf experience 12 years NOC available. Contact -97552659. Email shafic1983@gmail.com

Sri Lanka male QS Having 6 years Experience and looking for a suitable job in Oman and ready to join Immediately contact 79473123

Electrical engineer, experience 12 year in Oman. Contact 98148034

B.Tech Civil Engineer with 10+ yrs experience valid Oman DL, looking for suitable position. Available for immediate join. Noc available. Contact 79023001

Project/Civil engineer with 8 yrs experience in construction projects, gulf experience & DL available. Contact 97906770

Looking for a job for the post of Electrical Engineer with B.Tech and 15 years exp in Oman. NOC and Release available. Contact 92254336. Email ameen1667@gmail.com

B.E civil engineer having 12 plus years of Oman experience in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact: 72132426

B.E Civil Engineer having Oman experience looking for false ceiling sub contracting jobs plus building maintenance works. Contact: 79882467

MEDICAL

Indian Male 43.yo seeking a suitable opportunity in medical centers for Admin/Mktg/Ops.Noc & D/L available. Contact 98274545

General practitioner 25+ years in Oman. Seeks employment in CLINIC. Contact 78356337

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Hospital Experience, seeking Admin/Operations/Purchase/Stores, etc. NOC,D/L. # 78363835

Indian male with a BTECH. degree in Chemical Engineering seeking for a suitable placement. Contact +968 78220101

Mechanical Engineer, available immediately for job.Contact 79714227. Email lokesshshirodkar15@gmail.com

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having more than 12 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD,ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 92180869, E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com.

Mechatronics engineer fresher, Indian available to join immediately. Contact 94058298. Email : nihad-nasser8@gmail.com

Lab Technician QC (civil engineering) seeks a job. Contact 97797448/ 71253955

Safety officer (engineer), two years experience in Oil field in Oman, ne-bosh IGC, valid DL. Contact 79318246

BE Mechanical with overall experience of 5 yrs in fabrication & manufacturing industry. Ready to join immediately. Seeking position as production Engineer/QA/QC engineer position. Contact 78052560

Diploma (AEI) Electronic & Instrumentation. 2 years experience in Electronic system calibration service engineering looking for a job in Cement industry or Oil field structured any electronic system and equipment industry. Contact 99325186 / 91 9052738238. Email gundupavan32@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing,painting maintenance works. Contact 96191837,98937266

Electrician, plumber & A/C Service, L.Driver (D/L) Contact 95308363

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience in Stores, Purchase, Operation, Admin. D/L.Immediate joining. # 78363835.

Diploma civil Indian male 26 yrs 5 yrs oman exp, NOC ready, sales/procurement/stores. E.mail vijju.asp7777@gmail.com, GSM/WA 00918712330030

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. syed-kamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Wattsup +96871144578, GSM +917766019519

A Competent Commercial Professional with 20+ years of experience in Procurement & Contract Management. Contact +968 98993356

Indian/Male (29) /MBA/6 years' experience in procurement and sales coordination with valid Oman D/L. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194

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JOB WANTED

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Having 19 yrs experience in Oman air conditioning technician with DL seeking suitable placement. Contact 99637155

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Finance Manager, 28 years Oman experienced worked with reputed groups, Managing Cashflow, MIS, Budget, Forecast etc. Contact 968-98803439 (Call/Whatsapp)

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

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

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

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

SALES / MARKETING

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

MBA,7 yrs experience in Marketing seeks job with Oman DL. Contact 97200806. Email haleemkply@gmail.com

Indian male experience in Sales,HR & Adm for 17 yrs with DL seeks job. Contact 94190155. Email venusyenekal@gmail.com

Indian male experience in Sales & Marketing for 12 yrs with DL seeks job. Contact 96752276. Email arunkolathattil@gmail.com

Indian male, with 4+ years of experience & valid oman driving license, looking for Sales/Marketing opportunities. Contact 79860002 / kpshahazad@gmail.com

Looking for a good placement 7 year showroom incharge cum sales executive in gold and diamond jewellery having Oman DL. Contact 93937696.

Indian male having 10 yrs experience in building material indoor shop sales man, storekeeper seeks job. Contact 91033713, 79515603

B.D.E, 22 yrs experience in Oman seeks employment. Contact/whatsapp 95950370

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ICONIC JEWELLERY BRAND OF THE YEAR MINE - MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS	OUTSTANDING BEACHSIDE CLUB & LOUNGE OF THE YEAR ZALE BEACH CLUB AND LOUNGE	STYLE DIVA OF THE YEAR Mrs. DONATELLA DONATELLI Head of Marketing & Communication of Mercedes-Benz in the Sultanate of Oman
DEBUT LUXURY FRAGRANCE OF THE YEAR OJAR	CONTEMPORARY RESTAURANT & LOUNGE OF THE YEAR CARAMEL RESTAURANT & LOUNGE	The STYLE ICON OF THE YEAR Mr. MARIOS STYLIANIDES General Manager of IDdesign Oman
INNOVATIVE JEWELLERY BRAND OF THE YEAR SWAROVSKI	ULTIMATE LUXURY SEDAN OF THE YEAR MERCEDES-BENZ'S MERCEDES-MAYBACH S 650	SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER OF THE YEAR Ms. AREEJ AL BALUSHI (@mamacitaofficial)
HERITAGE WATCH BRAND OF THE YEAR ROLEX	OUTSTANDING PREMIER BANKING SERVICES OF THE YEAR BANK MUSCAT'S ASALAH PRIORITY BANKING	FORMIDABLE CEO OF THE YEAR Mr. MOHSIN HANI AL-BAHRANI CEO of MHD Automotive
INNOVATIVE LUXURY PAINTS BRAND OF THE YEAR JOTUN	OMAN'S TOP COSMETIC CLINIC OF THE YEAR EMC	
TIMELESS LUXURY FURNITURE & HOME DECOR BRAND OF THE YEAR MARINA HOME		

Al Roofoof Trading introduces its line of products in the Sultanate



Al Roofoof introduced in Oman product lines such as Illy coffee from Italy, Dammann Tea from France, Domorichocolate and gourmet food from Italy, and coffee machines by Sage, Jura, Francis Francis and Spinel

MUSCAT: Al Roofoof Hotel Supplies & Trading has been established a few years ago as an independent division of Al Roofoof Trading, one of the oldest companies in the Sultanate with successful activities spanning from block manufacturing to interior design and architecture, quarry material and other special decorative building products for interiors.

Al Roofoof introduced in Oman product lines such as Illy coffee from Italy, Dammann Tea from

France, Domorichocolate and gourmet food from Italy, and coffee machines by Sage, Jura, Francis Francis and Spinel.

It also supports other businesses in the Sultanate by investing its time and energy with continuous assistance and training to all its clients (coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, spas, offices, etc). It takes great pride in the fact that its training and assistance with quality assurance has enabled its clients to maintain high-quality offerings



which compete with the best of brands from the world over.

Al Roofoof also holds the distinction of conceptualising and co-organising the venerated Oman Barista Competition since 2013.

Amongst its clients in the country, it can mention Oman Air, The Chedi Hotel, Al Bustan Palace Hotel, Anantara Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar and Salalah, Grand Hyatt Muscat, Kempinski Muscat, Mysk Muscat, Al-Mouj Golf Course, Shakespeare & Co., illy Café and many more.

The company orientation is for high quality and good services and it does trust that its products can satisfy the highest expectations with no compromises and mistakes. It believes the local marketplace is constantly growing and improving, in terms of purchase power, taste, sophistication and awareness of what can be found in the International markets. So the country deserves to be supplied with the best products available on the International scale.

DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Zubair SEC, FAO organise session on promoting sustainable food systems

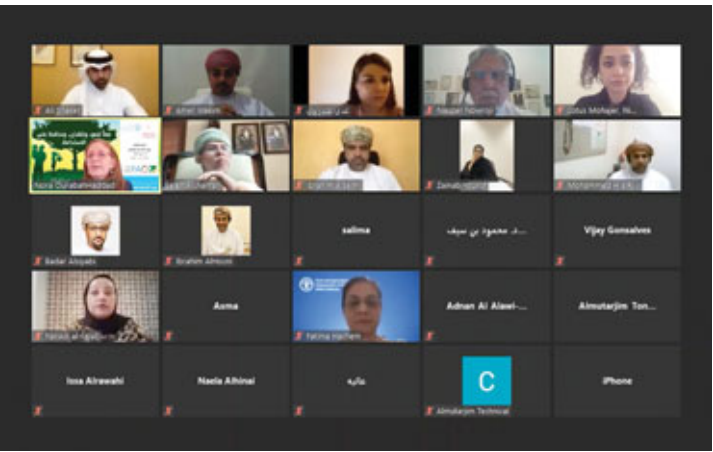
MUSCAT: The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) conducted two special dialogue sessions on strengthening the role of small enterprises in the food systems in Oman.

The sessions which focused on ‘strengthening the role of small and medium enterprises in the food systems in the Sultanate of Oman’ was organised on December 8 and 15. It was attended by multi-stakeholder technical working groups including private and public sector representatives, food-related SMEs, experts in the field of nutrition and other relevant parties.

The dialogue sessions come within the framework of cooperation that exists between FAO and the Zubair SEC. The two sessions reviewed themes covering issues related to the sustainability of food systems, how to make them more resilient, how to strengthen the relationship and establish communication channels between the various sectors in the field of agriculture, health, and food.

A sustainable food system (SFS) is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social, and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised. It means that it is profitable throughout (economic sustainability); it has broad-based benefits for society (social sustainability) and has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (environmental sustainability). The SDGs call for major transformations in agriculture and food systems to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030.

The two sessions focused on the concepts and dimensions of the three sustainable systems (supply chains, the nutritional environment and consumer behaviours) and the importance of a multi-sectoral dialogue on these dimensions. The significant results of



the nutrition-sensitive food value chain evaluation study that was carried out by the FAO with the participation of the Zubair SEC earlier this year were presented.

Priorities

During the session, various stakeholders discussed different priorities and interests among relevant sectors and how they affect each other. The dialogue focussed on how various stakeholders can contribute to creating an enabling and inclusive environment for food system transformation towards healthy diets at the national level.

During the dialogue, Nora Ourabah Haddad, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in the Sultanate said, “Current food systems are increasingly challenged to provide adequate, safe, diversified, and nutritious foods that are affordable, accessible and available and contribute to healthy diets for all. This requires transforming current food systems, which necessitates strong engagement and collaboration from all stakeholders.”

She added, “This dialogue is an opportunity for all parties, especially representatives of small farmers and small and medium enterprises, to make their voices heard and contribute to setting sound investment policies and programmes.”

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources and

the Ministry of Health stressed the importance of developing appropriate policies that consider nutrition and health, with the participation of all parties.

Dr Fatima Hachem, Senior Nutrition Officer, FAO, reviewed some solutions to transform food systems and stated: “There are three main paths to supply chains through which food systems and nutrition can be improved, and work can also be made to improve the nutritional environment. This can be done by increasing consumption nutritious foods; reducing consumption of less nutritious foods; and increasing income that enables consumers to purchase more nutritious foods.”

All participants stressed the importance of the role of academic and research institutions in generating knowledge and making evidence-based policies in food systems, in addition to the role of the private sector in enhancing the nutritional value of products and moving towards local products of nutritional and healthy value.

The attendees agreed on the urgent need to enhance the capacities of small farmers and small enterprises and enable them to provide various foods of high nutritional value and cover local demand.

Ali Shaker, Adviser, Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, Zubair SEC said, “Organising this dialogue in coopera-

tion with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to empower small and medium enterprises and small farmers, create opportunities and identify challenges at all stages of the supply chain and production, is a qualitative leap for this vital and important sector. This is in line with the Sultanate’s national orientation in terms of raising the level of food security and its sustainability.

“We hope to work with all stakeholders involved in this dialogue, to follow up and implement the recommendations made in this study and dialogue, to empower and activate the role of these small and medium enterprises in these healthy food chains. We hope to continue our successful plans and partnership with FAO in the upcoming programmes.”

Promising opportunities

In conclusion, this dialogue highlighted the promising opportunities and the sessions contributed to defining goals and visions for creating sustainable food systems. It was agreed with government agencies, small and medium-sized companies, farmers and academics to create a comprehensive programme that takes into account all aspects of a sustainable food system.

To design a project that aims at strengthening the role of Omani SMEs in achieving food security in Oman, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations had signed a letter of agreement (LOA) with Zubair SEC in 2019 March.

Zubair SEC and FAO had earlier collaborated in raising awareness of Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) by hosting FAO representative in Oman as the key speaker at a special ‘Tajribati’, a monthly dialogue session designed for SMEs. The session was a great success and attracted a large number of audiences who showed keen interest in knowing about SDGs and the role of SMEs in the area.

CAR SERVICE PERIOD

INFINITI Oman extends Courtesy Vehicle for customers

MUSCAT: Offering customers convenience, INFINITI Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, is extending INFINITI Courtesy Vehicle (ICV) for its customers during their car service period while adhering to all the safety protocols related to COVID-19.

The unique programme titled INFINITI Courtesy Vehicle (ICV) offers customers a courtesy INFINITI vehicle to help them be mobile during car service.

The ICV programme aims to create convenience for service customers (seamless mobility) and provide existing customers with the opportunity to experience other/new models with the latest technology.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, “The ICV programme has been conceived to provide customers with seamless mobility during car service and provide a chance to experience newer models of INFINITI. The courtesy vehicles offered as part of the programme will be free of charge to our customers. ICVs are dedicated units kept only for offering them as replacement vehicles to service customers. All customers/ jobs are eligible for ICV except for internal, B&P and waiting customers for quick services.

“Our protocol and guidelines guarantee the utmost hygiene, sanitisation, and safety for all. Besides, our staff is trained to make the processes very secure, with the highest focus on hygiene and safety.”

This service is based on the availability of the ICV cars during that time of car service. Terms and conditions apply.

INFINITI Oman strives to offer excellent retail and customer service experience to every INFINITI owner. A crucial point of differentiation for the brand amongst competitors is the top level of customer service it delivers.

COVID-19 protocol

To ensure the safety of its customers and employees, INFINITI Oman is following a thorough safety precaution protocol at its service centre. The standard operating procedure it follows involves the execution of strict safety, sanitisation and physical distancing rules. Implemented in line with Oman’s Supreme Committee advisories on COVID-19, INFINITI Oman’s precaution protocol aims to guarantee the safety and well-being of its customers and employees as a priority.

The important safety precautions and protocol being followed at the INFINITI Oman service centre include sanitisation of touchpoints and fumigation of facilities. While hand sanitisers are kept at customer receptions, thermal checks are done before employees and customers enter the service centre. All staff keep a physical distance of two metres from customers.

Other safety measures include sanitisation of vehicle exterior touchpoints and protective covers on steering wheel, gear lever and seat. Staff always wears disposable gloves and face masks while handling and checking vehicles. All vehicles are sanitized before the start of work. The vehicle is washed, the cabin is fumigated and touch points are sanitised before delivery.

INFINITI Oman ensures a sanitised service vehicle delivery to confirm complete safety.

SBA is largely committed to supporting INFINITI Oman’s growth in the Sultanate through a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of more than 40 showrooms, service centres and parts outlets, SBA has further built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.

ROUND-UP



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CSR PROGRAMME

Bank Muscat to accept Green Sports applications online till January 6

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat has announced it will be accepting applications for the 2021 edition of its Green Sports programme till January 6, 2021, and has requested all teams considering the programme to apply well in advance of the deadline. Green Sports, the bank's longest-running CSR programme, was started in line with its commitment to sustainable development and social responsibility.

This year the bank has moved to digital submission of applications as part of further developing the programme. Applications are being accepted online at <https://www.bankmuscat.com/greensports>. The new registration process is user-friendly and can be easily done using a computer, a



tablet or even a mobile phone.

The criteria for availing the Green Sports support include that sports teams should have been in existence for at least three years and have a minimum of 300

members. Teams should be able to provide documents including the Mulkiya of the land on which the sports field is situated, the team's latest income statement and a letter from their wali. Also, the di-

mensions of the sports field should be as per FIFA approved standards to be considered. Teams should also showcase their positive impact and contributions to the local community along with the

application. Please email GreenSports@bankmuscat.com for any further queries regarding Green Sports applications.

The Green Sports initiative launched by Bank Muscat in 2012 continues to gain momentum with a total of 123 sports teams across the Sultanate benefiting from the support till date. The scope of Green Sports support for sports teams include greening of football fields with natural or synthetic turf, floodlights or water desalination equipment in areas facing problems of water salinity.

Ensuring wider representation, the Green Sports programme extends to develop sustainable sports infrastructure in all parts of the Sultanate.

The bank's flagship CSR programme aims to provide avenues to Omani youth to excel in all arenas and thereby contribute to the overall development and progress of the Sultanate.

The facilities developed as part of the programme can also be used as a venue for other social activities, leading to stronger community bonding and greater positive behaviour among young people. It must be noted that the bank's CSR and sustainability programmes have been well appreciated and received a number of accolades. The bank was recently honoured for its CSR, Sustainability and Community Service programmes at the Fourth Oman Forum for Partnership and Social Responsibility.

Own Toyota Corolla with exclusive benefits

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



MUSCAT: The Toyota Corolla is one of the world's largest selling models. From fuel-efficiency to its overall cost-effective ownership periods, the Corolla has always stood out as a vehicle that offers one of the best value-for-money. The Corolla is available in regular petrol and as a Hybrid Electric variant.

Those looking forward to owning a Corolla can benefit with a cash gift from OMR1,500 up to OMR2,600, service 4 years / 40,000km (Whichever is earlier), 1-year insurance (comprehensive Oman only) or OMR175 in lieu. 0 per cent interest on deals up to 2 years (Applicable on 1.6 and 2.0 models.) or 1.99 per cent up to 4 years or 2.99 per cent up to 5 years. For deals above 5 years, normal rates will apply. (Prospective

buyers are advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Please visit the nearest Toyota showroom for exact details).

The Corolla HEV is available with a cash gift from OMR2,300 up to OMR2,600, service 4 years / 40,000km (whichever is earlier), 1-year insurance (comprehensive Oman only) or OMR175 in lieu. (Prospective buyers are advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Please visit the nearest Toyota showroom for exact details).

The Corolla's distinct personality is completed by its expansive and comfortable cabin, which displays

exceptional quality and finishing throughout. The interior design adopts a simple yet appealing style, with comfortable spaciousness and integrated functional parts combining to create a refined elegance. The ergonomically designed seats feature new cushion material, while the armrest and ample legroom offer superior comfort for the rear-seat passengers.

The cabin is accentuated with an extensive range of features, which vary based on the trim level. Occupants also benefit from AC vents for the rear seat, a moonroof, a 4.2 or 7-inch colour multi-information display (MID), 7-inch touchscreen multimedia infotainment display, rear view camera, cruise control, six-speaker sound system, and 60:40 split-folding rear seats.

Exemplifying Toyota's continuous commitment to providing environmentally-friendly vehicles is the addition of a hybrid-electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and electric motor. The class-leading model offers the lowest fuel consumption value in its category at 27.6km/L (Fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions), enabling customers to contribute to a greener future while enjoying the increased driving satisfaction provided by its advanced technologies. It offers exceptional cabin quietness and smooth acceleration, especially when accelerating from a stand-still.

The Corolla's striking looks are complemented by an exciting drive personality imbued by three powertrain options; these include a newly developed 2.0-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine which produces 168 hp and 20.39 kg-m of torque and is mated to a new Direct Shift CVT transmission; and a 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine that produces 121 hp and 15.7 kg-m of torque, which is paired with a CVT transmission.

Meanwhile, the new electrified hybrid powertrain combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and electric motor with a combined power of 121 hp. It is also mated to an electrically controlled continuously variable transmission, which provides an outstanding fuel consumption value of 27.6km/L (fuel economy may vary due to driving conditions) while improving the driving experience.

RECOGNITION



OAB receives OER Human Resources Excellence award

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) received the Human Resources Excellence award recently, during its participation in the Business Summit organised by the *Oman Economic Review* (OER) magazine.

This award is in recognition of the bank's achievements, made in the field of human capital management during 2020, as part of its strategy and programmes aimed at creating a work environment that is one of the best within the private sector.

Upon receiving the accolade, Adil Al Rahbi, Head of the Human Resources Division at OAB, said, "The Oman Arab Bank management believes that the cornerstone of the Bank's success in achieving its objectives is directly dependent on implementing a forward-looking strategy in the talent management and development field. This is possible by preparing and qualifying the team and enhancing their skills, in line with the highest international standards, as well as developing a clear succession and career growth plan and a perfor-

mance-driven culture."

A few years ago, OAB launched its new transformation strategy based on four main pillars: customer service, innovation, strategic partnerships and talent management. The strategy's main objective is to place OAB at the forefront of the local banking sector.

"During the past few years, the bank has designed various training programmes to enhance the skillsets of its members at all job levels. This included an intensive training programme, 'Ta'heel', for general services employees and the 'LEAD' programme, for second and third-level employees, with the third batch set to graduate soon. Emerging leaders and high potential employees had the opportunity to take part in specialised training programmes, which were conducted within and outside the Sultanate as well as joining 'internal job rotation' activities. These provided them with the opportunity to diversify their knowledge and skill as a means to build their capacities as well-rounded bankers in the future," Al Rahbi added.

SOHAR INTERNATIONAL

Viewpoints on 'The Urgency to Transform Education' held

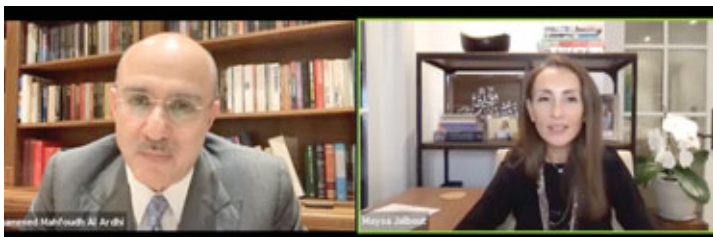
MUSCAT: Continuing its efforts to make a significant local impact on topics of national interest, Sohar International hosted the 4th virtual session and 9th edition of 'Viewpoints - Sohar international chairman's forum', in a successful session recently.

Chaired by Mohammed Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sohar International, the engaging forum witnessed high decibel energy as it presented learnings and global insights on 'The Urgency to Transform Education', with renowned academician and philanthropist, Maysa Jalbout - a visiting Scholar and Special Adviser, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Arizona State University.

With several young entrepreneurs, industry leaders, working professionals including business

chiefs, academicians and students in attendance, on Zoom and Sohar International's YouTube channel, Maisa Jalbout shared from her experience the need to incorporate socially-conscious subjects as part of educational curriculums in elementary as well as executive education programs all over the world.

Commenting on the topic and the interest it has generated among the right audience, Mohammed Al Ardhi said, "As an organisation, Sohar International believes in the value of knowledge sharing and the insights and solutions it brings forth. Such knowledge opens up a plethora of opportunities and ideas for aspiring entrepreneurs and the youth of today. This thought underlines the significance of the topic of the latest session of Viewpoints, which sets the pace for a sector that has been the backbone



of development across countries and communities, for time immemorial. The latest discussion reflects on the challenges laid down by the COVID-19 pandemic on education curriculums and practices, and the perseverance of the sector in coping with these times. But what is important to note here is that change brings with it - transformation and hence, prospects. We envision the Oman of tomorrow as a progressive, yet traditional nation that upholds edu-

cation as the cornerstone of socio-economic growth. With the ninth edition of Viewpoints, the intent was to provide a locally relevant context of the changing dynamics of education, keeping in mind their adaptability to the Sultanate."

During her presentation, Jalbout discussed two focus areas - why change is imminent in the education sector, and how the Arab world, in particular, can bring about this change. Sharing alarming statistics, Jalbout referred to

the challenges facing the education sector across the world that illustrate the economic, and social consequences of the pandemic. She also applauded the rapid response of the Omani government in reducing the impact of these obstacles, by providing education accessible to students in schools, colleges and universities, through the use of the internet.

The guest speaker also pointed out that there are a set of specific foundations that contribute to changing the education system and the categories that should be focused on, especially with COVID-19, and the importance of empowering stakeholders to activate various strategies for change.

She further shared that innovation, the use of modern technology, the rehabilitation of human resources and the partnership

between the public and private sectors can and will play a critical role in transforming education in times to come.

"Maisa Jalbout's valued contribution at the recently concluded Viewpoints generated important messages that are relevant from the Omani perspective, as well as the nation's economic development, and hence, critical to the Sultanate's continued progress," Al Ardhi added.

Maysa Jalbout is a recognised leader with 25 years of experience in international development and philanthropy. She is presently a Visiting Scholar and Special Adviser, on the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Arizona State University, and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

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