

NEW INTERNAL ROAD IN AL SHARQIYAH COMPLETED

A 10-kilometre internal road pavement project was completed in Al Shuwa'i village and its neighbouring area at Al Mudhaibi in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate on Sunday. **>A3**



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MINISTER TO PRESIDE OVER SQU GRADUATION CEREMONY

Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation will preside over the 31st batch graduation ceremony of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), scheduled to take place at the end of next month. **>A6**



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STUDENT VOLUNTEERS LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



Whatever the task, these volunteers have not hesitated to help the nation when needed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hundreds of students from colleges and universities in Oman have stepped up to volunteer at various sites across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether required to provide assistance to people visiting vaccination sites, spread awareness about the importance of COVID protocols and vaccinations, or deliver essential supplies to those impacted by the disease, these student volunteers have not hesitated to step forward and help the

nation when needed.

Among the volunteers are members of Oman's Rovers and Rangers movement, the university extension of the global Scouts and Guides organisation.

"Since the start of the pandemic, Gulf College has taken it upon itself to join forces with the country's efforts to confront and prevent this dangerous virus," said Mohamed Fouad, head of the Student Activities Department at Gulf College.

"There are more than 500 student volunteers in Muscat Governorate alone," he added. "From

our side, we have contributed 63 volunteers - 58 students and five staff members."

Students have been busy providing help where required during the coronavirus pandemic, selflessly dedicating themselves to their nation during these uncertain times.

From April 2021 onwards, they have been reporting to many vaccination sites in the country, including Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Boushar, Sablah Muttrah, the office of the Wali of Amarat, Al Nabha School for Basic Education in Maabela, and the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Madinat Al Irfan.

Dedicated

Rovers who selflessly volunteered at these sites dedicated themselves to implementing precautionary measures such as social distancing and mask wearing,

organising people at these places to enable a smooth and uninterrupted vaccination process, and assisting the elderly and disabled in making sure they got the vaccines on time.

Those who volunteered also went door-to-door, asking people to come forward to get vaccinated against the coronavirus as soon as they are able.

"Teams also went to the various wilayats in the country as part their responsibility towards spreading awareness and educating people about the pandemic, as well as help those affected by the virus," explained Fouad. Prior to turning out at the vaccination sites, they assisted the Oman Charity Organisation last year, providing much-needed supplies to residents in Wilayat Muttrah, which was under isolation at that time, as part of measures to stop the spread of the pandemic. **>A5**

TRAGIC INCIDENT

75-year-old dies in Saham house fire

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A fire broke out in a house in the North Al Batinah governorate, resulting in the death of an elderly citizen. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The teams of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Department in the Wilayat of Saham in North Al Batinah Governorate responded to a report that a fire broke out at dawn on Sunday, August 22, 2021, in a house in the Wilayat of Saham in the village of Abu Dhurus. The firefighting teams were able to put out the fire that resulted in the death of a citizen.

Hamad bin Khamis Al Sinani, from the Wilayat of Saham in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, spoke exclusively to the *Times of Oman* about the details of the fire that occurred this morning in the house of his deceased brother.

"The fire broke out around 5:45 am while people were performing the dawn prayer. We heard from others about the fire in my brother's house, so we rushed to try to save him using the fire extinguishers in one of the schools near my brother's house. But because the fire broke out in the bedroom, where my brother was, and which had mattresses, blankets and a sponge bed, it prevented us from controlling the fire outbreak."

Hamad Al Sinani pointed out that his brother Mohammed bin Khamis Al Sinani, lived alone in the house. He was not married so he did not have children.

He was around 75 years old,



and could not move unless someone helped him to sit or stand, as well as to go to the bathroom or to sleep, so the family had appointed one of the Asian workers to take care of him.

"On Sunday morning, the worker went out to perform the dawn prayer, as usual, at 4:40 am, so no one was with my brother, and the fire broke out around 5:45 am. We rushed to my brother's house trying to put out the fire and save him, but unfortunately all our attempts failed because of the force of the fire," Hamad said of the incident.

Teams from the crime scene and criminal investigations of the Saham Police Station, as well as from the wilayats of Sohar and Liwa, came to the site before the body was transferred to Saham Hospital, to investigate the causes of the accident.

Hamad Al Sinani, said that the body was transferred to the Police Hospital in Muscat Governorate to complete the rest of the procedures.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Officials take stock of damaged Sur houses

1 The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning held a meeting to assess the damage caused by the effects of Hajj Depression in the Wilayat of Sur. The participants in the meeting proposed solutions for the damaged houses, and suggested measures to ensure the safety of citizens. **>A3**



WORLD

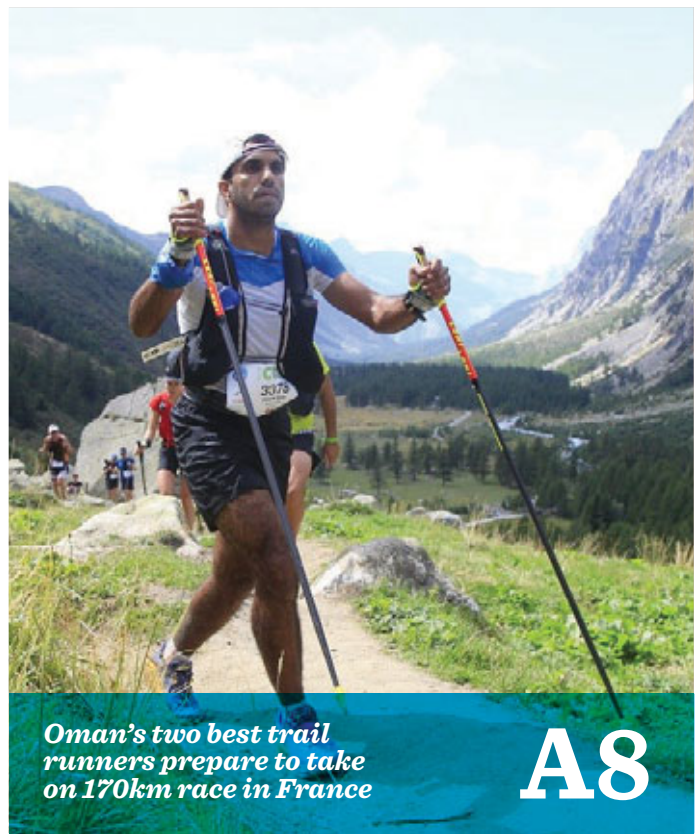
Kamala Harris in Asia amid Afghan crisis

2 US Vice President Kamala Harris in Singapore on a trip to Southeast Asia where she is expected to offer reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region. The visit comes days after the chaotic withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and its subsequent takeover by the Taliban. **>A7**

MARKET

OMR1mn for fisheries and farm projects

3 At a cost of OMR 1 million, the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund (AFDF) has approved to finance 12 projects in the field of agricultural, fisheries and food safety. The approval came at the second meeting of the board for the year 2021. **>B1**



Oman's two best trail runners prepare to take on 170km race in France

A8

HEALTH

Weight-loss secrets from an inspiring couple

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oneza Tabish, a well known food columnist in Oman and her husband have lost 35 kg together by adopting a holistic approach towards food and exercise.

It is an incredible story of the will of this couple to fight weight gain without going for any fad diet. While Oneza lost 25 kg in a few years time, her husband lost 11 kg in the last 6 months by cycling 40km daily along with intermittent fasting.

As a newly married couple in the year 2004, Oneza and her husband had developed unhealthy eating habits. Reminiscing those days she said that their fridge would always be stocked with fizzy drinks, commercial juices, ice-creams and more. "We would binge on biscuits and cookies whenever we were hungry and my husband, Tabish would have around 8 cups of tea with evaporated milk and sugar. We also ate out twice or thrice a week," said Oneza.

In no time their body weight shot up to 90 plus kg when she was



in her late 20s and her husband in early 30s. "With my elder daughter's birth in January 2007 and my father passing away the same year, I got into "emotional eating".

Food somehow became a cure to all my emotional traumas. I also worked for long hours, and during lunch had no qualms in ordering a burger or a pizza. So by the year 2010, the year my second child was born, I had touched 92 kgs.

Talking about the moment when realisation dawned, One-



za remembered how once while on a shopping spree in India, the salesman had told her she needed to wear XXL top. "I was not only very embarrassed that day but also couldn't keep up with my children and running after them seemed a task. That's when I decided that I had to work towards my health, come what may."

Oneza started her weight loss journey by reducing the portion size of food.

"I came down to 1 chapati from



2 and 1 cup of rice was replaced by a fistful. I walked and walked my way to weight loss. I made sure to walk a minimum of 5 km a day and around 10,000 steps daily. I also skipped dinner. So this worked for me and I lost around 8 kg in just a month. With Ramadan and being a fasting Muslim, I went a step further by not eating any fried food during iftaar, continuing my walks and just having one meal a day all of Ramadan. Successfully I could lose around



26 kg in few months."

At 42, Oneza's weight is 70 kg but she aspires to make it to 65kg in due course.

"I have maintained my weight, after losing, since 2012 despite being a foodie, a social media food content creator, a home chef, a food critic. I make sure to not eat anything heavy in the evenings. At times I go carb free by sticking to a grilled chicken with salad or some upma (savory semolina pudding) or poha (beaten rice). My lunch is always 2 chapatis with a bowlful of vegetables and dal. Breakfast is boiled or fried egg with 1 toast. At home even though I have help, I make sure to do some bit of housework be it cleaning, washing dishes. I love to cook and can do so for hours which again helps me burn calories plus it's rejuvenating.

"Whenever I have a pizza, I make sure to make up for it the next day with some exercise and by consuming less quantity of food. Meal timings are important for me as after 7:30pm I do not eat anything and have my breakfast the next day only by 8:30am. That leaves me with 13 hours of fasting," said Oneza. **>A5**



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PRICE BAIZAS 200

Big road project to start soon

The Directorate General of Roads has announced a programme to upgrade and widen track shoulders along the 350 km Seeb-Khatmat Malaha road. The work will start on September 11.

This was disclosed by Tariq Mohammed Amin al Manthery, Director General of Roads. He said the idea was to improve safety, especially after the speed limit increase on the road.

He said that all Omani teams have been formed to be responsible for minor asphalt maintenance on paved roads. These teams have been fully trained on the use of asphalt equipment recently acquired by the directorate.

by Muzaffar Mohammad

To begin with an intensive programme for surface treatment of some graded roads will be started. This will be followed by other progressive phases.

These efforts and equipment, he said, are part of a plan of the Ministry of Communications to fulfil all the needs of the Road Directorate regarding equipment and trained staff to make it self-sufficient in all matters.



Tariq Mohammed Amin al Manthery

The Director General said that teams for road painting have been formed with the arrival of equipment. A training programme for the teams has been launched and arrangements are in full swing to start painting on outer roads.

The committee formed to study and plan road signs and safety on paved roads has completed its recommendations and work has started with a view to complete guide signs on all paved roads in the Northern Region.

Giving a resume of the activities of the Directorate, he said a series of blastings were carried out to pave the way for mountain roads and to provide easy access to various areas.

The Directorate General of Roads has completed the following works:

- Graded 11,250 km of track roads all over wilayats in the Northern Region at an average of two gradings per month.
- Constructed 72.50 km of track roads and mountain roads of very hard rock in different wilayats.
- Reconstructed 149 km track roads.
- Compacted, upgraded and widened 121.5 km of track roads in the Capital Area, Batinah, Interior, Dhahira, and Sharqiyya.
- Required about 600 km of asphalt roads in the Capital and other areas.
- Road centres all over Oman undertook regular maintenance of paved roads in their areas. They removed sand and stones, cleaned culverts and maintained road shoulders.
- The Directorate General successfully carried out an experiment for combining compacting teams. The experiment adopted for compacting, upgrading and widening coastal roads in the Batinah Region resulted in increased output. Similarly, compacting teams were combined in other areas and obtained very good results.

Minister for Doha talks

The Minister of Petroleum and Minerals, Said bin Ahmed al Shanfari, is to lead Oman's delegation to the meeting of the AGCC Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Ministers which to open in Doha on 28 August.

The two-day meeting will discuss a report by the AGCC oil experts committee on a crude storage joint strategy and Kuwaiti working paper on putting aside a quantity of crude as a reserve.

UAE Oil Minister Dr. Manaa Said al Otaiba is due to brief the meeting on the outcome of the OPEC delegation's tour of some member states.

UAE message

The Justice Under-Secretary, Sheikh Hilal bin Sultan al Hosni, received UAE Charge D'Affaires in Muscat, Ismail Obaid Yousuf, who handed him a message for Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Sayyid Hilal bin Hamad al Busaidi from his U.A.E. counterpart.



It's cold and fever time

An increase in the incidence of colds, fever and gastro-enteritis is being experienced in the Capital Area.

Doctors have advised people to protect themselves from Upper Respiratory Tract Infection, a common complaint during temperature changes.

Dr. Nasser bin Salem Al Mameri, Medical Officer in-charge of Al Nahda Hospital said there are reports of an increase in the incidence of cold, fever and gastric troubles which seems to be the result of the change of climate.

Dr. Nasser said that at the moment there are common complaints of cold, cough, fever, catarrh, general malaise and ache caused by Droplet Infection. It is highly contagious.

The virus is transmitted through sneezing and coughing in a close or crowded place.

The virus can attack a healthy person but its most likely victims are those who work under strain and suffer from exhaustion.

As a precaution people should avoid sudden changes of temperature such as from an airconditioned room to a hot and humid climate.

Dr. Nasser said although one attack gives short lived immunity from other attacks, there are many strains of the virus and one can get two to three attacks in one season.

He said that the best treatment against cold is rest. Simple medicines like Aspirin and Panadol can also help in curing the infection but no anti-biotics should be used without a doctor's advice.

Dr. Nasser disclosed that certain vaccines are still being tested as remedies for influenza and the common cold which hit a total of 20 per cent of the world population in 1919.

The virus causing Upper Respiratory Tract Infection generally attacks children and elderly people easily.

In 99 per cent of cases the infection is cured by simple medicine but in certain cases can turn into broncho-pneumonia which calls



Dr Nasser bin Salem al Mameri for admission to hospital, he added.

Of gastro-enteritis cases, Dr. Nasser said the infection mainly concerned eating unclean or half-cooked food.

Children are the most likely victims. In adults, the condition of food, mainly fruit and vegetables plays a vital role in gastric troubles.

The doctor stressed that people should avoid using food left out for more than 48 hours. They should also look for the expiry date of food when shopping.

Home from Canada

The Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, Yahya bin Mahfudh al Manthery, and his delegation returned from Ontario at the end of a week-long official visit.

In an arrival statement Mr Manthery said the delegation's talks with Canadian officials were one way of boosting cooperation between the two countries with emphasis on university education and higher studies as well as the possibility of increasing the number of Omani students in Canadian universities.

The Minister visited a number of Canadian universities and other educational institutions.

Jordan talks

Jordanian Minister of Culture, Youth and Archaeology, Abdullah Owaidat, has received Oman's Ambassador in Amman, Abdullah bin Said bin Abdullah, together with Director General of Culture at the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, Amer bin Hamad Al Hajary.

LATEST

Police in South Africa have made a number of arrests of political activists on the eve of a new power-sharing constitution. More than 20 are said to have been held.

Heavy fighting broke out again near the northern town of Tripoli in Lebanon. The battles were between the pro-Syrian militias and Muslim fundamentalist groups. Security forces described the clashes as the most serious in almost a month. Reports say about 30 people were killed and over 100 wounded. Many of the victims were said to have been children.

The Egyptians say the search for mines in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea, which has

damaged at least 18 ships, is to be extended southwards into Sudanese territorial waters.

Holland is to join the operations which now includes minesweepers from the British, French, American and Egyptian navies.

Last week's dismissal of the Chief Minister of India's Andhra Pradesh State, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao has created more controversy in Delhi and further conflict in the state itself.

In a meeting with the President Zail Singh, the ousted Chief Minister has demanded his reinstatement claiming he still has a majority support in the Assembly.

In Parliament in New Delhi, Prime Minister Indra Gandhi said she had not been consulted about the dismissal.

Your TV and radio programmes are on page 20.

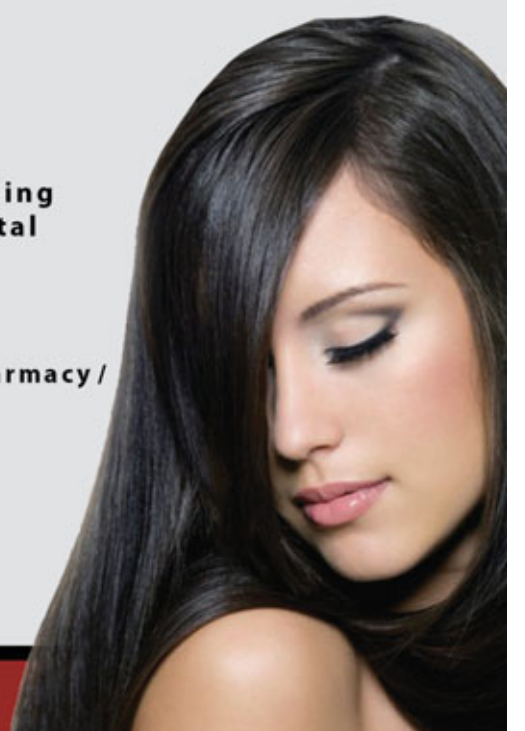
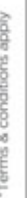


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BAYS, LAGOONS AND SOFT BEACHES IN MAHOUT



THE WILAYAT OF MAHOUT is located in Al Wusta Governorate and borders Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi from north, Adam from north-west, Al Duqm from south-west and Jaalan Bani Bu Ali from north-east. Being a popular fishing spot one can see white sand and seagulls here. Mahout is also well-known for wadis like Al Joubah, Madirah and Al Sail.

Located off the coast of the Arabian Sea and accessible by small boats, Mahout Island is full of natural tourist attractions. Its attractions include bays, lagoons and soft beaches surrounded by the mangrove trees. Flamingo, seagull, socotra cormorants and many other birds are found here. The island has a 6 kilometre long beach.

The island is famous for the abundance of shrimps on its sea and many types of fish.

Women and children in Ma-



hout Island collect different types of shells locally called “Ja’afour,” where they boil in water and at a high temperature, extract meat from it, dry it, then use it with rice and have delicious taste.

Mahout Island has a long history of trade between Oman and other countries where the island was the starting point of some Omani ships to Yemen, Africa and many other countries. Salt is also transported from Mahout to Sur and the eastern parts of the Sultanate.



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IN SUR REFERRAL HOSPITAL



Funding agreement inked to train medical students

MUSCAT: Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) on Sunday signed a funding agreement with Oman Liquefied Natural Gas (Oman LNG) Development Foundation to finance a programme for training medical cadres in Sur Referral Hospital and to facilitate the hospital's application to become a training centre.

The agreement also stipulates that OMSB, represented by the Medical Simulation and Innovation Centre, will conduct specialised training courses of specified durations for candidates nominated by the hospital.

'Tibyan' platform
The training of medical cadres in Sur Referral Hospital will be via video-conferencing through 'Tib-

yan' platform set by the Medical Simulation and Innovation Centre. More training courses will be offered in-person in the centre in order to develop skills and conducts of the trainees.

The agreement was signed by Dr Hilal Ali Al Sabti, CEO of OMSB and Dr Amir Nasser Al Matani, CEO of Oman LNG Development Foundation. — **ONA**

OMANI STUDENTS

<FROM A1 Virtual seminars conducted

In April 2020, when Omani students who were studying overseas were sent back home as part of efforts to minimise the impact of the pandemic, Gulf College Rovers went to the airport to help them return to their homes in other governorates, once they had completed their isolation procedures in Muscat.

As part of Gulf College's awareness campaign, the institute, under the Ministry of Health Nizwa Healthy Lifestyles Project, organised virtual seminars for people to help clear up rumours they might have about vaccines, and educate them about the benefits of being immunised against the coronavirus. Organised by Dr Zahir bin Ahmed Al Ankoudi, a senior consultant of family and community medicine, the session aimed at educating students and staff about vaccinations.

"We urged them to take the vaccine because this is the best way to prevent the virus from spreading, reproducing and mutating in societies," said Mohamed Fouad.

"It also keeps us safe from infection. If you look at areas around the world where immunisation numbers are high, it is also in these places where infections are low. Achieving collective immunity will help us return to normal life." Al Hassan Al Farei is one of seven Rovers from Middle East College, whose students did not think twice when their assistance was needed. More would have

come, he added, but many of his fellow Rovers needed to return to their homes in the interior when educational institutions switched to remote learning because of the pandemic.

"We aim to provide assistance to good causes where required, be it inside our country or overseas," he told the *Times of Oman*.

"With our work and determination today, we will make tomorrow a better day. It is important to volunteer, as it teaches us much about responsibility, and the need to work for a greater good."

Al Farei joined the movement because he believed it would help him assist the community. So committed is he to volunteering that he spent much of his 23rd birthday on July 27 assisting people who had turned up for their COVID vaccinations at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

During the holidays, he spends eight hours a day volunteering, but on other days, still manages to donate four to five hours of his time a day, despite juggling a job at a logistics firm and studying for his bachelor's degree. Al Farei began volunteering in 2017, distributing breakfast to people fasting during Ramadan.

"I do not believe there are fixed hours for someone to volunteer, as when you do so, you are answering the call of your homeland," he said. "My family and friends are very proud of my dedication, and I

hope everyone finds within them this spirit of helping others.

Sports clubs in the country have also sent volunteers where and when required. Oman Club, one of the most well-known football clubs in the country, have sent 80 volunteers, led by Rover Mohammed Al Balushi.

"I joined up to actively participate in society – I believe what we do is public service to the community," he explained. "Currently, we help facilitate the entry of citizens and residents at vaccination sites, as the Ministry of Health and other government agencies require our assistance there."

"There are of course challenges we face, but I believe that when it comes to serving my country and my brothers and sisters, we must work together," added Al Balushi. "It is important that I be large hearted and welcoming to people. Yes, there might be those who treat us poorly, but we must take it in our stride and not deny anyone service if they need it."

One of his main roles is to make sure the elderly who come to get vaccinated are provided proper care and attention. Al Balushi is quick to provide them a wheelchair, should they require one.

"Volunteering is a national duty...we must serve our country with love and sincerity," he explained. "I advise everyone in this country to donate some of their spare time, so that they know how to contribute to society."

SECRET TO LOSING WEIGHT

<FROM A1 Daily cycling and proper diet helped in reducing weight

Highlighting the challenges that she faced, Oneza said it gets tough when kids waste food.

"Try not to eat your child's leftovers. Box it and get your child to eat it the next day. Being consistent is a challenge but look at weight loss from a health point of view. It's OK to give into temptations, I do too but I make up the next day. I do not punish myself for enjoying a pastry! In my case, exercise and portion control helped. I did not give up on any of my favourite foods."

For Tabish, her husband, the awakening was when he started

getting a few aches and pains when he walked or exercised.

He tried to go carb free and low fat but only intermittent fasting worked for him. Following the guru of intermittent fasting Jason Fung, Tabish strictly followed his diet regime for a year.

"Tabish starts his day with black coffee at around 5am to boost his metabolism and control his uric acid. He heads out to cycle till 6:30am and covers around 40km daily. He cycles another 100 km over the weekends. He doesn't have any breakfast and eats a prop-

er lunch by 2pm."

"This comprises 2 multigrain chapatis with a bowl of dal and sabzi or some mutton curry or mince meat curry."

"He has dinner by 6:30pm which consists of a raw salad with toasted seeds and nuts, 2 grilled chicken thighs and a small bowl of bone broth. This diet regime has enabled him to lose around 10 kg of weight in just 7 months."

"He has gone down from 91 kg to 81 kg at 47 years of age. He has maintained this weight for a year now," she further added.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Oman reports 385 new COVID-19 cases, 11 deaths

MUSCAT: As many as 385 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in the Sultanate during the past 3 days, in addition to 11 new COVID-19-related deaths.

This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 301,299 in the Sultanate.

The total number of COVID-19-related death cases reached 4031, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said.

Total recoveries
The Ministry added that 694 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number to 290,144 recoveries.

The Ministry also pointed out that 19 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, as the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 183 of them 89 are in intensive care units (ICUs). — **ONA**



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ASSIGNED BY HIS MAJESTY

Minister to preside over SQU graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation will patronise over the 31st batch graduation ceremony of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), scheduled to take place at the end of next month.

The two-day ceremony will be held for the first time ever via video-conferencing in a live stream



from the grand hall of SQU's Cultural Centre. The total number of graduates this year stood at 2,956, comprising holders of bachelor, diploma and postgraduate degrees.

All other possible options for the graduation ceremony were taken into consideration with a close follow-up to indicators of the epidemiological situation to cope with directives of the COVID-19 Supreme Committee. — **ONA**



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IS threat forces US to release security advisory for its citizens in Kabul

Experts have raised concerns that Afghanistan might again become a breeding ground for terrorism

KABUL : A fresh threat from IS has forced the US to release a security advisory for its citizens asking them to avoid travelling to the Kabul airport unless they receive instructions from the government, FOX News reported.

"Because of potential security threats outside the gates at the Kabul airport, we are advising US citizens to avoid traveling to the airport and to avoid airport gates at this time unless you receive individual instructions from a US government representative to do



so," the US Embassy in Kabul said in a statement on Saturday.

On Friday, the US acknowledged the presence of al Qaeda in Afghanistan amid its large-scale evacuation from the war-torn country.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said that the presence of al

Qaeda is not significant enough to merit a threat to our homeland as it used to be 20 years ago.

However, experts have raised concerns that Afghanistan might again become a breeding ground for terrorism with the Taliban taking control of the country.

"We know that al Qaeda has a presence as well as ISIS in Afghanistan and we've talked about that for quite some time," Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said during a press briefing.

The US has evacuated some 17,000 people from Afghanistan since August 14, Pentagon informed on Saturday.

"Since the end of July, we have relocated approximately 22,000 people. Since the beginning of this evacuation operation on August 14, we have evacuated approximately 17,000," Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Hank Taylor said during a briefing on Saturday.

"I would add that intelligence, law enforcement, and counterterrorism professionals are conducting the screening and security vetting for all SIVs (Special Immigrant Visa) and other vulnerable Afghans before they are allowed to enter the United States," he added.

Since the Taliban takeover of the war-ravaged country, the US has also airlifted about 2,500 of its citizens from Afghanistan, the Pentagon spokesperson said. **ANI**

SECURITY SITUATION

Biden meets national security team to discuss situation in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON: The White House on Sunday informed that President Joe Biden has met his national security team to discuss the security situation in Afghanistan.

The meeting also discussed counterterrorism operations, evacuation efforts, and intensive diplomatic efforts to finalise agreements with additional third-party country transit hubs. "This morning, the President met with his national security team to discuss the security situation in Afghanistan, counterterrorism operations, evacuation efforts, and intensive diplomatic efforts to finalize agreements with additional third-party country transit hubs," the White House said in a tweet.

Earlier, President Biden had described the images emerging out of Afghanistan as "gut-wrenching", showing people "acting out of sheer desperation," hoping to get out of the country following the Taliban's siege of Kabul. Afghanistan is witnessing its worst-ever crisis in decades as the Taliban's control has forced people to flee the nation in afraid of their atrocities. Afghans have



flocked to the Kabul airport in order to flee the Taliban.

Terrorists on the streets of Kabul are reportedly preventing people from entering the airport using force. The situation continues to deteriorate at the airport and around its perimeter, which is under Taliban control.

Soon after the terror group claimed control of the Afghan capital, several countries evacuated their diplomatic personnel from the country, and thousands of people flocked to the Kabul airport in a desperate attempt to leave Afghanistan.

The world is closely watching the unfolding situation in Afghanistan as the countries have scrambled to evacuate their citizens from Afghanistan in an attempt to secure their people. **ANI**

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WORLD



US Vice President Kamala Harris visits Asia amid Afghan crisis

The vice-president's visit comes just days after the chaotic withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in Singapore on Sunday, kicking off her trip to Southeast Asia where she is expected to offer reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region.

The vice-president's visit comes just days after the chaotic withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the subsequent takeover of the country by the Taliban.

The return to power of the hardline Islamists in the conflict-ridden country has dented the United States' credibility and cast a shadow over its resolve to defend its values.

During her visit, which began on Friday and includes stops in Singapore and Vietnam, Harris will likely seek to allay concerns about US dependability.

A foreign policy novice?

The trip will also provide Harris, an Asia-American whose mother was of Indian-origin, a forum to



TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA: During her visit, which began on Friday and includes stops in Singapore and Vietnam, Harris will likely seek to allay concerns about US dependability.

assert herself directly in foreign affairs. The longtime district attorney and former senator is largely untested in diplomacy and foreign policy.

The vice president will meet Singapore's leaders Monday, including the president and prime minister. She will then make a stop at the Changi Naval Base, where she'll address US sailors aboard the visiting USS Tulsa.

First US VP in Vietnam

Harris will arrive in Hanoi late Tuesday, becoming the first US vice president to visit Vietnam.

She will hold government meetings and attend the opening of a

Southeast Asian branch of the US Centre for Disease Control.

However, her visit to the communist country has been particularly criticized for being tone deaf, as the US struggles to evacuate Americans and Afghan allies out of Kabul.

Visuals of the chaotic US evacuation from Kabul last week drew comparisons with a similar image of Saigon in 1975 where US helicopters ferried the last evacuees from the embassy roof.

Strategic importance of Southeast Asia

US officials said the trip was planned long before the collapse

of Afghanistan and the main focus will remain Washington's broader strategic goals in Asia.

In Hanoi, Harris will join a virtual meeting of Southeast Asian officials which will focus on the coronavirus pandemic.

Her trip aims to establish deeper ties with the region that Washington considers key to checking Chinese expansion.

Southeast Asia remains "strategically important and economically important to this country", a White House official told the AFP news agency. It comes against the backdrop of an increasingly assertive China challenging US hegemony in the Indo-Pacific region.



Haiti grows desperate as help fails to reach the needy

PORT AU PRINCE: Haitians grew more desperate on Saturday over delayed foreign aid a week after an earthquake left more than 2,000 people dead and thousands more homeless.

The UN said it was "concerned about the deteriorating security situation" after residents attacked aid trucks and compounds out of sheer desperation.

Why are people so desperate?

Aid has been slow to arrive after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the southwest of Haiti on August 14.

Rescue attempts were complicated by a tropical storm on Monday that drenched survivors, with more rain expected soon.

Residents of Les Cayes and the nearby countryside have grown increasingly restless as food and water started to run out. Aid agencies have seen relief supplies and emergency crews stalled by gang wars on the route between Haitian capital Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes. On Friday, people looted trucks from the US nonprofit Food for The Poor, as aid was still not

reaching some of the worst-hit quake victims in the region.

Search and rescue teams from home and abroad are still uncovering bodies from more than 130,000 collapsed or damaged homes.

What are the authorities doing?

UNICEF, the UN's children's charity, said 9.7 tons of medical, water and hygiene supplies had arrived in Haiti on Friday, with 30 tons due to arrive in the next few days.

But Pierre Honnorat, head of the UN World Food Program in Haiti said: "We are concerned about the deteriorating security situation that may disrupt our assistance to vulnerable Haitians."

On Friday, Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry asked international aid providers to work with the civil protection agency "which will specify the needs of each town, each village and each remote area."

Henry said earlier this week he was keen to avoid "mismanagement and coordination of aid" by empowering the civil protection agency "to lead a coordinated response."

ALABAMA RALLY

Trump blasts Biden for 'major failure' in Afghanistan

ALABAMA: At a massive rally in COVID-19 hit Alabama, former US President Donald Trump ripped into his successor Joe Biden for the Kabul crisis, saying that recent developments in Afghanistan are a "major failure" of the current US administration's foreign policy.

Addressing a 'Save America' rally in Cullman, Trump on Saturday said that the situation in Afghanistan will go down as "one of the greatest embarrassments" and the "greatest foreign policy humiliation" in the history of the US, Sputnik reported. Trump's rally comes



despite Cullman City Council declared a state of emergency in the city due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

Trump accused US President Joe Biden of surrendering the US military bases in Afghanistan, stressing that American troops are leaving behind USD 83 billion dollars worth of military equipment.

"This will go down as one of the great military defeats of all time," Trump said, calling the troop withdrawal a "total surrender" and a "gross incompetence by a nation's leader," Trump emphasised that

under his presidency, this would never have happened.

The former President told the massive crowd gathered in the deep-red state that "this would have never happened if I was president."

US is evacuating its citizens and Afghans who helped US forces in the last two decades in Afghanistan, which fell to the Taliban on August 15.

As Afghanistan plunged into chaos, Biden was criticised for hasty withdrawal from the war-torn country, which led to the collapse of the country's government.

Trump agreed to a full military withdrawal by May 1 of this year. The Biden administration has blamed Trump for the timeline leading to the botched withdrawal.

Biden extended the deadline to September 11 and then pledged to have all US troops out by August 31.

Trump said he was tough in the negotiations and warned the Taliban: 'If anything happens we will reign terror upon you.'

'Don't touch our American citizens,' Trump told the Taliban leader.

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC)
"Electricity Service" invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/089
Subject	Replacement of Meters to AMR & Manual Meter Reading for the Replacements Period
Tender Fee	RO. 105,000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id's for tender document.
Experience	The Tenderer must show minimum 3 years previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past with meter installation, meter reading and testing and troubleshooting of meters or electrical works with Distribution companies in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The Tenderer may have an agreement with a Subcontractor with minimum DCRP – C grade contractor for carrying out meter replacement works.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 6 th September 2021
Last date for seeking pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 9 th September 2021
Last date for providing pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 14 th September 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 21 st September 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554 / 624, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (2% of the quoted bid price and having 150 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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Dhofar Integrated Services Company

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة (ذ.م.ش) مقرها الرئيسي في شارع ٢٢، بوليفو خلف مركز صلاة العريضة، صلالة - محافظة ظفار | الرقم المخصص: ٨٠٠٧٧٧٠٠
P.O. Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, 23rd July Street, behind West Salalah Health Center Salalah, Sultanate of Oman - Toll Free: 80077700
info@disc.nama.om | www.disc.nama.om



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MAJIS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES SAOC (Majis)

P.O. Box No. 553, Falaj Al Qabail, Postal Code 322, Sultanate of Oman
Tel No. 26852421/26852422 Email: Tender@miscoman.com
(Office Location: Administration Building, Opposite Sohar Aluminium and Sohar Power co. at Sohar Industrial Port Area)



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Majis Industrial Services SAOC (Majis) is a closely held joint stock company fully owned by the Government of Oman. Majis is engaged in providing various water utility services at the Sohar Industrial Port Area, Sohar Free Zone and Madayn.

Tenders are invited for the following tender:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Description	Tender Fee	Last date for Obtaining Tender Documents	Last date for tender Submission
1	Majis/38/2021	Re-Design of Majis Existing Website	Nil	26 th August 2021	28 th August 2021

Bidders who have made electronic transfer of bid fee will be emailed soft copy of the tender document on the Thursday 26th August 2021. The companies participating must be registered with Majis' in e-tendering system (<http://tendering.majis.om/VendorLogin.aspx>) during the tendering stage. The payment of bid fee should be made by direct transfer to the following bank account of Majis. (Account Name: Majis Industrial Services SAOC, Bank : Bank Muscat SAOG, Account Number: 0423010783830018).

While making payment by direct bank transfer name of the firm should be clearly mentioned and an email sent to tender@miscoman.com with a copy of the money transmittal advice. Tender documents will be emailed to such firms only.

The Tender should be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Management Committee, Majis Industrial Service SAOC, P.O. Box No. 553, Falaj Al Qabail, Postal Code 322, Sultanate of Oman (at Majis' reception).

Tenderers must not display their identities on envelopes. Majis is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Questions regarding this procurement process shall be directed to tender@miscoman.com.

Ahmad Al Harthy delighted with his performance in France

Looking incredibly strong, the Omani served up a terrific showing

MUSCAT: Aston Martin Vantage GT3 racer Ahmad Al Harthy once again delivered a fantastic drive during Road To Le Mans race two in France on Saturday, 21st August, to put Oman Racing firmly in contention for race victory – before a spin for team-mate Michael Dinan led to an eventual finish of fifth position.

Running as the key support race to this year's Le Mans 24 Hours, Saturday lunchtime's encounter got off to a great start for Al Harthy who, having qualified second fastest in GT3, ran in second place throughout his stint and actually moved into the lead as the mandatory mid-race pit-stops began.

Looking incredibly strong, the Omani served up a terrific showing as he set his sights on claiming a double Road To Le Mans podium – having finished second in race one at the Circuit de la Sarthe on Thursday, 19th August – but in the end it unfortunately wasn't to be.



LE MANS: Al Harthy who, having qualified second fastest in GT3, ran in second place throughout his stint at Le Mans 24 Hours.

"It was a good first stint for me, a cautious start and then I pushed as hard as I could", reflected Al Harthy, "The track was a bit different from race one on Thursday, but I was re-

ally happy with my stint and then delighted to give the car over to Michael in a very strong position.

"We got out in the lead and all was good but, unfortunately, Mi-

chael was on the dirty side of the circuit as they went into the chicane battling side by side and there was a spin. It's a real shame as we had the pace for the podium again,

but P5 it was in the end."

He added: "Overall I am very happy to have come back to Le Mans and stood on the podium in race one, and we were just as competitive in race two – I'm happy with the progress we made. I must say a big thank you to all of my incredible partners and it was great to share the car with Michael. I look forward now to announcing the remainder of our season in the next few weeks as well."

Omantel, OQ and Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth supported racer Al Harthy made a good launch at the beginning of the race, although the No.95 Aston Martin did slip to third after a chaotic start among the LMP3 cars just ahead.

Neatly avoiding contact as the packed field threaded through the Dunlop Chicane, the Omani quickly hit back to re-take second position from the No.2 Porsche 911 GT3 R and he then set about trying to get on terms with the leading No.8 Ferrari 488 GT3.

Running just three seconds shy of the Ferrari into lap two, with an LMP3 prototype car between them, the Omani pressed on but the LMP3 car did hamper his efforts to close down Rory Penttinen in the Ferrari. As in Thursday's race, a number of yellow flag cautions and slow zones interfered with the action and Al Harthy remained second throughout the

first half of the 55-minute race.

At the end of lap six, with just over 25 minutes elapsed, the Ferrari pitted but Al Harthy remained on track for one further lap and so moved into the lead of GT3. Pushing hard to try and gain time before pitting the next time around, he handed the car over to Dinan at the mandatory stop.

Joining the race in the lead after another strong pit-stop by the Aston Martin Racing mechanics, Oman Racing was well placed to fight for back-to-back Road To Le Mans podiums. Dinan, though, was under intense pressure immediately with the Ferrari – now with Logan Sargeant at the wheel – right with him, and the No.2 Porsche swarming too.

Additionally, the three GT3 contenders were also locked in with two LMP3 cars as the group rocketed along the Mulsanne Straight. As they jostled for position heading into the second of the chicanes, the Ferrari went for the lead on the inside and Dinan spun. Dropping him to third and almost 20 seconds adrift, he eventually slipped back to finish fifth at the flag on lap 13.

Al Harthy's silverware from race one on Thursday means he has a 75 percent strike rate of podiums in the Road To Le Mans, having taken a double GT3 victory at the world-famous Circuit de la Sarthe back in 2017 on his previous visit to the track.

TRAIL RUNNING

Hamdan and Hamed prepare to take on 170km trail running race in France

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hamdan Al Khatri and Hamed Al Harthi, Oman's two best trail runners, will soon be taking their place on the start line in Chamonix, France, for the 2021 UTMB® Mont Blanc 170km trail running race. Having been forced to postpone last year's attempt, Hamdan and Hamed are determined to make the most of the opportunity when the race kicks off on 27 August.

UTMB® is described as 'a mythical race, a unique experience', and it is one of the most prestigious trail-running events on the circuit. Starting around the foothills of Mont-Blanc, the 170km race course will take the athletes up to 10,000 metres where each participant must rely on their strength and push their mental and physical capabilities to the limit.

The event attracts up to 10,000 runners each year and is considered an essential event for trail-runners around the world.

31-year-old Hamdan and 62-year-old Hamed have dedicated



the past few years to running, both competing in the inaugural OMAN by UTMB® in 2018 and completing a variety of ultra-marathons around the world. Hamdan has raced at UTMB® Mont Blanc before, in 2019, when he was the first and only Omani in the CCC® 100km race. Hamed Al Harthi competed in the OMAN by UTMB®, in 2019, as well as Ushuaia by UTMB® in Argentina the same year. His crowning glory, however, was reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro earlier this year.

Speaking from his training camp in Chamonix, Hamdan Al Khatri said, "This return to action

could not present a bigger challenge. Having to cancel my race plans last year and train under pandemic circumstances has not been easy but I am determined to give this race my all. Given the stature of the UTMB® Mont Blanc race, it is definitely the biggest challenge in my running career to date."

Hamed Al Harthi agreed and is looking forward to the test. He said, "We know this is a difficult race, but we have prepared as best we can and will be supporting each other. I love this sport and I am looking forward to proudly waving the Omani flag at the finish line."

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Renaissance, Yalla Shabab score easy victories

MUSCAT: A magnificent 101 studded with 7 sixes by Abdul Rauf powered Renaissance to a 69-run victory against AER International Trading and Contg. In a 50-over Premier Division match at Oman Cricket ground 1 in Al Amerat on Saturday, Sufyan Mahmood's 41 was the only other notable score as Renaissance was dismissed for 236. Syed Amir Ali was brilliant with the ball, taking 4 for 36 whereas Arjun Suresh and Muzahir Raza bagged two wickets each.

Reduced to 88 for 4 in 25 overs, AER could not recover well and was bowled out for 167 in the 46th over due largely to brilliant bowling by Bilal Muhammed (3 for 21) and Ajay Lalcheta (3 for 35).

Brief Scores (Premier Division): Renaissance 236 all out in 50 overs (Abdul Rauf 110 – 3x4, 7x6, Sufyan Mehmood 41 – 1x4, 1x6, Syed Amir Ali 4-36, Arjun Suresh 2-33, Muzahir Raza 2-63) beat AER International Trad. & Contg. 167 all out 45.4 overs (Amir Kaleem 42 – 4x4, Bilal Muhammed 3-21, Ajay Lalcheta 3-35, Flourry Mathunny 2-17) by 69 runs.

In the day's other Premier Division game, Oman all-rounder Muhammed Nadeem struck a superb 83 to help Yalla Shabab to a vital



43-run win over Majees at Oman Cricket ground 2.

Opting to bowl first, Majees did well to dismiss Yalla Shabab for 216 in the 50th over. Mohammed Naseem's 37 and Jitenkumar Ramanandi's 33 were the other main scores. Ahmed Fayyaz Butt picked up 3 for 34 while Nester Dhamba claimed 2 for 34.

Majees failed to exhibit the same flourish with the bat, slumping to 65 for 5 in 22nd over before being bundled out for 173 in the 47th over.

Khurram Khan topscored with a solid 54 while Nester Dhamba

and Sultan Ahmed contributed 32 and 30 respectively. Kaleemullah, Muhammed Nadeem and Sanuth Ebrahim claimed two wickets each.

Brief Scores (Premier Division): Yalla Shabab 216 all out in 49.1 overs (Muhammed Nadeem 83 – 7x4, 1x6, Mohammed Naseem 37 – 3x4, 1x6, Jitenkumar Ramanandi 33 – 2x4, 2x6, Ahmad Fayyaz 3-34, Nester Dhamba 2-34) beat Majees 173 all out in 46.5 overs (Khurram Khan 54 – 2x4, 2x6, Kaleemullah 2-16, Muhammed Nadeem 2-17, Sanuth Ebrahim 2-27) by 43 runs.

CRICKET

Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf to train in pre-season camp

LAHORE: A pre-season training camp for Pakistan men's white-ball players will commence on Sunday at the National High-Performance Centre with practice matches to be played at the Gaddafi Stadium.

According to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the camp will be supervised by the NHPC coaching and support staff, led by the head of international player development Saqlain Mushtaq. Twenty-six players will take part in the camp and throughout the camp, the prevalent COVID-19 SOPs will be observed.

During the camp, the players will work on their fitness and cricketing skills with a special emphasis on their preparation for the hectic white-ball international cricket season which begins next month. **ANI**

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US GENERIC BUSINESS

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has said the decline in US sales of Indian companies was attributed to high single-digit price erosion in the US generic market coupled with continued weak demand for the acute portfolio of products during 1Q FY22.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 3,971.53 points, down 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended higher by 0.22 per cent at 595.15 points. Al Jazeera Services, up 2.53 per cent, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 3.33 per cent, was the top loser.

12 new projects receive funding worth OMR1mn



MEETING: The Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund (AFDF) held its second meeting of the year. - ONA

These projects will contribute in generating income for the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund, in addition to developing and sustaining the related sectors

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund (AFDF) held its second meeting of the year under the chairmanship of Dr Saud

Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, AFDF Board Chairman. The meeting discussed the executive position of the funded pro-

jects and the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund's financial situation in the first half of 2021. The AFDF Board reviewed the new projects to be funded in 2021.

The board agreed to fund 12 projects worth OMR1 million, including five in agriculture and livestock sectors, six in fisheries and one in food safety.

These projects will contribute in generating income for the fund, in addition to developing and sustaining the related sectors. They will also support the food safety system and create work opportunities. -ONA

YOUTH AND LABOUR MARKET BROCHURE

Over 26,000 young business owners in Oman: NCSI data

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) released the 'Youth and labour market brochure' in which the total Omani youth (18 to 29 years) amounted to about 549,969 young males and females (20.1 per cent) of the total Omanis in the Sultanate (2,731,456) according to the E-Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020 data.

The brochure stated that the total number of employed youth in the Sultanate in the age group (18 to 29) amounted to 178,600 (79 per cent males and 21 per cent females) constituting 24 per cent

of the total Omanis working in Oman in 2020.

The brochure further indicated that 50.4 per cent of working youth work in the public sector (79,600) and 49.4 per cent work in the private sector (78,100), while 0.2 per cent work in other sectors.

As for the level of education, the Omani youth working in the public sector (60.8 per cent) of them hold a General Diploma, 13.7 per cent hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, 7.6 per cent hold a Higher Diploma, and 17.9 per cent do not have a General Diploma.

As for the private sector, the brochure showed that the con-

struction sector attracted the largest number of young Omani workers among other economic activities in the private sector by (23.5 per cent), followed by the wholesale and retail trade sector, and repair of vehicles and motorcycles with 14.5 per cent, the manufacturing sector by 12.8 per cent, and mining and quarrying sector with 9.3 per cent.

The financial and insurance activities sector was the least among the sectors.

The brochure also revealed that the number of Omani youth business owners in the age group from 18 to 29 years reached 26,189. -ONA

SLEW OF PRODUCTS

Reports claim Apple might have two major launch events

WASHINGTON: Sources that have knowledge of Apple's supply chain have revealed that the California-based giant might not unveil a slew of products on one event, which is why the company might be planning two of them.

According to Mashable, despite most analysts talking about just one Apple event expected to be held during the third week of September, a report has claimed that the firm might not showcase everything at a single event. However, not everyone appears to be convinced by the report's claims. What actually is expected is that Apple may hold a September event to unveil products just like the iPhone 13 series, followed by the iPad 9, Apple Watch Series 7, and AirPods 3.

Apple might then host a separate briefing and launch event in early October of November to announce the M1X MacBook Pro family and therefore the iPad mini 6. The M1X Mac mini might not be a part of Apple's announcement because it is rumoured to be delayed thanks to marketing reasons.

Assuming the claims of the report are true regarding two September events, it'll still be a proper move on Apple's part. Firstly, people expect to witness a slew of product announcements, and



showcasing them during a single event means viewers might grow uninterested in the time it takes to unwrap the whole event.

If Apple chooses to make the event concise, the corporate might not give the specified time to every product feature, leaving out some key selling points and discouraging future customers.

However, the worldwide health crisis features a habit of forcing companies like Apple to vary plans at a blink of an eye, so treat this report with a pinch of salt.

- ANI



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The position holder will be accountable to the Board of Directors for fulfilment and implementation of all plans and policies. Represent the Company to Government and stakeholders.

KEY RESULT AREAS

- Preparation and achievement of business strategy and business plan for the Company;
- Top line and Bottom line of the Company;
- Effective integration of all functions;
- Customer satisfaction, and employee's management and development.
- Efficiency and sustainability of Company operations;
- Company finance and administration;

KEY TASKS

- Oversee day-to-day operations
- Determine the overall direction, strategy and goals of the Company.
- Formulate the long-term objectives, plans and targets of the Company.
- Translate the business plan into budget, goals and targets for the Mangers. Direct and coordinate their efforts and monitor achievement not the same.
- Review activity reports and financial statements regularly and monitor farms performance continuously to ensure approved business plans are executed successfully.
- Direct the growth and business development initiatives of the Company, ensuring adequate resources allocations.
- Set out specific performance standards in key areas.
- Guide and assist Mangers in all operational issues involving planning, coordination, adherence to target/work schedule, etc.. to improve sustainability and increase profitability, consumer reach and productivity.
- Evaluate performance of Mangers for compliance with approved policies and objectives of the Company and required performance goals and standards.
- Coordinate with the Board of Directors for the evaluation of feasibility of new projects.
- Develop and maintain contacts with stakeholders and competent authorities and major customers to further business interests.
- Manage selection, development, measurement, motivation, cooperation, and termination of team staff.
- Any other responsibilities entrusted by the Board of Directors.

EDUCATION LEVEL – MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture
- MBA or Master Degree in Agri-business or related fields is an added advantage.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Overall experience of at least 20 years in agribusiness of which a minimum of 6 years working experience as a Manger or 4 years as General Manger in crop production in the private sector (mandatory).

SKILLS

- knowledge of fodder, bulb vegetables and grain sustainable production in hot dry climate;
- Cultivation under central pivot irrigation and drip irrigation system over large areas;
- Practical knowledge of mechanized farming.
- Business acumen and commercial orientation
- Strong management and business background
- Knowledge of finance/production/operations management, quality assurance and control, familiarity/ comfortable with using statistical tools
- Strategic planning and implementation
- Examining and re-engineering operations and procedures
- Develop technical, marketing, and financial plans, analyze, and interpret all related data
- Knowledge of profit and loss, balance sheet and cash flow management and general finance and budgeting.
- Knowledge of corporate governance and general management best practices
- Excellent leadership, project management and people management
- Financial awareness to understand and interpret numbers
- Excellent written & verbal communication / presentation skills
- Excellent written and spoken skills in English.

GENERIC SKILLS

- Strong Character
- Integrity and loyalty
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- Solid judgement qualities
- Self motivated
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Manager – Projects

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JOB VACANCIES

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JOB VACANCIES

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

Majees Technical Services LLC is a reputed Omani company with multi-disciplinary business units is looking for the position of:

“Lineman”

Candidate should have at least 6 years of experience working as Lineman in High Voltage environment.

Preference will be given to locally available candidate.

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SALES/MARKETING

Sales Executives Required with Oman D/L & minimum 3 years experience in field Sales and marketing, Building Material experience preferred. Contact 98264277, hinfoafg@gmail.com

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Senior Management

Indian Male, 45 Yrs. MBA Marketing, having 20+ years experience (7 yrs Gulf) looking for suitable Senior Management position in Purchase, Contracts, Supply Chain Management. Oman DL & NOC available.

Contact No. 97228393

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CONTACT 99283938

FINANCE

Chief Accountant/Finance Manager. Indian Male with more than 16 years experience in Oman. Can handle accounts of Trading, Manufacturing, Real Estate up to finalization.

Contact 78040335
Email: kramct2021@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

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

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

JOB VACANCIES

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Majees Technical Services LLC is a reputed Omani company with multi-disciplinary business units is looking for the position of:

“Lineman”

Candidate should have at least 6 years of experience working as Lineman in High Voltage environment.

Preference will be given to locally available candidate.

Suitable candidate can send their CV to recruit@majeestech.com

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant, B.Com with MBA Finance, with 16 years experience in Construction accounts (13 years in Oman & 3 years in India) seek immediate placement. NOC available. Contact 78581435 or email: career.4727@gmail.com

Indian male B.Com with 12+ yrs of experience in Accounts upto finalisation, is looking for a suitable placement. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 95089869. Email annchanda@gmail.com

Senior Accountant, B.Com with MBA Finance, with 15 years experience in accounts in Oman seeks immediate placement. NOC available. Contact 78581435 or career.4727@gmail.com

Accountant having 15 years experience in Accounts and can handle up to finalization seeking suitable placement. Contact 99262495

Indian Male, Sr. Accountant & Brincharge .M.com, 15yrs exp in accounts. Valid D/L. GSM 92715737

Sr. Accountant Srilankan 20+ yrs Oman experience seeks suitable placement. Contact 99630192

Indian MBA Finance with 3 years Oman experience in accounting. NOC & D/L available. Contact 79396446. Email: sheroofsabu@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

B.Tech, MBA with 2.5 years of work experience, presently working in Oman. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79556453

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Pls contact 91917771

FINANCE MANAGER

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Contact 97264447

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Bachelor's degree from the United States of America in Mechanical Engineering & IOSH, NEBOSH Holder from the UK. 3 years of experience in engineering (2 years of Technical experience in the Oil & Gas)

Contact +96895070748
Email: Siyabi1430@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian male B.com, Accountant, 12+ years of experience in power plant O&M up to finalisation. Oman D/L & NOC available.

Contact: 96774266
Email: gexongorgep@gmail.com

Senior Manager

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Previously worked as Director of Admission and Administration at college in Bangalore seeks for Senior management role in company or educational institutions in Muscat. Presently in Muscat (family visa).

Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Civil Engineer having more than 12 years (06 and 1/2 in Pakistan & 6 years in Oman) of experience in the field of Roads and Bridges, Building and Pipelines. Having a valid D/L, seeks placement. Contact 93436665
Email: hizbullah626@gmail.com

B. Tech Civil Engineer 25 yrs plus exp (18 yrs Oman) Buildings Multi-storeyed Commercial / Residential Complex, Infrastructure Waterline , Oli/Gas, Refinery - Valid Omani D/L, NOC is available - seeking suitable placement. Contact 92671539. Email: pvmmani_2006@yahoo.com

B.E Civil Engineer having 14 yrs Experience in construction of building & Roads with Consultants and Contractor. NOC available immediate joining. Contact 94011294. Email: adnanluky@gmail.com

Female, Btech in computer science and engineering, worked as Software Developer, adequate knowledge in Angular, HTML, MS SQL, MS EXCEL, ASPNET, seeking suitable job. On residence visa. Contact 94002988

BE Civil engineer, 12 years gulf experience with valid visa 2 years. Seeking consultant & contracting job. Contact 92351318

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Mob: +919150861939
email: sanja_bala@yahoo.co.in

Experience HSE (Omani)

Bachelor's degree from applied science of nazwa & Iosh, NEBOSH holder. 5 years experience in HSE

Contact +96897006343
Email: abdulaziz.9222@hotmail.com

Finance & Accounts Manager

With 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for full time employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023
rajugetme10@yahoo.com

Purchasing and Marketing

Indian Male, 26 Years old, B.Com Graduate having 4+ years of Oman experience in Purchasing and Sales role in an excellent grade Construction and Trading Company with fine market knowledge is looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L, NOC available.

Contact: 90158051
junaidsalaahi@gmail.com

HR & Administration Professional

With Executive Assistant exposure, well experienced with Oman labour law, well versed in office management, new office induction & administration, Indian male, with Valid Oman D/L, NOC available, seeks suitable placements.

Contact 94948676

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male 39 years B.com having 14 years Gulf experience as Accountant looking for suitable placement. Having Oman driving license and NOC available.

Contact: 97998397
Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer with PMP having experience more than 21 years looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 98522059, prakashrathi7707@gmail.com

Project Engineer (Civil) Indian male 25 yrs Exp in Oman looking for suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 99005250
Email: hp.puzhakkal@gmail.com

Electrical Engineer with 10 years experience in UG cables, overhead lines, and primary substations. Valid D/L & NOC available. # 98223842

Indian male B. Tech Civil Engineer with one year experience and holding Oman D/L is looking for a suitable opening. Contact 78066342

B.TECH Civil Engineer, currently residing in Oman, experience in Oil and gas sector, residential and commercial buildings seeking suitable placement. Contact 78137481, (wsp) +91 7510100507. Email: amalfais@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Inventory, Purchase, Sales: Indian male 30, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B operations, Accounting and various other skills, NOC available Contact 96219904
Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact 71790238

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5 BRAIN-BOOSTING FOODS FOR KIDS



To help them stay focused and learn more efficiently, fuel your kids with foods that are scientifically proven to boost focus and improve brain performance. According to Marissa Meshulam, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and founder of MPM Nutrition based in the US, instead of stocking up on sugary cereals and processed meals, there are some go-to foods for feeding little minds.

1 Berries

Strong evidence suggests that blueberries, blackberries, strawberries and other berries have beneficial effects on the brain. Their high levels of antioxidants help protect and boost memory functioning. Try sending the kids off to school with a berry smoothie or pack a fruit cup with berries for lunch to help keep their minds sharp throughout the day.

2 Eggs

A versatile and easy option for any healthy, filling meal, eggs contain a variety of nutrients such as choline and lutein that are essential for brain health. To ensure your family is getting the most out of their favourite egg-centric snack or recipe, choose eggs that contain more than double the Vitamin B12 and Omega-3s, which help regulate sugar levels in the brain and can improve memory function.

3 Nuts

Most nuts have brain-boosting benefits, but walnuts are especially high in Omega-3s, Vitamin E, antioxidants and folate content. Nuts make a great snack and also pair well with fruit or as part of a granola.

4 Avocado

Avocados have nutrients that protect the nerve cells in the brain that carry information. Try spreading avocado on a sandwich for lunch or mashing up with some garlic, salt, chopped tomatoes and lemon juice for a quick dip with chips or veggies for an after-school snack.

5 Leafy greens

Leafy-green vegetables are rich in so many vitamins, including Vitamin K, lutein and beta-carotene, which all contribute to healthy brain functioning. If you have trouble getting your kids to eat fruits and veggies, try sneaking them into smoothies or blended soups.

Looking for recipe inspiration? Try this nutrient-filled breakfast

Berry Exciting French Toast Panzanella

INGREDIENTS

- French Toast**
- 2 large eggs
 - 8 slices of thick bread
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/4 cup Greek yoghurt
 - 2 tablespoons maple syrup
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Maple Glaze**
- 1/4 cup confectioner's sugar
 - 1 teaspoon maple syrup
 - 1/2 teaspoon milk
- Panzanella**
- 1/2 cup sliced strawberries
 - 1/2 cup blueberries
 - 1/2 cup raspberries
 - 1/2 cup blackberries
 - 1/2 cup granola
 - 2 tablespoons sliced almonds
 - Cooking spray for griddle pan and sheet pan

DIRECTIONS

- In a medium-sized bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, yogurt, maple syrup, vanilla, almond extract, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt until combined.
- Preheat the oven to 400° F.
- Heat a griddle pan on medium heat. Spray the griddle with cooking spray.
- Dip 4 slices of bread into the egg mixture separately then place on the griddle pan. Cook about 4 minutes each side or until golden brown. Spray the griddle again and repeat steps with the last 4 slices of bread.
- Treat a large cooking sheet with cooking spray. Cut each bread slice into large cubes. Place the bread cubes in a single layer on the treated pan. Lightly spray the bread cubes with cooking spray.
- Bake for 10 minutes, then flip the cubes and continue baking for 5 more minutes.
- Make the glaze by mixing the confectioner's sugar, maple syrup and milk in a small bowl.
- Using a large serving bowl, toss the bread cubes and granola. Drizzle the maple glaze and toss again until bread cubes and granola are lightly coated. Add all the berries and toss until combined. Top with almonds. Serve immediately.



PHOTO FEATURE



CHICAGO
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Jets perform during the Chicago Air and Water Show 2021 in Chicago, the United States. Chicagoans on Saturday raised their eyes to the skies as the Chicago Air and Water Show 2021 came back in a 'reimagined' version. The free and reimagined air show events are part of the Chicago mayor's 'Open Chicago' initiative to safely and fully reopen the third largest US city. Photos by Joel Lerner/Xinhua



ROUND-UP

Maisarah offers diverse finance options with competitive rates

The diverse packages of finance offered by Maisarah have been tailored exclusively to meet the specific requirements of customers



MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to play a vast array of Islamic financing options, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services – Bank-Dhofar’s Sharia-compliant window – continues to offer flexible

payment plans with fast approvals and easy documentation on various types of finance, including goods, education, automobiles, properties, travelling, commercial and personal finance.

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pliances, pay for their children’s education, own the car of their dream, buy a house and invest in properties. Maisarah customers can also cover the expenses of their travels, as well as get personal and commercial finance to meet their various needs. All of this is easy and convenient Sharia-compliant financing with fast approval and easy documentation. Maisarah’s Goods Finance covers up to 100% of basic goods cost with a flexible payment plan of up to 10 years, allowing customers to furnish their homes, purchase gadgets and electronic appliances, meet their basic needs and enjoy a convenient and contemporary lifestyle of their choice. Customers can also pay for their children’s education with a flexible finance period of up to 10 years via the Education Finance option that covers education fees, the cost of books, etc. The Islamic window also of-

fers a Property Finance bundle with a flexible payment tenure of up to 25 years, covering up to 80% of the property value. Property Finance is available for the purchase of ready-to-use, under-construction properties, as well as the cost of property renovation. What adds exclusive value to this package is that customers can own the share in the property equal to the contribution they make every month. Meanwhile, Auto Finance by Maisarah makes it easier for customers to own their dream car, whether it is a new or a used vehicle, with competitive profit rates and a flexible payment plan of up to 10 years. Maisarah also offers an exclusive Commercial Finance option for salaried Omani nationals who are looking for an additional income stream with a flexible payment plan for up to 15 years. This type of finance allows

for the purchase of commercial vehicles, goods, equipment and real estate that would support customers in achieving their aspirations and contribute to their business growth and success. For those who wish to travel for work or leisure, or even plan a Haj or Umrah trip, the exclusive Travel Finance solution covers all types of travelling-related expenses with a finance period of up to 3 years. This includes expenses of transportation, accommodation, sightseeing and tourism packages. Customers can also avail of Personal Finance from Maisarah by requesting finance against an already owned property or vehicle to takeover personal finances and loans from other banks and/or facilitate the conversion of conventional finances to Sharia-compliant finance, purchase and leaseback transactions.

WORLD HRD CONGRESS

Sohar International receives ‘Best Employer Brand’ and ‘Managing Health at Work’ awards

MUSCAT: As a bank that focuses on the holistic wellbeing of its employees, Sohar International was recently awarded the ‘Best Employer Brand Award’ as well as the award for ‘Managing Health at Work’ at the World HRD Congress - Oman Best Employer Brand Awards 2021 - a global body based out of India that has been recognising and highlighting exemplary branding, human resources, and leadership regionally. Revered for recording superior levels of performance through all its operations, Sohar International believes investing in its staff and creating a conducive, positive and safe work environment is vital to its continued success. The bank conducts ongoing training programs and skill development workshops for its employees to ensure they remain proactive to any budding business needs and are well-equipped with the necessary competence to become leaders in their fields. The bank also invests heavily in technology, systems and processes to enable the most efficient utilisation and development of Omani talents especially focusing on local talents where the bank exceeds 90 per cent Omanisation



encompassing key strategic roles and upskilling the youth and the future of this nation. “As an organisation that shares the national agenda of progress and prosperity, we take the welfare and development of our employ-

ees, our most precious assets, very seriously at all levels of our workforce. We are indeed delighted to receive such coveted accolades that put us at par with international organisations. While this award is a testament to the commitment

demonstrated by the bank, it also highlights the bank’s corporate culture and its focus on leadership, health and safety standards, and employee welfare. Industry benchmarks and global recognitions like these are a testament to our efforts and various strategic initiatives,” said Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International. “Sohar International is well-recognised for maintaining the highest levels of excellence. To deliver such exceptional performance, we rely on a team of motivated employees who have the zeal to go the extra mile. We believe that passion promotes the spirit of excellence and therefore ensure that our employees receive the necessary support, encouragement, and recognition at the workplace so they remain dedicated. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have reflected our ‘Human’ personality staying committed to our staff by adopting precautionary measures within our premises to ensure their health and well-being becoming positive players in the overall socio-economic development and progress of the nation,” Ahmed Al Musalmi added.

ENDURING APPEAL

Toyota Corolla touches 50mn global sales milestone

MUSCAT: Further strengthening the 55-year legacy of its best-selling vehicle, Toyota recently announced that the iconic Corolla has surpassed sales of 50 million units worldwide. The incredible milestone underlines the enduring appeal of the much-loved model, which is globally renowned for providing low operating costs and reliable, trouble-free motoring stemming from quality engineering, together with outstanding comfort levels. Kei Fujita, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: “We are proud to have achieved this fantastic milestone, which demonstrates the huge impact the Corolla has had on people’s lives around the world. Being the world’s best-



selling car speaks volumes about the satisfaction and loyalty our customers have towards Corolla and the Toyota brand. Corolla’s legendary reputation for quality and reliability, combined with its exceptional comfort and efficiency, has led to cumulative sales

of more than 50 million units. I would like to thank all of our past, present, and future customers for placing their trust in us and taking the Toyota Corolla to their hearts, which provides further inspiration on our journey to make ‘ever-better’ cars.”

Since its launch in 1966, the Corolla series has continued to evolve in line with the needs of the times and remains a highly popular choice among drivers. New advanced features and functions have been introduced to suit the expectations of customers, all while inheriting the original model’s core DNA reliability and usability from the very first generation. Exemplifying Toyota’s continuous commitment to providing environmentally-friendly vehicles is the addition of a hybrid electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and an electric motor. This model offers the lowest fuel consumption value in its category at 27.6km/L. (Fuel Economy for Corolla HEV as per GSO conformity certificate.

PARTNERSHIP

Sandiane signs agreement to open its first pharmacy at Muscat Bay

MUSCAT: Muscat Bay, the leading destination as an integrated tourism complex in the Sultanate signed an agreement with Sandiane International to open its first pharmacy at Muscat Bay. At an exclusive signing ceremony, Sheikh Hamood Al Hosni, CEO, Muscat Bay signed an agreement in the presence of senior management and officials from Sandiane to establish this new pharmacy on Muscat Bay premises. Aimed at serving its residents and those in the neighbouring areas, this will be the first Sandiane pharmacy in Oman. This launch is part of a set of essential services and facilities that are aimed

at supporting the residents. The agreement was signed on behalf of Muscat Bay by Sheikh Hamood Al Hosni, CEO, Muscat Bay and by Dr. Ana Maria Serrano on behalf of Sandiane International. The pharmacy will provide its services not only to the residents of Muscat Bay but also to those in the surrounding areas. This is an important aspect and follows Muscat Bay’s guiding principles to cater to the betterment of the wider community as well. The pharmacy will be part of the Village Square, Muscat Bay’s retail and recreational hub which is envisioned to offer lifestyle conveniences in every way.



Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hamood Al Hosni, CEO, Muscat Bay, said, “At the heart of Muscat Bay is a thriving community and we

are constantly seeking new ways to enhance this lifestyle experience, bringing every convenience closer. This pharmacy is a step in that di-

rection. As we progress through the phased completion of each stage, adding on new amenities and facilities brings to fruition our completion strategy and we are delighted with the progress.” Abdullah Al Nasiri, VP, Muscat Bay said, “We are excited with this partnership which is part of a set of integrated packages to provide the finest quality of services to the residents and to those in the surrounding areas. We also look forward to expanding the real estate services and products that we offer in order to exceed customer expectation. This is one of the many partnerships that are on the anvil, all of which are aimed at bringing quality

lifestyle services and conveniences to the Muscat Bay community.” Commenting on this partnership, Dr. Ana Maria Serrano on behalf of Sandiane International said, “We are grateful to Muscat Bay for choosing us and we are happy to be part of this family. Sandiane International has a state-of-the-art specialised medical center for Dermatology & Cosmetology in Muscat, offering clinical and cosmetic dermatology solutions with experienced doctors and staff. Our pharmacy services at Muscat Bay is part of our healthcare services diversification and we look forward to serving the community in a meaningful way.”



MUSCAT: In line with the bank’s vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat invites everyone to take advantage of the numerous features and benefits of its credit cards. Meethaq is the leading Islamic financial services provider in Oman, operating based on the principles of Transparency, Trust and Partnership while ensuring the comfort of remaining true to Islamic values. Currently, Meethaq offers 4 different types of Sharia-compliant credit cards to its customers which include the Hafawa Visa Signature credit card, Titanium MasterCard credit card, Meethaq-LuLu co-branded credit card and the Standard MasterCard credit card. Customers can also avail up to 5 supplementary cards for each primary card they hold enabling supplementary cardholders to enjoy the benefits available to primary cardholders. For a limited period, Meethaq is offering a full waiver of the annual fees on both the primary and supplementary card for the first year to promote cash-free digital transactions and to encourage customers, including their family members, to experience the benefits of its credit card offering. Meethaq credit cards are based on the Sharia contracts of Ujrah and offers benefits which include wide acceptance across POS and ATM location across the world, contactless payments, 24/7 customer service, One Time Pin (OTP) service for secure online transactions, SMS alerts for transactions and up to 52 days of a payment grace period. Meethaq credit cards are an attractive payment solution for customers who seek banking products based on Islamic principles and at the same time seek convenience and flexibility in making day-to-day transactions at shopping malls, restaurants or international destinations. Additionally, Meethaq credit cards also offer an Easy Payment Plan (EPP) which allows Meethaq customers to purchase a wide range of goods

and services and make payments for the purchases over 12 months conveniently with no additional costs, following Sharia principles. Apart from its credit cards, Meethaq is also a pioneer in offering innovative digital banking products and services that are aligned with the best practices of Islamic banking and finance worldwide. Its robust Internet Banking and Mobile Banking platforms along with its extended reach of close to 800 Meethaq & Bank Muscat ATMs and CDMs across the Sultanate make daily financial transactions a breeze for Meethaq customers. Notably, Meethaq has also debuted a new online account opening process for savings accounts wherein customers can submit the completed account opening form together with supporting documents by email and need to visit the selected branch only to collect their debit cards. The digitisation of a large part of the account opening process minimises customer visits to branches and waiting times leading to banking convenience and enhanced social distancing. Earlier this year, Meethaq also launched the first-ever Sharia-compliant Corporate Purchase Cards in Oman for the benefit of its Corporate Clients to make all their Business to Government payments using these corporate purchase cards. Meethaq adopts the highest standards of professionalism conforming to Sharia principles. Every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia-compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.



ROUND-UP

Omran concludes interviews and evaluation stage of ‘Midhyaf’

In the coming weeks, 300 people will be nominated for the final evaluation phase and for selecting 148 talents to join the training programme at Oman Tourism College in early September

MUSCAT: Following the remarkable turnout witnessed by ‘Midhyaf’ programme in the registration phase with 2,031 applicants, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group), the executive arm



of the Sultanate for tourism development, concluded the interviews and evaluation phase of the programme at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

In the coming weeks, 300 people will be nominated for the final evaluation phase and hence selecting 148 talents to join the train-

ing programme at Oman Tourism College (OTC) in early September. Upon completion of the training at OTC, participants will get the opportunity to commence on-the-job training in various hotels of the Omran Group.

As part of its efforts to provide professional training experiences

following international standards to the participants of ‘Midhyaf’ programme, Oman Tourism College has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the British Butler Institute and a training agreement with ZADK Culinary Academy, aiming to implement intensive training

courses in specialised areas covered in the programme, including, culinary, food & beverage, front of house operations, hotel operations management, accounting and procurement, sales and marketing, and housekeeping.

Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group, said: “The extensive interest of Omani youth in joining Midhyaf programme reflects their passion towards their future in the tourism and hospitality sector. During the coming period, we look forward to having all these passionate talents onboard, to be trained and developed comprehensively through a set of specialised courses at Oman College of Tourism in cooperation with a number of prestigious international institutes in this field. The programme will work on enhancing the participants’ practical and professional competencies and capabilities, along with providing them with in-depth on-the-job training in different hotels of Omran Group.”

The evaluation and interview phase witnessed significant interest, and applicants of various

educational degrees including general education diplomas, university diplomas and bachelor’s degrees, showcased their enthusiasm to participate in ‘Midhyaf’ programme and compete for various hospitality jobs. The job interviews were conducted and organized by Human Resources teams at Omran Group and Oman Tourism College, in the presence of the hotel managers of the participating hotels, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour.

‘Midhyaf’ programme, which has been launched by Omran Group, falls under the umbrella of the Oman Investment Authority’s initiative that aims to create more than 4,800 jobs and training opportunities in its owned companies, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour. The ‘Midhyaf’ on-the-job training programme is considered a sustainable platform for the development of national cadres in various properties of Omran Group, allowing Omani talents to lead the Sultanate’s tourism sector and advance it to broader horizons.

EMPOWERING NATIONAL COMPETENCIES

Zubair Corp celebrates graduation of 13 employees from Etimad programme

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation recently celebrated the graduation of 13 employees, who successfully completed ‘Etimad’, the national programme for leadership development to empower Omani competencies in assuming middle and senior management positions within the private sector.

Etimad is one of the programmes stemming from the recommendations of the Labour Market and Employment Lab of the National Programme for Enhancing Economic Diversification, ‘Tanfeedh’. The graduation was attended by Al Zubair Mohammad Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of The Zubair Corporation, alongside the presence of several members of the corporation’s senior management.

The graduation is aligned with in the framework of The Zubair Corporation’s commitment to develop Omani competencies and enable growth in the private sector. Through its participation in this programme, the corporation aims to prepare leaders within the second and first positions at The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries, in various disciplines, to ensure the availability of Omani nationals qualified for leadership positions. This celebration follows the Ministry of Labour’s recent virtual graduation ceremony that was organised for the first batch of the programme, with around 247 graduates participating from various private sector companies.



Through a set of programmes aimed at enhancing a diverse set of skills and different kinds of work, The Zubair Corporation seeks to empower Omani youth and train them in various professions to enhance their future careers. Through their participation in the ‘Etimad’ programme, supervised by the Ministry of Labour, the Corporation aims to empower national competencies and prepare them with the required leadership skills that qualify them to spear-

head growth within the private sector. The programme consists of three main themes, which are, leadership from within, leadership by position, leadership through change and cooperation.

Commenting on the staff graduation, Al Zubair Mohammad Al Zubair said, “The Corporation’s participation in this programme is a part of its policy to support government initiatives that are aimed at developing and qualifying young Omani talents and enabling them to occupy middle and leadership positions across various group companies. Today, we are pleased to witness the graduation of this batch and are confident in the comprehensive training that they received over the course of the programme. We believe it will enable them to implement a clearer vision for the future of business in the companies in which they work. We extend our warmest congratulations to the graduates and look forward to seeing their achievements.”

On behalf of the graduates, Shai-

ma Al Raisi said, “We are proud to complete this qualitative programme aimed at building young Omani leaders. We look forward to implementing what we have learned over the past few months within the companies we work in. On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Labour and the management of The Zubair Corporation for providing us with this opportunity to develop our skills and knowledge and skills, to benefit the daily performance of the group companies.”

The Zubair Corporation had followed a series of procedures to nominate employees to join the programme. The qualified employees were selected from the various companies of the Zubair Group and were subjected to a comprehensive evaluation according to the criteria of efficiency, productivity and job performance, in addition to the employee’s readiness to assume leadership positions in the future along with other criteria.

ONLINE INTER-SCHOOL EVENT

Indian School board inaugurates ISQUIZ

MUSCAT: The third edition of ISQUIZ (Indian School Quiz), one of the biggest online inter-school events conceptualised by the Board of Directors, designed to augment the holistic development programme for the students of all Indian Schools was inaugurated at a ceremonious virtual function organised by Indian School Muscat, the host school of ISQUIZ on August 21.

Dr Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest; and Dr Ram Shankar, Controller of Examinations, Central University of Odisha and Joint Secretary, CBSE was the Special Guest.

The grand inaugural ceremony commenced with a prayer song sung by the school choir. Vishwanath Praveen, Assistant Head Boy, Indian School Muscat welcomed the august gathering.

In his introductory message, Sachin Toprani, President of the Indian School Muscat Management Committee congratulated the team that has worked tirelessly to ensure the seamless conduct of the quiz at different levels. He lauded Indian School Muscat as the epicentre of academic endeavours and the most happening place leading way to the subtlety of perfection. He wished all the brainy warriors the joy of crossing horns of smartness and calibre with each other.

Manickam, in his inaugural address, underscored the indispensable role quizzing plays in enhancing the IQ of students. “It is not just the matter of asking questions and providing factual information, but synthesising knowledge using analytical skills, considering profound nuances of a question before answering makes the quiz competition as an enhanced learning activity,” Dr Manickam said, “By participating in such events, students learn how to collaborate, critically think and better their leadership qualities.”

The much-celebrated Quiz Master Vinay Mudaliar will be at the helm of affairs.

ISQUIZ has a total number of 6,300 registered participants. The battle of brains kicks starts with the First prelin for the junior category at 4.30 pm and senior category at 5.30pm on August 25. The qualified teams in the junior and senior category will battle it out on Saturday, August 28 at 4.30 pm and 5.30 pm respectively. The champions in the sub-junior category will be decided based on their performance on September 1 at 6 pm.

Brilliant performers in the junior and senior category on September 2 at the mega prelims will be the ones capturing the lime-light at the grand finale on September 4 at 6pm. Both the mega preliminary round and the grand finale will be aired on Zoom and broadcast live on YouTube.

BRAND NEW

Al Jenaibi Automobiles launches BMW Motorrad showroom



MUSCAT: Al Jenaibi International Automobiles (AJIA), the official importer of BMW Group vehicles in Oman, is excited to announce the launch of its brand-new BMW Motorrad showroom.

Opened to the public on August 16, the new landmark covers 128 square metres and is located next to the renowned BMW showroom in Al-Qurum. With a dedicated brand manager onsite, each customer’s journey is guaranteed to be as seamless and enjoyable as possible.

Introduced in 1923, BMW Mo-

torrad, BMW’s exclusive motorbike brand, has contributed to BMW’s long legacy in motorsport worldwide - taking home victories at the Dakar Rally six times.

Today, BMW Motorrad continues to enjoy intense brand affinity among motorbike enthusiasts in the Middle East as it continues to grow across the GCC. Each year, the brand pushes the boundaries and dares to be different, with persistent innovation driving the introduction of new machines.

Sabah Al Zadjali, Brand Man-

ager of Al Jenaibi added, “We are delighted to announce the opening of BMW Motorrad in Oman. With six new Motorrad models launching in line with the showroom opening, we are looking forward to showcasing these awesome machines to existing and new customers in the market. The launch contributes to the ever-growing motorbike community in Oman, providing residents with the opportunity to connect with the renowned brand for the very first time. Our customers are fans, not

just of BMW Motorrad, but also of the motorbike lifestyle: fast-paced and on the go. Through our selection of motorbike accessories and services at our brand-new showroom, we are ensuring a one-stop shop for all our customer’s needs.”

In line with the easing of government restrictions, the dealership is ready to welcome customers every day from 8.30am till 7.30pm, and will continue to apply the highest level of care and hygiene measures following guidance received from official Omani authorities.



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