



HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Sheikh Mansour Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. In the cable, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his utmost thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise, and protect His Majesty against all harm. **-ONA**



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SIXTEEN TEAMS TO TAKE PART IN T20 WORLD CUP

THE TOURNAMENT IS SET TO RUN FROM 17 OCTOBER TO 14 NOVEMBER

EVENT TO BE HELD ACROSS FOUR VENUES IN MUSCAT, ABU DHABI, DUBAI AND SHARJAH

DREAMS
COME TRUE

SULTANATE TO CREATE HISTORY BY HOLDING T20 WORLD CUP MATCHES

Floodlights at stadium to be upgraded besides building TV towers for broadcast

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman will complete its preparations to hold the upcoming Twenty20 World Cup within the next three months, after it was confirmed as a joint venue partner for the tournament.

Set to be held from October 17 to

November 14, 2021, the event will be held in Oman and the neighbouring United Arab Emirates, after the International Cricket Council, cricket's governing body, decided to switch venues from India, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

For Oman and the UAE to be awarded venue rights is an his-

toric occasion: they both become the first associate cricket-playing nations to hold a World Cup. The hard work to ensure that tournament is a success, however, begins now, according to Pankaj Khimji, the chairman of the Oman Cricket Association (OCA).

"This is definitely a great day for us...it is truly a watershed moment for cricket in Oman," he told the *Times of Oman*. "The official message has come from the ICC and we are so happy that we can now bring such a high-profile event here."

"I think it is true that this is a history making occasion for both Oman and the UAE: this is the

first time an associate-level cricketing country has been provided the chance to hold the World Cup," he added.

Hard work begins

"Now the real hard work begins: we've met with the ICC and have a list of demands from them, but we now need to meet with the BCCI (Board for Control of Cricket in India) and see what their needs are."

"We shall leave no stone unturned to exceed the requirements of the BCCI and ICC," said Khimji. "Oman will certainly extend a very warm welcome to all the teams, officials and media in October."

Madhu Jesrani, the general secretary of the OCA, was also of a similar vein, saying there were many modifications and upgrades that needed to be done to the cricket grounds in Amerat, where the T20 matches are scheduled to be held.

"The first thing we need to do is upgrade our floodlights so that they meet the required standards, and we also need to install two TV towers for broadcast purposes," he said.

"There are also a lot of other preparations that need to be made, including plans for a COVID bubble, which will include all the areas the teams can visit. We have three

months to finish all of this work, and we are confident we will finish it on time."

Preliminary rounds from one of the qualifying group stages for the Super 12 stage of the tournament will be held in Oman, the other will take place next door. The two groups feature four teams each, and the countries that finish in the top two positions will join the eight teams in the next stage of the World Cup.

Another priority for the OCA, according to Jesrani, is to vaccinate all of the players and officials from the Oman cricket team who will be involved in the tournament. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN New Amman-Muscat flights launched

1 Muscat International Airport has welcomed the inauguration of the first economy flights of Jordan Aviation coming from Queen Alia International Airport in the Jordanian capital. **>A3**

WORLD Ethiopia declares cease-fire in Tigray

2 Tigray People's Liberation Front said on Monday that they were back in control of Mekele, the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region. The major turn of events comes after eight months of intense fighting in the region. **>A7**

MARKET Treasury bills worth OMR96mn issued

3 Oman's central bank raised OMR96 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 182 days, from June 30 until December 29, 2021. **>B1**



COVID-19

People aged 18 and above eligible to get vaccinated from Sunday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People aged 18 and above will be eligible for COVID vaccines in all governorates of Oman, the Ministry of Health announced on Tuesday.

The drive will begin on Sunday, July 4, 2021. The ministry has called on the targeted group to book appointments through the website <https://covid19.mog.gov.om> or through the Tarassud+ application before visiting the vaccination centres.

This comes after Oman reported 2,234 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) on Tuesday, in addition to 43 new COVID-19-related deaths. This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 266,536 in the Sultanate.



The total number of COVID-19-related deaths reached 3,056, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry added that 1,569 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number to 233,287 recoveries. The Ministry also pointed out that 181 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, as the total number of current hospital-

ised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 1,613 of them 525 are in intensive care units (ICUs).

The Health Ministry also said 854,274 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19, since the start of National Immunisation Plan in December 2020.

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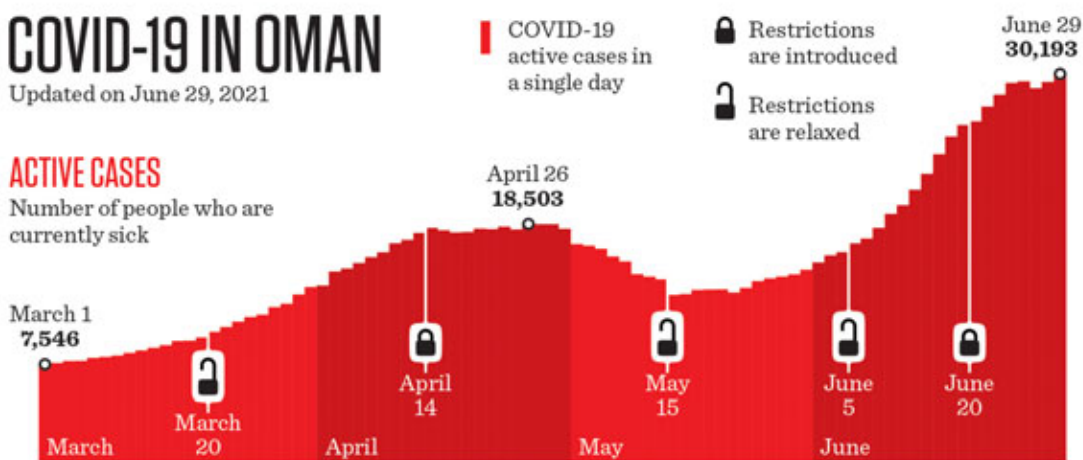
Dhuhr.....	12.15pm
Asr.....	3:33pm
Maghrib.....	7:02pm
Isha.....	8:25pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3.56am

COVID-19 IN OMAN

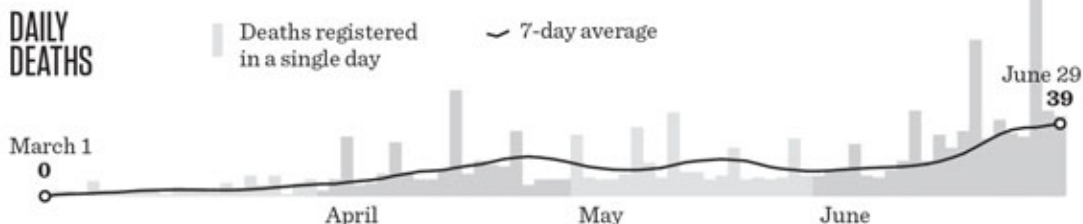
Updated on June 29, 2021

ACTIVE CASES

Number of people who are currently sick



DAILY DEATHS



Source: Ministry of Health

novagram

NORTH AL BATINAH

Sohar Hospital to receive more COVID-19 patients

SOHAR: Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health visited on Tuesday Sohar Hospital in the Governorate of North Al Batinah to inspect work progress and efforts of health workers in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the visit, the Minister met with a number of referrals and medical cadres working in the immunisation clinics and listened to their suggestions to improve the services provided in the hospital.

Al Saidi praises staff

Moreover, Al Saidi met the medical and administrative staff of the hospital, praising them for their great efforts that have been made in dealing with the pandemic.

He expressed his concern about the exhaustion of the medical staff during the recent period.



The Minister of Health was briefed on the expansion project of Sohar Hospital, which is designated to receive COVID-19 patients to relieve the pressure on the

hospital. As part of the expansion project, Sohar Hospital will start receiving about 30 COVID-19 patients in the initial stage during the next few days. - ONA

FOR YOUR SAFETY



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: The campaign targets the workforce in the industrial units based in the industrial cities, specifically those operating in food and water sectors. - ONA

Madayn launches drive to limit spread of COVID at workplace

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn has launched "For Your Safety" awareness campaign to curb the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in its industrial cities, Knowledge Oasis Muscat and Al Mazunah Free Zone.

The campaign targets the workforce in the industrial units based in the industrial cities, specifically those operating in food and water sectors; the commercial activities related to public health in the industrial cities; and the administrative buildings of the companies based in the Knowledge Oasis Muscat.

The campaign aims at disseminating awareness on the importance of receiving vaccination to reduce infection in the work environment, spreading extensive awareness on the precautionary measures to achieve a safe and healthy workplace, and training the workforce in the industrial units to develop preventive plans and practices against coronavirus disease.

The campaign also highlights



the significance of correcting the wrong practices of the workforce with the objective of reaching zero violations while continuing to conduct PCR tests.

Through a series of field visits to the various industrial cities of Madayn and the Knowledge Oasis Muscat, Madayn's officials of health, safety, security and environment will provide the industrial units with the preventive measures and

awareness guidelines to reduce and limit the spread of infection with coronavirus at the work environment.

Over the past years, Madayn has qualified a group of its employees on the basics of inspection and occupational safety in the industrial cities in various fields such as food safety, investor services, field work procedures, and health, safety and environment. - ONA

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ECONOMY

Oman’s GDP value improved, UN calculation method shows



MUSCAT: The result of the expanded economic survey and the application of the new method of GDP calculation shows that the value of the GDP increased generally in Oman, with variation in contribution of economic activities in the GDP’s composition.

The Sultanate’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stood at OMR7,389,500,000 by the end of the first quarter 2021, down by 2.5 percent by comparison to the corresponding period in 2020 (7,580,700,000), according to preliminary statistics released by the National Statistics and Information Centre (NSCI).

Oil activities dropped by 20.6 percent by the end of the first quarter in 2021 to OMR1,927,800,000 as against OMR2,428,300,000 by the end Q1 in 2020.

Crude oil activities went down by 22.4 percent to OMR1,607,000,000 by the end of Q1 in 2021 as against OMR2,070,100,000 during the corresponding period last year.

Natural gas activities by the end of Q1 this year also declined by 10.4 percent, registering OMR320,800,000 as against OMR358,200,000 by the end of Q1 in 2020.

Non-oil activities by the end of the first quarter in 2021 increased by 5.7 percent to OMR5,728,300,000, compared to OMR5,418,900,000 by the end of Q1 in 2020.

Service activities led the growth of non-oil activities, posting OMR4,081,100,000—up by 6.6 percent over their standing by the end of Q1, 2020 (OMR 3,829,600,000).

However, by the end of March 2021, telecom activities decreased by 1.1 percent and public administration and defence by 2. percent, while wholesale-retail trade activities rose by percent, transport and storage by 12.7 percent residency (tenancy) by 7.7 percent, other service activities by 7.4 percent, finance and insurance by 6.3 percent and real estate activities, occupational, technical and administrative serve by 2.2 percent.

As for industrial activities, they registered an increase of 5.7 percent to OMR1,479,400,000 by the end of the first quarter of this year, compared to OMR1,399,000,000 by the end of Q1, 2020.

Of this, the value of basic chemical products activities rose by 24.8 percent, while the industries sector’s activities went up by 23.3 percent and electricity and water supply by 8.5 percent. The contribution of mining and quarries went down by 37.7 percent and construction activities by 6.8 percent.

Agriculture and fisheries-related activities went down by 11.9 percent at the end of the first quarter of this year to OMR167,800,000 (compared to OMR190,300,000 by the end of Q1, 2020).

Oman is processing its statistical data in accordance with international practices and standards. Key aspects of this modernisation include the endorsement of the United Nation’s National Accounts System for 2008 and the UN ‘National Classification for Economic Activities (ISIC4)’.

— ONA

CRISP WHITE SANDS OF MUGHSAYL BEACH

The stunning blue waters and crisp white sands of Mughsayl beach make it Salalah’s biggest attraction. This beach is around 57km drive away from Salalah, and you should take a 4x4 to enjoy off-road stops along the way. The stretch of mountains on both sides of the route offer a spectacular backdrop.

Located just besides Mughsayl beach, the impressive, natural blow holes are quite an attraction as water from the sea shoots 30 metres into the air as sea waves crash on the underground caves below them. The views of the surrounding towering green cliffs and misty ocean shores are reason enough to visit this breath-taking place.

Recently Condé Nest Traveller magazine selected Salalah Beach in Dhofar Governorate among the 30 best beaches in the world, according to Oman’s Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

The magazine stated: “There’s something Mad Max-esque about Al Mughsayl, with its unflinchingly white sand, parched frankincense trees and cinematic blow holes (especially impressive during monsoon season) which erupt every couple of minutes, shaking the earth and spewing out seawater with a deafening sound. Stretching for four unbroken miles and fringed with sheer limestone cliffs, the beach is lapped by gleaming turquoise water which can get a little choppy at times.”

IMPORTANT DAY

Celebrating International Asteroid Day

INTERNATIONAL Asteroid Day is observed on June 30th every year. It is also known as World Asteroid Day and is celebrated as the anniversary of the Tunguska disaster in 1908. It also raises awareness about the role of asteroids in the creation of our universe, how to use their energy in the future, how asteroids pave the way for future exploration, and how to protect our planet from asteroid impacts. It aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.

On 30th June in 1908, a massive explosion occurred over the Podkamennaya Tunguska River in Siberia, Russia.

According to NASA, the asteroid entered the Earth’s atmosphere at a speed of about 33,500 miles per hour. The 220-million-pound space rock heated the air around it to 44,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

At the height of about 28,000 feet, the combination of pressure and heat caused the asteroid to break and destroy itself, resulting in a fireball and the release of energy equivalent to about 185 Hiroshima bombs. Over an area of 830 square miles (2,150 square kilometers), the blast destroyed an estimated 80 million trees.

Asteroids are small rocky bodies that orbit the sun in a circular orbit. They are often found between Mars and Jupiter’s orbits, but some have more eccentric orbits.

Asteroids are rocky-metallic structures that vary in size from about the size of pebbles to about 600 miles in diameter. They are so small that they aren’t even classified as planets, but they do orbit the Sun.



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ORDER OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE MERIT

Former ambassador of Oman to Republic of Korea felicitated

Times News Service

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Excellency Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Kim Chang-kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman has conferred on June 28, 2021, the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit, Gwanghwa Medal on His Excellency Mohammed bin Salim Al Harthy, former Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Korea.

Retired Ambassador Al Harthy has served more than a decade in Seoul, Korea, from December 2009 to December 2019. His Excellency was elected Chairman of the Korea-Arab Society (KAS) in 2016 and served two consecutive terms until 2019.

Also, His Excellency Al Harthy has been the Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Korea from 2016 to 2019.

Against this backdrop, the Gwanghwa Medal was presented to His Excellency Al Harthy in recognition of and appreciation for his outstanding and meritorious services rendered toward



the promotion of friendly relations between the Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman.

During the awarding ceremony, His Excellency Kim, Korean Ambassador to the Sultanate, praised the unprecedented role of His Excellency Al Harthy in widening the scope of the co-operative partnership between the two countries. In return, His Excellency Al Harthy reiterated the importance of the bilateral relations and expressed his appreciation for the Korean

Government in supporting his services in Korea.

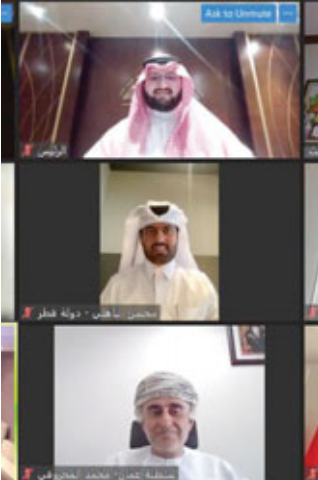
Awarding ceremony was held in the premises of the Korean Embassy and was attended by family members of His Excellency Al Harthy as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate, including H.E. Humaid bin Ali Al Maani, Chief of Global Department, H.E. Zakaria bin Hamad Al Saadi, Ambassador of the Sultanate to Korea and also Protocol Department's representative.

His Majesty sends cable of greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo on his country's Independence Anniversary.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes to President Tshisekedi and the friendly people of Congo. - **ONA**

VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCING



Oman attends 23rd meeting of AGFUND

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, took part on Tuesday in the 23rd meeting of the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND).

Held via video-conferencing, the Sultanate was represented in the meeting by by Mohammed Ahmed Al Mahrouqi, Director-General of Planning and Studies in the Ministry of Social Development.

During the meeting, the participants approved the minutes of the 22nd meeting, besides reviewing the achievements made during the first half of 2021.

The meeting also discussed the suggested funding projects and approved the financial statements for the fiscal year 2020, as well as reviewing the auditors' report. - **ONA**

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

Omani envoy presents credentials

GITEGA: Maj.Gen Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi received at the presidential headquarters here Ali Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, who presented his credentials

as the Sultanate's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi.

The ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan

Haitham Bin Tarik and best wishes of good health and well-being to President Ndayishimiye, and the friendly people of Burundi further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**

CRICKET

<FROM A1> 'Extremely happy to have the World Cup in Oman'

"In all the years that I have been in Oman, I never expected a tournament of this magnitude, particularly a cricket event, to come here," he explained. "We have been able to bring it here due to the hard work of the OCA and others involved. We are extremely happy with being able to have the World Cup here."

With Oman being one of the eight teams looking to seal a spot in the Super 12, they will be playing their matches at home. The other seven teams involved in qualifying are Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, Namibia, and Papua New Guinea.

The grounds in Amerat aside, the other three venues of the tournament are in the UAE: Sheikh

Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, the Dubai International Stadium, and the Sharjah Stadium. The BCCI, however, will continue to be the hosts of the tournament.

The T20 Cricket World Cup was scheduled to be held last year in Australia, but was pushed forward because of the pandemic, before being relocated to India. However, the ongoing COVID situation there has resulted in the tournament being moved to the Gulf.

To make sure the event runs smoothly and securely, the ICC will be liaising with teams from the BCCI, OCA, and the Emirates Cricket Board, said Geoff Allardice, the organisation's acting CEO.

"Our priority is to deliver the

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 safely, in full and in its current window. Whilst we are incredibly disappointed not to be hosting the event in India, the decision gives us the certainty we need to stage the event in a country that is a proven international host of multi-team events in a bio-secure environment."

Ex-India captain and current BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said he was looking forward to creating a 'spectacle', adding: "We would have been happier hosting it in India but considering the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 situation and the importance of a world championship, the BCCI will now continue to host this tournament in UAE and Oman."

NOTE

Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.O.A.C) announces to modify the last date of collecting tender document and extend the closing date for following Tenders as below details:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Tender Price (R.O)	Grade	Last Date of Tender Collection	Closing Date
Tanweer - 24/2021	Wadi Protection for Existing of 33kv and 11KV XLPE Cable in Wilayat Khasab - Musandam Region	51/=	Specialist Companies	06/07/2021	26/07/2021
Tanweer - 25/2021	Changing the Signboard and the Billboards for Al Wusta Tanweer Assets	40/=	Specialist Companies	06/07/2021	20/07/2021

- Collection of Tender: Interested and Specialized Companies and Establishments registered with Tender Board (valid certificate), may obtain the Tender documents from Procurement & Contracts Department, against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. The fees for the tenders shall be deposited on Tanweer account 0423010783090041 – Bank Muscat and for more information please contact via email address i.e. tender.purchase@tanweer.nama.om, or call us on phone number: 24250824.
- For any electrical work may require in tender (Tanweer - 24/2021), it shall be performed by an approved DCRP contractor with grade B and above.
- The Completed Tender should be deposited in the Tender Box at the Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.A.O.C) Main Office at Wilayat Al Seeb, before 12:00 P.M on the last date of submission.

For more information, please contact: 80077787



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Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
17/2021	General maintenance works of Social care building at AL - RUSTAQ	Companies specialized in building contracting And registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the third degree	Tuesday 20-7-2021 02:00 PM	Tuesday 10-8-2021 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) On Thursday 1/7/2021
- Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- The original (1%) bank warranty to be submitted at same day of submitting at tender box located in Directorate of Finance & Administration at MOSD HQ.
- For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402222 or 24166670)

“ The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry “

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TENDER

The company invites offers for the following tenders:

Sl. #	Tender No.	Description	Tender Fee	Closing Date
1.	3000000320/21	Supply of Explosives and Accessories	R.O. 105.000	27th July 2021 11 AM

Tender documents can be obtained by paying the above amount online to Company's account detailed below:
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SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Copy of deposit transaction be emailed to CFOSecretary@omancement.com & Treasury@omancement.com with the Subject showing "Tender No." and "Tender Description" enabling Company to provide tender document through email to your company. The above payment is a non-refundable amount.

Any tender received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by bid bond will not be considered.

The last date for purchasing of Tender Documents shall be 5 days before the closing date of tender.

Submission of offers are specified above closing date, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman. The bid bond must be active for 90 days starting from the date of submission of offers.

This publication is part of the tender documents.



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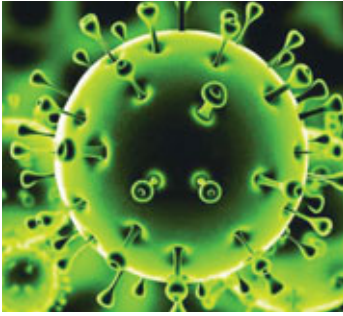


CASES DROP

India reports less than 40,000 daily new cases after 102 days

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday reported 37,566 fresh COVID-19 cases, the first time in 102 days that daily cases dropped below the 40,000 mark, the Union Health Ministry informed.

With this, the country's total COVID-19 tally stands at 30,316,897, including 29,366,601 recoveries and 552,659 active cases. The COVID-19 death toll has mounted to 397,637 with 907



fatalities in the last 24 hours.

A total of 408,139,287 samples have been tested as of Monday, of which, 1,768,008 were tested yesterday, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) informed.

The active cases constitute 1.82 per cent of the total cases.

Daily recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for the 47th consecutive day as 56,994 people recovered from the virus in

the last 24 hours. The recovery rate has increased to 96.87 per cent.

While the weekly positivity rate remains currently stands at 2.74 per cent, the daily positivity rate is currently 2.12 per cent. As many as 329,029,510 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses, including 271,131,337 first dose and 57,898,173 second dose have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive so far. **ANI**



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Belarus freezes migrant cooperation deal in response to EU sanctions

The EU's Eastern Partnership is an initiative to boost ties with its eastern neighbours, but Minsk decided to freeze its pact with the 27-member states



SUSPENDED: Officials warned that the suspension would have "a negative impact" in cooperation on illegal migration.

BELGIUM: EU Council President Charles Michel hit out at Belarus on Monday after the country suspended a cooperation deal with Brussels in response to the bloc slapping sanctions on the ex-Soviet nation.

The EU's Eastern Partnership is an initiative to boost ties with its eastern neighbors, but Minsk decided to freeze its pact with the 27 member states when they sanctioned the government over its diversion of a Ryanair pas-

senger flight to arrest a dissident journalist. Michel, the former Belgian prime minister who now chairs EU summits, slammed the move as "another step backwards" that would "escalate tensions further."

Ties frayed between EU and Belarus

Ties between the EU and other Western governments have been

strained since last August when the country's leader, Alexander Lukashenko, claimed victory in a presidential election widely thought to have been rigged.

Lukashenko and Belarusian security forces, then launched a brutal crackdown on supporters of opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who said she was the true winner.

The Belarusian Foreign Min-

istry said that it "cannot fulfill its obligations under this agreement in the context of sanctions and restrictions imposed by the EU."

Officials warned that the suspension would have "a negative impact" in cooperation on illegal migration and cross-border crime.

Belarus asks EU envoy to leave

The statement also said Belarus's

representative to the EU had been recalled to Minsk for consultations. The ministry also "invited" the head of the EU delegation to Belarus to return to Brussels and "convey to his leadership the position of the Belarusian side."

Two EU diplomats confirmed to DW that Dirk Schuebel, a German national who heads the EU's delegation in Minsk, will return to Brussels "within the coming days."

But the sources said Schuebel has not been declared persona non grata and plans to return to Belarus once he has held talks with senior officials.

Nabila Massarali, a European Commission spokeswoman said "Belarusian authorities have taken another step to self-isolate."

"Keeping channels of communication open is crucial in times of crisis. This has always been our intention," she said.

Opposition hits out at Lukashenko move

Tsikhanouskaya, who now lives in exile in Lithuania, said the move by Belarus to leave the Eastern Partnership "only shows weakness and short-sightedness" of the current regime.

Lithuanian border guards reported a sharp increase in migrants arriving from across the Belarus border earlier this month, with Vilnius accusing Minsk of deliberating allowing them to pass.

The EU launched its Eastern Partnership initiative in 2009. It offered six former Soviet states — Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia — improved economic and political ties in return for diplomatic reforms. **DW**

NOTICEABLY THINNER

North Koreans shown 'heartbroken' over Kim Jong Un's drastic weight loss

PYONGYANG: North Korean state television aired an unusual interview on Friday in which a Pyongyang resident said he and others living in the capital were "heartbroken" to see how much weight the country's leader Kim Jong Un had lost.

CNN reported that Kim was recently seen looking noticeably thinner in recent weeks

that has surprised many experts who study the country. North Korea has not officially acknowledged any changes to Kim's weight or health.

The unnamed individual told a reporter from KCTV, North Korea's state-run television network, that "the people, including myself, were most heartbroken when we saw the respected Gen-

eral Secretary (Kim Jong Un's official title) looking gaunt ... everyone says it brought them to tears."

Kim's health is a closely guarded secret in North Korea, whose leaders are notoriously paranoid about the possibility of an impending invasion or regime change. The country is still technically at war with the United States and South Korea. **ANI**



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Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

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24 NOVEMBER - 5 DECEMBER 2021

Oman Sail unveils the 11th edition of Sailing Arabia

MUSCAT: Oman Sail has unveiled the details of the 11th edition of Sailing Arabia – The Tour, kicking off from 24 November – 5 December 2021. Since its very first edition in 2011, the race has grown in stature to become a premier annual race and a favourite winter destination for professional and amateur sailors around the globe.

Showcasing the unique coastline and beauty of Oman, the route will take participating teams to unique destinations in Oman starting from Mussanah to Sur and back to Muscat for the finale, with coastal raids and in-port races at each stop.

Each team will be competing in an identical DIAM24 trimaran, ensuring each race is a tough test of the teamwork, tactics and the endurance of each crew.

Saleh Al Jabri, Project Manager and Acting Head of Sailing Events & Commercial at Oman Sail, said, “We are really pleased to be able to organise yet another exciting edition of Sailing Arabia - The Tour in 2021. The event has become a sought-after and anticipated fixture in the calendar over the past decade and a high calibre event for talented Omani sailors and a strong international contingent to test themselves in warm winter weather”.

He added, “Every year, the event has enhanced Oman’s reputation as a world-class host, blessed with perfect sailing conditions and welcoming people. This year will be no different and our deep-rooted maritime traditions will be evident at each stop as the exciting, fast-paced racing captures the imagination of spectators and allows the crew to experience authentic Omani hospitality.”



OMAN SAIL: Each team will be competing in an identical DIAM24 trimaran, ensuring each race is a tough test of the teamwork, tactics and the endurance of each crew.

EURO CUP



Hazard, De Bruyne likely to miss Belgium’s QF clash against Italy

MUNICH: Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne will most likely miss Belgium’s crunch Euro 2020 quarter-final against Italy here in Allianz Arena at Munich, according to team’s head coach Roberto Martinez.

Kevin De Bruyne who has one goal and two assists to his name from his first three outings at the Euros was substituted three minutes into the second half on Sunday in Seville after going to the ground after a challenge from behind from Joao Palhinha. The Red Devils captain Eden Hazard, meanwhile, pulled his hamstring and was taken off three minutes before the full-time.

“The initial information that we have from medical staff is positive for both, they will remain with the squad and they have no structural damage,” Goal.com quoted Martinez as saying during his latest press conference.

“But we are running up against

time and it is very difficult to see them fully fit. So, we have to take it day by day to try and get them fit. We were all a bit concerned before we got the news from the scans and it was a relief to all that we can now work on trying to get them fit again,” the coach added.

Earlier Hazard had stated that he will stay with the squad until the end of Euro 2020 even if a hamstring injury rules him out of the tournament.

Belgium has also confirmed second-choice goalkeeper Simon Mignolet will return to Club Brugge for treatment following an injury to his knee after scans showed he will not recover in time for their quarter-final on Friday.

On Sunday, Thorgan Hazard’s strike helped Belgium knock out Portugal 1-0 in the ongoing European Championships and as a result, the side would now play against Italy in the quarterfinals on Friday. **ANI**

Colossal shock as favourites France fall to Switzerland

Switzerland will next play against Spain, which beat Croatia 5-3 after extra time, in St. Petersburg on Friday



FRANCE VS SWITZERLAND: Both teams were perfect from the penalty spot until Mbappe stepped up to take the last of France’s five scheduled kicks.

BUCHAREST: Switzerland knocked world champions France out of Euro 2020 in 5-4 penalty shoot-out win following a thrilling 3-3 draw after extra time, reaching the quarterfinals on Monday.

Switzerland’s goalkeeper Yann Sommer denied French striker Kylian Mbappe’s spot kick to earn his side the victory. Switzerland will next play against Spain, which beat Croatia 5-3 after extra time, in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Both teams were perfect from the penalty spot until Mbappe stepped up to take the last of France’s five scheduled kicks, but Sommer dived to his right and got a strong hand to the striker’s effort, swatting it away to send the Swiss through.

Mario Gavranovic’s 90th-minute strike allowed Switzerland to take France to extra time at Euro 2020 as the last-16 tie in Bucharest ended 3-3 after 90 minutes.

Haris Seferovic gave the Swiss a half-time lead in the Romanian capital but Hugo Lloris saved a Ricardo Rodriguez penalty early in the second half before a Karim Benzema double turned the game on its head.

A stunning Paul Pogba strike then had the world champions 3-1 ahead but Seferovic scored

again to reduce the deficit before substitute Gavranovic equalized. It was the third game in the round of last 16 to go to extra time but the first to be decided by penalties.

Finding sleep will be difficult, says Mbappe

Bucharest: France playmaker Kylian Mbappe on Tuesday said that finding sleep will be difficult for him as his side bowed out of the ongoing Euro 2020.

France suffered a 4-5 defeat on penalties at the hands of Switzerland in the round of 16 match and as a result, the 2018 FIFA World Cup winners were knocked out of the ongoing competition. Mbappe missed the final penalty as Swiss

goalkeeper Yann Sommer rose to the occasion, and as a result, Switzerland ended up winning the match.

“Very difficult to turn the page. The sadness is immense after this elimination, we could not achieve our goal. I’m sorry for this penalty. I wanted to help the team but I failed. Finding sleep will be difficult but unfortunately it is the hazards of this sport that I love so much,” Mbappe said in a statement, posted on his Twitter account.

“I know you fans were disappointed, but I would still like to thank you for your support and for always believing in us. The most important thing will be to get up even stronger for the next few

years to come. Congratulations and good luck to Switzerland,” he added.

Switzerland defeated France 5-4 on penalties and as a result, the side will now lock horns against Spain in the quarterfinals.

The normal 90 minutes action finished at 3-3 and as a result, the match progressed to extra time. No team was able to break the deadlock in extra time and hence the match progressed to a penalty shootout.

For France, Karim Benzema scored a brace while Paul Pogba also registered one goal. On the other hand, Haris Seferovic scored two goals for Switzerland while Mario Gavranovic registered one goal. **ANI**

COPA AMERICA

Messi stars in record-breaking appearance for Argentina

CUIABA: Lionel Messi rose to the occasion as Argentina defeated Bolivia in the ongoing Copa America here at the Arena Pantanal.

Messi scored two goals as Argentina defeated Bolivia 4-1 to finish at the top of Group A in the ongoing Copa America with 10 points from four games. The side will now lock horns against Ecuador in the quarterfinals on Sunday. As he stepped onto the field to play against Bolivia, Messi broke Argentina’s record for most national team caps. This was the 148th time that Messi walked out to the pitch to represent Argentina.

Messi went past Javier Mascherano to achieve the feat. In the game, Messi scored two goals in the 33rd and 42nd minutes respectively.

In the game against Bolivia, Alejandro Dario Gomez had opened



the scoring for Argentina as he netted the ball into the goalpost in the 6th minute. Bolivia did manage to score one goal in the 60th minute as Erwin Saavedra got the better of Argentina goalkeeper Franco Armani.

Lautaro Martinez scored the fi-

nal goal for Argentina in the 65th minute and in the end, Argentina walked away with a 4-1 victory. In another match, Uruguay defeated Paraguay 1-0 on Monday (local time) in the ongoing Copa America to finish at the second spot in Group A with seven points **ANI**

EURO 2020

Morata and Oyarzabal the extra-time heroes in Copenhagen thriller

MUNICH: Croatia took the lead against the run of play and in unusual fashion when keeper Unai Simon misjudged Pedri’s long-distance back pass. Luis Enrique’s side were level before half-time, though, Pablo Sarabia firing in the rebound after Dominik Livakovic had parried Jose Gayà’s effort.

When Cesar Azpilicueta headed in his first international goal and Ferran Torres finished low past Livakovic to double Spain’s lead with just 13 minutes left, the game looked to be up. But that was barely the start to this round of 16 epic. Substitute Mislav Orsic scrambled one back for Croatia but it was not until added time that the turnaround was complete. Another replacement,



Mario Pasalic met Orsic’s pinpoint cross from the left with an emphatic header. Cue mayhem.

It would have been 4-3 Croatia just six minutes into extra time had Unai Simon not somehow kept out Andrej Kramaric’s effort – a moment of redemption that proved a turning point.

Alvaro Morata was next to turn his fortunes round when, with 100 minutes on the clock, he controlled Dani Olmo’s cross and rifled into the net. From another Olmo centre, his fellow substitute Mikel Oyarzabal restored the two-goal Spanish cushion which had felt a lifetime ago. **UEFA**

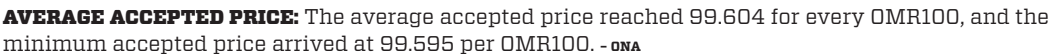
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by August 2021 reaching \$72, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil decreased by \$1.72 from the price of Monday, which was at \$73.72. - **ONA**

The MSX index closed at 4,058.49 points, up 0.01 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.41 per cent at 593.19 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 9.38 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemical, down 3.57 per cent, was the top loser.

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR96 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The average accepted price reached 99.604 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.595 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.79374 per cent and 0.79689 per cent, respectively.

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO)



It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by

recurrent expenditures. -ONA

Ministry grants powers to OPAZ in Invest Easy electronic portal

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) signed a technical cooperation programme.

According to the programme, the powers of all electronic services, provided by the ministry via the Invest Easy portal, will be granted



Further, the programme intends to raise the standard of services provided to investors by fast-tracking, simplifying procedures, consolidating relations with the relevant partners to provide integrated services to the investor, as well as strengthening the relationship with the investor to deliver a safe and attractive business environment. The programme also aims to encourage investment in the Sultanate in general and the special economic zones and free zones in particular.

Report urges for increased international regulatory cooperation to support COVID-19 recovery

MUSCAT: A new report from the World Alliance of International Financial Centres (WAIFC) urges governments and regulators to do more to coordinate their activities to support the global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report explains how the necessary actions that national governments and regulators took to support domestic businesses and address the health crisis could now lead to new unintended international barriers to the free flow of capital and the operation of global financial markets.

Recognition: Host country regu-

practice, if not necessarily identical in form.


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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Insurance, up 9.38 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemical, down 3.57 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,058.49 points, up 0.01 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.41 per cent at 593.19 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 9.38 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf International Chemical, down 3.57 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Madina Takaful were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,511 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR5 million, with more than 40.6 million shares changing hands. Out of 63 traded stocks, 24 advanced, 11 declined and 2,825 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR155,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR135,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR20,000

worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,473.11 points, up 0.42 per cent. Dhofar Insurance, Vision Insurance, Arabia Falcon Insurance, Muscat Finance and Investment Holding were up 9.38 per cent, 6.98 per cent, 6.90 per cent, and 3.17 per cent respectively. Sohar International Bank was the only loser by 1.03 per cent.

Industrial Index closed at 5,987.17 points, down 0.30 per cent. National Aluminum Product and Oman Cables Industry were up 8.13 per cent and 0.43 per cent respectively. Gulf International Chemical, Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramic, Dhofar Cattle Feed and Jazeera Steel Product were down 3.57 per cent, 3.29 per cent, 1.27 per cent, 1.08 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.27 per cent before closing at 1,715.46 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 29

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. DPT	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	3,194,082	292,950	116	0.088	0.093	0.088	0.092	0.086	0.006	6.977	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	9,200,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,283,319	82,907	43	0.064	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.063	0.002	3.175	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	19,964,511
OM0000001525	OMAN INSTR& FIN.	1,946,204	214,423	105	0.115	0.118	0.114	0.116	0.113	0.003	2.655	0.114	0.114	0.119	0.100	27,492,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	476,000	54,455	36	0.114	0.115	0.113	0.114	0.113	0.001	0.885	0.113	0.113	0.119	0.100	22,800,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	36,829	5,675	8	0.155	0.155	0.154	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.654	0.154	0.154	0.155	0.100	13,090,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	295,731	340,913	30	1.160	1.200	1.160	1.165	1.180	0.005	0.431	1.165	1.169	1.175	0.100	104,500,500
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	608	476	2	0.784	0.784	0.780	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.780	0.732	0.784	0.100	126,000,000
OM0000001418	RAISUT CEMENT	695,000	296,027	31	0.285	0.289	0.284	0.286	0.286	0.000	0.000	0.286	0.286	0.289	0.100	59,200,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	20,000	6,320	3	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.316	0.312	0.316	0.100	255,256,056
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	287,968	72,027	26	0.253	0.253	0.248	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.255	0.100	82,718,178
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	123,300	15,659	9	0.126	0.128	0.126	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.126	0.127	0.100	37,075,707
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	409,847	45,903	14	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.113	0.100	218,361,636
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	50,720	21,610	3	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.422	0.430	0.100	26,317,857
OM0000002440	AL SHARJAINV	349,692	35,696	28	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.100	9,180,000
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	78,606	33,019	12	0.420	0.422	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.422	0.100	1,501,279,413
OM0000002900	AL MAHA MARKTING	12,417	8,692	3	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.652	0.700	0.100	48,300,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	320,050	115,228	17	0.360	0.362	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.362	0.360	0.370	0.100	19,800,000
OM0000003968	QOREDOO	157,000	63,682	7	0.406	0.406	0.404	0.406	0.408	-0.002	-0.490	0.406	0.404	0.414	0.100	284,283,357
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	53,628	42,941	19	0.788	0.788	0.780	0.784	0.788	-0.008	-0.508	0.784	0.784	0.788	0.100	588,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	60,350	24,734	4	0.410	0.410	0.408	0.410	0.414	-0.004	-0.966	0.408	0.400	0.410	0.100	96,928,100
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	918,700	88,173	25	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.096	0.100	23,713,447	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	63,000	24,082	16	0.384	0.384	0.382	0.382	0.386	-0.004	-1.036	0.384	0.382	0.384	0.100	47,711,021
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	96,835	46,106	4	0.470	0.470	0.466	0.468	0.474	-0.006	-1.266	0.466	0.466	0.470	0.100	102,960,000
Total		10,827,046	1,841,000	555												

Parallel Market

000000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	501,766	87,731	12	0.166	0.176	0.166	0.175	0.160	0.015	9.375	0.176	0.170	0.176	0.100	17,500,000
00000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	3,365,074	581,025	196	0.176	0.176	0.168	0.173	0.180	0.013	8.125	0.180	0.188	0.189	0.100	5,807,861
00000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS.	10,026	1,248	2	0.122	0.127	0.122	0.124	0.116	0.008	6.897	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	12,809,406
00000002275	SHELL OMAN MKS.	30,000	28,160	6	0.920	0.946	0.920	0.940	0.900	0.040	4.444	0.946	0.924	0.980	0.100	88,300,000
00000003125	GLOBAL INV H	5,129,318	333,889	132	0.065	0.068	0.064	0.065	0.063	0.002	3.175	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	13,000,000
00000002580	OMAN EDU TRAINING	35,302	9,081	8	0.265	0.265	0.255	0.257	0.250	0.007	2.800	0.255	0.228	0.260	0.100	17,990,000
00000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	386,974	37,052	22	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.094	0.002	2.128	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	12,480,000
0000000691	AHLIA INSURANCE	6,000	1,360	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.334	0.006	1.852	0.330	0.326	0.330	0.100	33,000,000
0000000469	SHARJAH DESALIN.	29,060	3,411	5	0.116	0.120	0.115	0.117	0.115	0.002	1.739	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	11,442,853
00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	5,350,676	338,730	157	0.063	0.064	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.062	0.062	0.063	0.100	21,966,098
00000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,033,320	78,710	54	0.080	0.080	0.075	0.076	0.079	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.073	0.078	0.100	14,500,000
00000003281	TAGGER FINANCE	230,755	20,287	23	0.089	0.089	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.088	0.087	0.089	0.100	22,315,920
00000001420	RAISUT VZVA	147,000	14,284	11	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	145,200,000
00000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	100,000	39,800	3	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.394	0.004	1.015	0.398	0.000	0.398	0.100	105,470,000
00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	500,000	99,946	11	0.188	0.200	0.188	0.198	0.198	0.002	1.010	0.200	0.195	0.200	0.100	323,198,271
00000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	5,534,418	583,654	154	0.104	0.107	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	18,375,000
00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	371,000	48,955	8	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.126	0.001	0.794	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.100	380,530,632
00000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	1,148,000	173,860	34	0.159	0.159	0.150	0.152	0.151	0.001	0.662	0.152	0.151	0.152	0.100	15,200,000
00000001178	MUSCAT GASSES	447	82	3	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.184	0.000	0.183	0.100	5,550,000
00000002988	HESIC BANK OMAN	3,859,288	380,785	47	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	202,031,562
00000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	2,000	170	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	10,625,000
00000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	6,000	1,200	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.147	0.150	0.100	13,500,000
00000001982	AL MADINA INV.	208,150	5,096	5	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.025	0.100	4,977,633
00000003285	NAT. PETROLEUM	500	236	2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	1,000,000
00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,032,172	87,615	44	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	17,253,848
00000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,050	447	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.000	0.045	0.100	9,945,450
00000004825	AL BATINAH POWER	45,000	2,544	4	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.055	0.100	38,577,942
00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	3,050	168	6	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.055	0.100	35,779,051
00000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	95,700	17,890	47	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.100	15,170,000
00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	345,000	16,905	20	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.047	0.049	0.100	71,667,472
00000007084	MCT DESALINAT	20,000	2,700	10	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	10,000,000
00000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	10,500	956	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.090	0.093	0.100	59,283,064
00000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	28,900	9546	6	0.086	0.084	0.081	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.075	0.081	0.091	0.083	0.100	7,438,200
00000004735	SEMPCORP SALAH	48,750	4,002	6	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	78,274,900
00000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	17,000	22,980	7	0.133	0.133	0.131	0.131	0.133	-0.002	-1.904	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.100	29,113,440
00000003861	VOLTAMP ENERGY	23,400	3,430	10	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.247	0.100	1,960,000
00000002028	GULF INT. CHEM.	1,193	7	964	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.140	-0.005	-3.871	0.135	0.126	0.135	0.100	2,815,000

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KEEP YOUR HEAD HIGH:

PELE’S ADVICE TO MBAPPE AFTER EURO SETBACK

NEW DELHI: Brazil football legend Pele has advised France playmaker Kylian Mbappe to keep his head high after France suffered a major setback in the European Championships. France suffered a 4-5 defeat on penalties at the hands of Switzerland in the round of 16 match and as a result, the 2018 FIFA World Cup winners were knocked out of the ongoing competition. Mbappe missed the final penalty as Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer rose to the occasion. “Keep your head up, Kylian! Tomorrow is the first day of a new journey, @K Mbappe,” tweeted Pele. There were numerous occasions where Mbappe had the chance of scoring in the match, but somehow the goal

kept on evading the maverick striker. After suffering a defeat, Mbappe said that finding sleep will be difficult for him as his side bowed out of the ongoing Euro 2020. “Very difficult to turn the page. The sadness is immense after this elimination, we could not achieve our goal. I’m sorry for this penalty. I wanted to help the team but I failed. Finding sleep will be difficult but unfortunately it is the hazards of this sport that I love so much,” Mbappe said in a statement, posted on his Twitter account. “I know you fans were disappointed, but I would still like to thank you for your support and for always believing in us. The most important thing will be to get up even stronger for the

next few years to come. Congratulations and good luck to Switzerland,” he added. Switzerland defeated France 5-4 on penalties and as a result, the side will now lock horns against Spain in the quarterfinals. The normal 90 minutes action finished at 3-3 and as a result, the match progressed to extra time. No team was able to break the deadlock in extra time and hence the match progressed to a penalty shootout. For France, Karim Benzema scored a brace while Paul Pogba also registered one goal. On the other hand, Haris Seferovic scored two goals for Switzerland while Mario Gavranovic registered one goal. -ANI



ROUND-UP

Enjoy road journey in exciting Toyota Yaris

Owing to its quiet and roomy interior cabin, as well as its powertrain that delivers both dynamic driving performance and fuel economy, the Yaris stands out



MUSCAT: The fun and exciting Toyota Yaris is the best companion to make every journey remarkable. From its power-packed driving dynamics to its features and attractive design, the Yaris makes a fine mark on every opportunity. Owing to its quiet and roomy interior cabin, as well as its powertrain that delivers both dynamic driving performance and fuel economy, the Yaris stands out. Cutting-edge design defines the exterior of the Yaris, with its Dynamic angles as well as sleek headlamps and clearance lamps. The front of the Yaris has a horizontal grille for a wider yet more aerodynamic appearance. Day-time running lamps have also been integrated into the shape of the grille for a sleek appearance, while slimmer LED rear combination

taillights adorn the rear of the car with a unique look. The Yaris hatchback is adorned with a stylish radiator grille, colour keyed front and rear bumpers, 15" alloy wheels, projector headlamps with follow me home function, LED rear combination lamps with line guide, day time running lights, stylish shark fin antenna, LED high mount stop lamp, front fog lamps, sporty mesh type lower radiator grille in the front, black luggage door garnish with a vibrant red accent. Delivering a dynamic driving experience, the Yaris sedan is equipped with a choice of 1.3l and 1.5l engines and the hatchback is equipped with a 1.5-litre engine. The 1.3-litre four-cylinder engine in the Yaris sedan generates a maximum output of 98 hp and 12.5 kg-m of torque and is mated to

either a five-speed manual transmission or a CVT transmission. On the other hand, the 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine in the Yaris sedan and hatchback, can churn out a maximum output of 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of torque and is mated to the CVT Transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency. With an exciting interior featuring a distinctive design and offering convenience and comfort with a layer of luxury, the Yaris sedan's cabin has an exclusive profile. The centre console of the Yaris has been designed to create a greater sense of integration. The cabin has been adorned with a range of enhanced features, including Smart Entry & Push Button Start System, Cruise Control, Optitron Speedometer and Thin Film Transistor (TFT) Multi-In-

formation Display, Auto Air Conditioner, as well as a Six-speaker Audio System with AUX and USB. On the other hand, the Yaris hatchback has a Keyless Entry System, Electric Power Steering with Control Switches and Tilt function with Sporty Red Stitching, Sporty Front Seats, Sporty Seat Fabric with Red Stitching, Steering & Gear Knob in Leather that imparts a premium feel. As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the Yaris sedan and hatchback, which includes a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as Driver and Front Passenger Airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Traction Control (TRC), among many others.

GIGAHOME QUAD-CORE



Huawei unveils its brand-new WiFi AX3

MUSCAT: Huawei launched its latest Huawei WiFi AX3 series, bolstered with support for the Wi-Fi 6 standards. Huawei has leveraged its expertise in 5G, recognised through its prominent role in formulating the Wi-Fi 6 standards, in developing a pioneering technology that facilitates seamless chip-level collaboration between the router and multiple other devices. This standout capability enables the Huawei WiFi AX3 series products to deliver a powerful Wi-Fi 6 Plus connection when used in conjunction with Huawei devices. The Huawei WiFi AX3 runs on the Huawei Harmony operating system, and features financial-level Huawei HomeSec™ security safeguards, providing users with an intuitive, lightning-fast, stable, and secure Wi-Fi 6 connection at all times. Huawei Wi-Fi 6 Plus: Breaking down barriers with dynamic narrow bandwidth. Huawei WiFi AX3 series routers come equipped with Huawei's exclusive Gigahome processor and Gigahome Wi-Fi 6 chipsets. With the Wi-Fi 6 standards as the basis, Huawei has incorporated multi-chip collaborative technology, to ensure that the Huawei WiFi AX3 offers "Wi-Fi 6 Plus" at a doubled network speed, alongside enhanced wall penetration capabilities when used with other Huawei Wi-Fi 6 devices. By incorporating the Gigahome Wi-Fi 6 chipset, frequency bandwidth has improved to up to 160 MHz, enabling users to enjoy a faster network near the device, and more stable connections from further distances away. The quad-core version of the Huawei WiFi AX3 series also provides support for Huawei Share. Simply by tapping an unlocked Android phone with NFC enabled against the router's NFC detection area, users can connect directly to the Wi-Fi network without a password. This feature is particularly convenient to cater to house guests, or hotel and restaurant patrons. The Huawei WiFi AX3 Pro is the first home router to run on Huawei's proprietary Harmony operating system.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

OCS Infotech develops promising plan to qualify second line of leaders

MUSCAT: OCS Infotech has revealed its training programme for Omani employees to qualify them to assume leadership roles in the second line of the organisation during the coming period. OCS Infotech is one of the most important companies of the Zubair Corporation and one of the first Omani companies in the technical field. It has over four decades of experience in developing technology solutions for data storage, virtualisation, network solutions, cybersecurity, data centre and infrastructure management, disaster recovery, business continuity and other related services. The company also provides clients with integrated consulting services for comprehensive technical transformation. Commenting on the company's strategy to manage its human resources, Sharifah Al Hoti, Head of Human Resources and Administrative Affairs at the company noted, "As part of our future strategy to enable national competencies to take on more roles, the company launched a wide programme to qualify Omani employees to take over leadership tasks in the second line of the executive management. The programme includes assessing the conditions of employees and determining their knowledge levels to determine the areas of training required for each of them. This is in addition to identifying new job opportunities, which can be offered to the youth in collaboration with relevant government authorities. We believe that national competencies are the most important resources of the company." "The company aims to Omaniise several senior administrative positions. Therefore, it is working to develop the skills of employees qualified to take on these positions through intensive programmes. Moreover, it looks to send a number of them to work for major companies in the Sultanate in order to acquire the required knowledge and experience," she added. The Head of Human Resources in the company also emphasised that any employee wishing to be promoted in the private sector should make all required efforts to hone their skills and creativity in his field of work. This is possible by keeping pace with global developments in the field in which they work, as change must start with the employee themselves first. Several Omani employees working in the company praised the



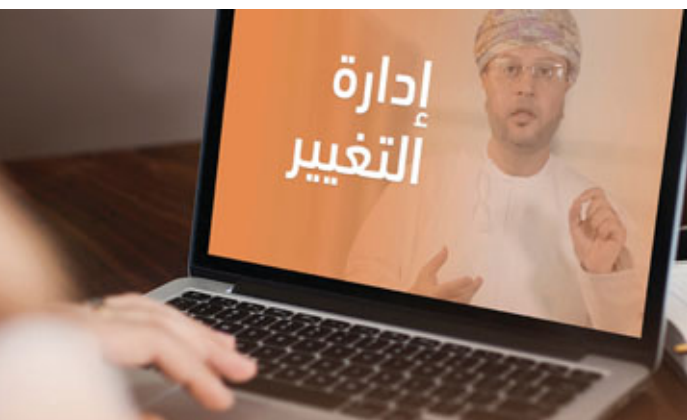
efforts made by the Human Resources Department to train and qualify them in various disciplines through a clear and ambitious work plan. Dalal Abdulaziz Al Zadjali, Sales Support Specialist at the company says: "I joined the company in 2016 as a receptionist, and underwent several training courses that qualified me to be promoted and join the sales team. From there I began to communicate directly with customers and build a practical experience that I can rely on in the future for career advancement. Furthermore, in my constant pursuit of all new updates in my field of work. I encourage Omani youth to join the private sector and take advantage of the tremendous opportunities it offers. All one needs are perseverance and sincerity." Mohammed Saif Al Rashidi, Computer Engineer in the company said, "I joined OCS Infotech as an electronic technician at the beginning of 2005. With training and qualification by company officials, I was promoted to higher positions to reach my current position. This gradation in promotion comes as a direct result of the efforts made by the Human Resources Department to qualify national competencies to take over the duties of the senior management members in the company. Today, with my experience of more

than 16 years, I work to help my colleagues enhance their skills and acquire the knowledge required to assume higher positions. I would like to advise those who are about to work in the private sector that to accept any job, whatever it is. This is because it is only the beginning of a promising career that is determined by the extent of the effort a person makes for promotion." Shaima Rashid AlSharji, who works in the Contracts and Technical Support Department in the company, talks about her experience, where she says, "I joined the company as an employee in the Technical Support Department. I was trained extensively before being assigned to work in one of the major companies in the Sultanate in this field, which greatly enhanced my abilities to deal with various cases that require emergency technical support. After completing the task, I returned to the company to be appointed in my current position as an official in the Contracts and Technical Support Department. I would like to thank the Human Resources Department, which spared no effort to qualify and train young Omani talents until this day, where I am proud to help my new colleagues in the company and encourage them to do their best to achieve their dreams in the private sector."

INITIATIVE

Omantel's Edlal programme on entrepreneurship enters 5th year

MUSCAT: As Oman entered 2021 with a refurbished set of policies on economic development of which manpower building is a key goal, the Edlal programme on entrepreneurship, co-founded by Omantel, assumes even greater significance as a tool providing the much-needed resources towards meetings these objectives. Omantel is the strategic co-founder of the Edlal initiative along with Point and Rudha and since the program's inception in 2017, it has been providing leading technology and financial support. The Edlal initiative on entrepreneurship has been building and strengthening Oman's manpower foundations through free high-quality online, certified, video and interactive training courses designed to cover the future skills required by the national and international job market, with Omantel as the digital enabler. Through its website www.edlal.org and its app, the initiative has been targeting students, job seekers, employees and entrepreneurs. Edlal has gained immense popularity since it was launched as the number of beneficiaries has grown to reach more than 250,000, underscoring the digital program's success. Omantel and the founders of this programme are confident that users' numbers will see a good increase this year as well with the initiative spanning the entire calendar year, from January 1, until December 31, 2021. By integrating high-quality educational development programs with creative visual arts delivered through a uniquely accessible platform, Edlal is indirectly contributing towards Oman's Vision 2040. Targeted at learners in the 13-40 years age group, the training opportunities offered on Edlal are accessible, flexible, and economical. The brainchild of Qais Al Toubi and Haitham Al Toubi in 2017, Edlal's philosophies are centred on 'technopreneurship', skills development and youth empowerment. The programme aims to contribute to the human capital development vision and direction of Oman and has been helping Omani experts share their knowledge and expertise with lifelong learners. The parallel aim has been to enrich Arabic online content. Seeing similarities in the goals of Point and Rudha and its own CSR roles and contributions to-



wards the national economy and entrepreneurship, Omantel became a founder to support their cause and offer its brand value as the vehicle for reaching digital inclusion and professional development goals. Edlal has more than 60 courses in the form of short, interactive videos, which learners are more likely to complete within a few hours, with topics focusing on technical as well as soft skills. The most popular courses include leadership & entrepreneurship and future skills, underscoring Omanis' seriousness towards professional development to meet job market challenges. Adding to that, Edlal is compatible with any device, be it a laptop, desktop or smartphone. In 2018, Edlal won His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Award for Excellence in eGovernment for best SME e-service and was mentioned in the Arab Youth SDGs Report 2019 for contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals by providing quality education, decent work, economic growth and partnership to achieve SDGs (Sustainable Developmental Goals). As this initiative enters its fifth consecutive year, Omantel looks forwards to continue providing its latest digital and technical offerings like support, and yet again play the role of a platform through which more and more Omani can upskill. Laila Mohammed Al Wohaibi, Manager of CSR at Omantel, said, "In each of its CSR initiatives, Omantel looks for opportunities to push Oman's shift towards a knowledge-based and digital economy, which is one of the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, a document which also incorporates the UN Sustainable Development Goals in local and global contexts. The Company

understands that shaping entrepreneurs mean equipping them with skills, technological know-how, support and awareness. Edlal is one such initiative wherein Omantel is proud to be playing the role of not just a founder, but an enabler. Omantel has been digitally powering Edlal and thus working towards the larger sustainable development and economic goals by equipping Omanis with the required skills and knowledge for the market. We are stepping into yet another successful year of the Edlal initiative and cannot reiterate enough the pride and sense of achievement the company has been deriving by this strategic initiative." Haitham Al Tob, Idlal "Edlal platform is continuing its journey of offering cognitive learning in 2021 through 20 high-quality training programmes which will be developed in collaboration with its strategic partner, Omantel. What sets this year's courses apart is that the platform will collaborate with educational and training institutions in Oman and abroad to provide the learning and training materials that aim to help the youth, students and job seekers to acquire the sought-after skills in the local and global job markets, which also contribute to achieving Oman's Vision 2040 in which developing human resources and upskilling youth are important." Omantel is the Sultanate's first and leading integrated telecommunications services provider, enabling the digital society to flourish, allowing new ways of doing business and delivering a world of information, news and entertainment. While striving to ensure optimum customer satisfaction, Omantel plays a key social role to provide the required support and subsidy to all sectors of the Omani society.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat recognised as one of Top 50 banks in the region

The accolade was announced after Forbes Middle East gathered data from listed stock exchanges across the region including market value, sales, assets and profits and used it to evaluate the region’s top banks

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has been ranked by Forbes Middle East amongst its “Top 50 Banks in the Middle East” in 2021.

The accolade was announced after Forbes Middle East gathered data from listed stock exchanges across the region including market value, sales, assets and profits and used it to evaluate the region’s top banks.

The Forbes report said that as of 6 June 2021, the “Top 50 Banks in the Middle East” had a total value of US \$513.6 billion and assets worth \$2.5 trillion. In its report, Forbes pointed out the important role being played by banks in supporting economies in the post-pandemic situation by using a number of measures like “postponing loan payments, restructuring debt and lending to key sectors.”

Recognition

Bank Muscat is the first bank on the list amongst all the banks in the Sultanate. This recognition is further validation of the bank’s lead-



ership position in Oman, which is the result of its customer-centric banking and pioneering sustainability initiatives along with the adoption of global best practices in the bank’s pursuit of overall excellence. It must be noted that earlier in June 2021, Bank Mus-

cat was recognised as one of the “Top 100 Companies in the Middle East” by Forbes. The bank has won other similar awards too in the recent past including the Best Bank in Oman award from prestigious international publications like Global Finance, Euromoney,

The Banker and EMEA Finance. It has also been ranked as the Safest Bank in Oman by Global Finance in its rankings of the Safest Banks in 112 countries worldwide.

Bank Muscat has further sharpened its focus on customer-centricity, safety, sustainability and

readiness for the future, whilst maintaining its market leadership in the country. It is keenly following the trends that will shape the financial services sector in the future, and moving decisively to prepare for future developments in an age of rapid global economic and

technological changes. Bank Muscat posted a net profit of OMR 47.15 million for the three months ended 31 March 2021, compared to OMR 33.25 million reported during the same period in 2020. The bank had total assets worth US\$32.7 billion as of 31 March 2021.

CUSTOMISED SERVICES

Easy, flexible bill payment solutions from Khedmah to corporates

MUSCAT: Oman Investments and Finance Company’s pioneering payment solution provider – Khedmah - aspires to enrich the user experience by providing hassle-free and flexible services that are not only for individuals but for corporates too. This comes as part of the company’s constant efforts to diversify the scope of its services and target various segments of the community.

Through its website, Khedmah provides a dedicated platform known as “Corporate Relations and Recovery Cell” that delivers customised services to corporate clients. These services include paying and tracking electricity, water, telecommunication and internet bills from different service providers, such as Awasr, Omantel and Ooredoo. Corporate clients can also recharge their phone, electricity prepaid meter and pay the dues of the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI).

The unified billing platform on the website allows customers to create a unique account that has all their account numbers of electricity, water, telecommunications, Internet and PASI on it. The portal aims to facilitate tracking multiple bills in a billing cycle, knowing the outstanding balance and process all payments with a push of a button, at no additional costs.

Furthermore, the corporate cell



“During the past period, we have observed that the corporate sector has an increased need for an easy online platform through which they can manage and pay for electricity, water, telecommunications and the Internet. We decided to capitalise on this opportunity to fulfil the requirements of this segment. Hence, we have a dedicated team that communicates with companies wishing to benefit from these services and facilitate the process of paying their bills

Mohamed Saif Al Toqi
Sr. Manager Telecom Recovery

ensures timely delivery of bills through an E-bill service that facilitates receipt of bills automatically in the Corporate Customer’s designated email account. It also provides easier payment options

such as bank transfer into OIFC’s designated bank accounts, Khedmah branches, Khedmah phone app, website and kiosks. Khedmah also arranges for the collection of payments from the company door-

step with a POS machine in case if they wish to pay using a debit/credit card.

To easily track payment, the portal provides a prompt reflection of payments through OIFC’s

online cashing system. Additionally, customers can avail of other services such as bill copies, statement of accounts & other related details by facsimile or by e-mail whenever needed.

Commenting on this service, Mohamed Saif Al Toqi, Sr. Manager Telecom Recovery said, “At Khedmah, we direct our efforts towards keeping pace with the latest requirements of the market and clients’ aspirations. During the past period, we have observed that the corporate sector has an increased need for an easy online platform through which they can manage and pay for electricity, water, telecommunications and the Internet. We decided to capitalise on this opportunity to fulfil the requirements of this segment. Hence, we have a dedicated team that communicates with companies wishing to benefit from these services and facilitate the process of paying their bills. Today, this team serves tens of thousands of companies in various regions across the Sultanate. We receive positive feedback on the ease, flexibility and cost savings of this service for companies. OIFC is currently working toward enhancing this experience to provide more value-add for companies by accelerating the current procedures and making them more flexible and with additional payment op-

tions for beneficiaries.”

“Our vision at OIFC is based on adopting digital transformation and achieving sustainability in operations. We encourage establishments and individuals to utilise a plethora of services from our e-channels such as the Khedmah app and website. These efforts come in line with Oman Vision 2040 that seeks to achieve digital transformation and create an economy based on knowledge and innovation,” he further stated.

OIFC is one of the leading investment and services companies and specialises in billing, collection & debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services in the Sultanate of Oman. The company’s various branches and e-payment channels allow customers to easily pay their electricity, water and telecommunications bills, recharge phone, electricity prepaid meter bills as well as making payments to the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI). Through its various branches across the Sultanate, the company also provides customer support related to these services.

Customers can download the Khedmah phone app from Google Play on Android, and App Store on IOS. For more information on the services or other clarification, customers can visit OIFC’s website <https://www.oifcoman.com/>, or contact the call centre on 24727272.

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