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**PROJECT LAUNCHED TO
COMBAT DATE PALM PESTS**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has launched an experiment to use parasites of the genus trichogramma to combat red weevil pests that nestle in date palms and damage their crop. Fifteen farms in the Wilayat of Barka have been selected for the experiment. **>A2**



**HM THE SULTAN CONFERS ORDER OF
MERIT ON PROFESSOR FRED SCHOLZ**

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has conferred the Order of Merit, First Class, on Professor Fred Scholz in appreciation from His Majesty for Scholz's efforts and scholarly contributions in the Sultanate during the past years. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 18 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



OMAN EXTENDS NIGHT CLOSURE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES TILL APRIL 3



1 Ban on all direct flights from the United Kingdom from 12 pm, Friday, 19 March 2021 till further notice

2 Permission to use beaches and practice 'individual' sports while maintaining social distancing

3 The closure of all commercial activities in all governorates of the Sultanate from 8 pm to 5 am till Saturday, 3 April 2021

4 Only 70% of staff will be allowed at the workplace in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities

The Committee warned that there will be no lenience with offenders who breach the rules

MUSCAT: Night time closure of businesses in Oman will continue until Saturday, April 3, the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19 has said.

In pursuance of efforts to protect individuals and society and to address the risks that might peak to death and, to ensure the health sector's ability to perform its duty in handling COVID-19 cases and other cases that need medical attention, the Supreme Committee

decided the following:

- To impose a ban on all direct flights from the United Kingdom (UK), except cargo flights, and prohibiting entry of passengers arriving from the UK or who were in transit there over the past 14 days. The ban takes effect from 12 pm, Friday, 19 March, 2021 and continues till further notice. Omani citizens are exempt from the ban.
- To downsize to 70 percent of the number of employees at

the workplace in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities with effect from Sunday, 21 March, 2021 till Thursday, 1 April, 2021. The Supreme Committee urges all departments to continue to take precautionary and preventive measures to curb the spread of the disease and to follow up the commitment of all to the instructions.

- To extend the closure of all commercial activities in all governorates of the Sultanate from 8 pm to 5 am till Saturday, 3 April, 2021. An exemption from this covers fuel filling stations, health establishments, private pharmacies, tire sale and repair outlets based at filling stations, transport, cargo and unloading services and the operation of factories with-



Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Buisaidi, Minister of Interior. - **ONA**

out the option of receiving clients and customers, home deliveries, the handing over of food orders to customers in their vehicles from restaurants, cafes, mobile cafeterias and licensed street vendors, as well as offering "guests-only service" at restaurants located within hotel establishments.

- To activate the role of volunteers in all wilayats of in coordination with the respective Walis.
- To permit the use of beaches to practise 'individual' sports while at the same time maintaining a total ban on gatherings at beaches and elsewhere.

The Supreme Committee urges all to stick to precautionary measures endorsed by the departments concerned everywhere—within residences, workplaces and public

places. In particular, the Supreme Committee laid emphasis on the prohibition of gatherings and assembling for whatever purpose and irrespective of their nature or whereabouts—be it familial or social gatherings or assembling in houses or in farms or anywhere.

The Committee also exhorts the public and private sectors to devise necessary mechanisms for the implementation of the above-mentioned instructions. The Committee warned that there will be no lenience with offenders who breach the instructions. The Committee reaffirmed that the authorities concerned will continue to monitor and ambush offenders and impose the prescribed penalties against them to help protect individuals and society. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ROHM to start activities this year

1 The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) will gradually launch its activities of the new season before the end of this year. A meeting of the Higher Committee of the ROHM was held under the chairmanship of His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers during which it reviewed the progress. **>A2**

WORLD One year on, Italy back to lockdown

2 One year after northern Italy was first locked down amid the COVID-19 outbreak, most regions in the country are reimposing restrictions to curb a resurgence of the virus. Since Monday, 10 populous regions and the Autonomous Province of Trento have been labelled as high-risk "red zones." The containment measures will last until Easter in early April. **>A7**

MARKET OPAZ for localising clean energy funding

3 The Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) held its first meeting for the year 2021, chaired by Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, Board Chairman. During the meeting, held in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), the Board reviewed recent progress on localising investments in producing clean energy in Sezad. **>B1**



**Fish catch jumps
by 38 per cent**

A5

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Now, get your COVID-19 vaccination at home

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health, represented by the Directorate General of Health Services of Muscat Governorate (DGHS-Muscat), on Wednesday started visiting homes of the target groups registered with the community health programme for the COVID-19 vaccination.

The service is part of an integrated programme prepared by the DGHS-Muscat to vaccinate these groups for their safety against the pandemic. The target group numbers have been counted by the community health programme nurses before the start of vaccination. An entire team has



been kept ready with the required equipment to complete the vaccination process.

The vaccination in the wilayats of Muscat and Muttrah will be followed by other wilayats in the Muscat governorate. The aim of

the home visits is to reach out to the vulnerable group in the community and get them vaccinated against the COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the total number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Sultanate reached 148,558 while the number of recoveries stood at 137,544, comprising 93 per cent. Meanwhile, the total number of COVID-19 related death cases stood at 1,617, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry also pointed out that there were 50 hospitalisations over the past 24 hours, with the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients standing at 291 of whom 82 are in intensive care units.

HEALTH

Free open-air gyms in Muttrah and Qurum now open to public

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in Oman have a new way to keep fit, and one that is particularly important during the ongoing pandemic, with Muscat Municipality installing open air gyms in the capital.

Set up by the sea, on the Muttrah corniche, and by Qurum beach, behind the Foreign Ministry, each open-air gym consists of 11 pieces of equipment, including elliptical machines and benches to perform sit-ups, which are great for people looking to get in a cardio or core workout session.

Both facilities to which entry is free, were set up by Muscat Municipality to encourage people to keep fit and spend some time outdoors during the pandemic, which people might otherwise be afraid to do, owing to concerns over po-



tentially contracting the virus.

"This initiative also stems from our endeavour to encourage cooperation between the private and public sectors," said Nihad Al Bulushiyya, service partnership specialist at the Directorate General of Service Development at Muscat Municipality. "These arrangements will help provide community services, and contrib-

ute to the development of Muscat Governorate."

"Agreements like this always seek to integrate best practices towards the development of public services made available to nationals and residents," she added. "These services are best addressed through collaboration between the private and public sectors."

Keen to try out the new equip-



ment, Indian expatriate Roshan Kumar said he would do so in the evenings, when it is a lot more pleasant outdoors.

"Hot weather has rapidly returned to Oman over the last few weeks... otherwise, I would have loved to go in the morning," he said. "The sort of sedentary lifestyles we live during the pandemic are very detrimental for our health. Work-

ing out in the fresh air also reduces your chance of catching diseases, which I think is an extremely important benefit all of us should make use of during this time."

A fitness trainer in Oman explained that a sedentary life often led to a willingness to take up other unhealthy habits, such as binge eating, staying up late and irregular sleeping hours.

"Unfortunately, one bad habit leads to another," he admitted. "You may not realise it immediately, but a few weeks or months after you have taken on these habits, you will begin to experience their ill effects. A lot of people have experienced weight gain during the pandemic, because they don't have the same opportunities to exercise that they previously did. I encourage everyone to use these facilities that have been provided to us free of cost."

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ROHM to start activities this year

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) will gradually launch its activities of the new season before the end of this year.

A meeting of the Higher Committee of the ROHM was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers during which it reviewed the progress of work.

During the meeting, a presentation was made about the permanent exhibition and the music library of the House of Musical Arts at the ROHM. The technical equipment of the exhibition and the library will be completed summer vacation. -ONA



MEETING: The meeting was held under the chairmanship of His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, on Wednesday. - ONA

Project launched to combat date palm pests

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has launched an experiment to use parasites of the genus tricrogramma to combat red weevil pests that nestle in date palms and damage their crop.

Fifteen farms in the Wilayat of Barka have been selected for the experiment, setting a precedent in the use of biological

control agents and the calculation of the number of fighter parasites needed for every tree.

Red palm weevil is considered the most prevalent, most dangerous pest in countries producing dates. It is common in humid and coastal areas in Oman and many Arab countries. It causes considerable damage to date palms' economic output. -ONA



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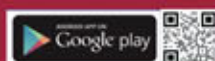
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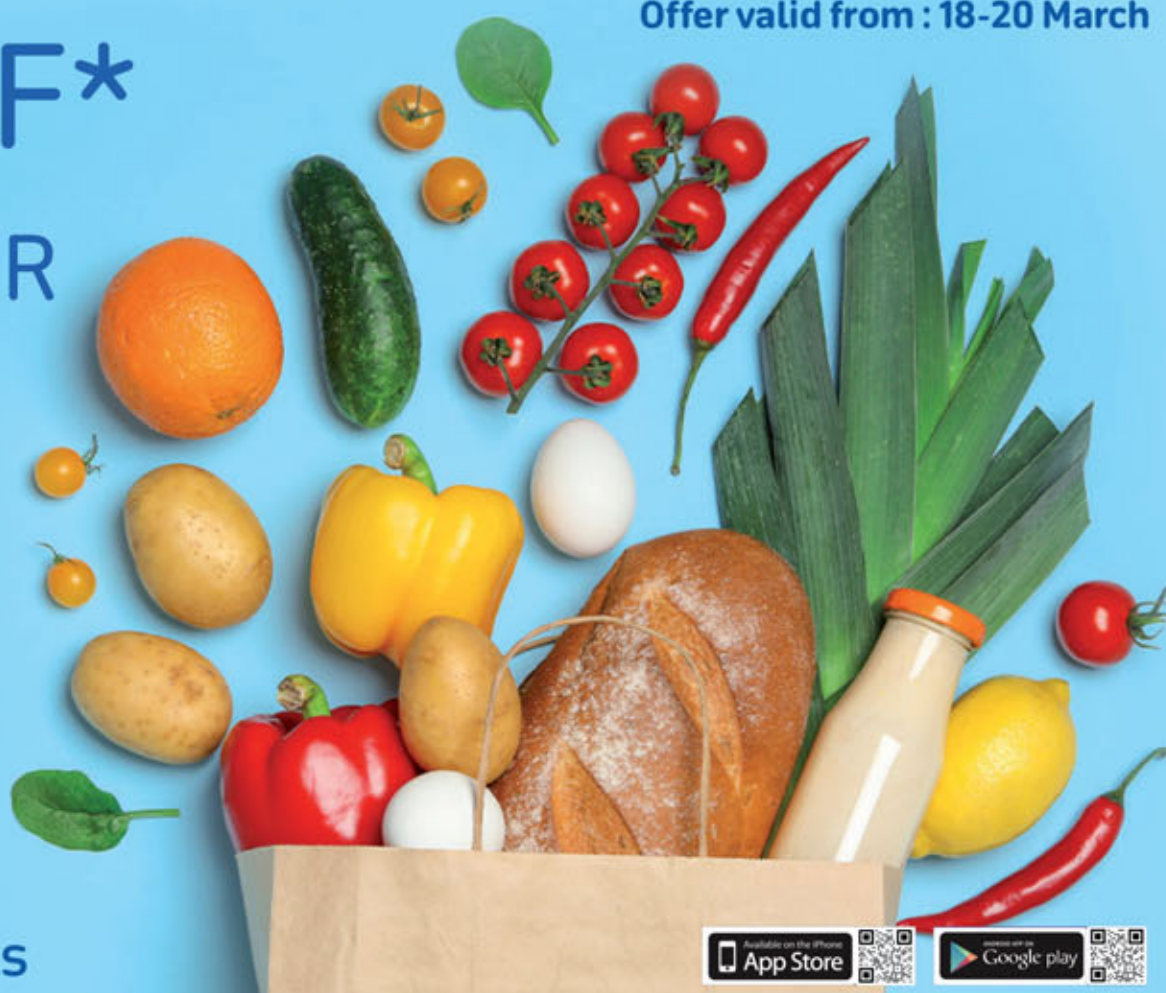
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Another weekend is here and you are not quite ready with a plan. Moreover, you are one among the many who are extra cautious about COVID-19 protocols and you avoid going out unnecessarily. But do you know that even without leaving your home you can have some great time? You can give a pass to staycations and long drives this weekend and make your stay at home extra special. And if you want some fresh air and a little bit of sunshine go for a walk or join the free open-air gyms in Muttrah and Qurum that are now open to the public. Here are some interesting options for you to choose from.



SIX THINGS TO DO IN OMAN THIS WEEKEND

YOUR WEEKEND IN OMAN

1

Unplug yourself
What could be more enticing than having a day without having to check mails, messages and social media posts? Try this week. Unplug yourself and get your much needed rest and relaxation. A break from news updates, tweets and all the social media rants can wait. Get some extra sleep for a complete rest of your brain and body. Prioritising self care is important. Set aside an hour for self-care. Taking some time for yourself on weekends is one essential step to keeping yourself calm, cool and collected during the hectic working days. And if you really want to plug in then do plug in to peace, joy, and Zen.

2



Watch your favourite shows
The lineup of new shows on Amazon Prime will keep you hooked up this weekend. Watch *Making Their Mark: Season 1*, an unprecedented journey into the inner sanctum of Australia's greatest sport in the most challenging year in its history. Players, coaches, and executives across six teams in the Australian Football League (AFL) navigate a year like no other in an exhilarating portrait of elite sport. Netflix too has several shows lined up. Watch *Waffles + Mochi (Season 1)*, a new kids series with puppets with former first lady, Michelle Obama hosting the show. Michelle Obama in her recent tweet has said, "I'm beyond thrilled to share that on March 16, I'll be launching a new show on @Netflix called Waffles + Mochi! I'm excited for families and children everywhere to join us on our adventures as we discover, cook, and eat delicious food from all over the world."

3

Movies on the silver screen
There's nothing more exciting than watching movies on the big screen. This week watch *Nobody* starring Bob Odenkirk, Connie Nielsen and Christopher Lloyd. Emmy winner Bob Odenkirk stars as Hutch Mansell, an underestimated and overlooked dad and husband, taking life's indignities on the chin and never pushing back. A nobody. Bollywood movie buffs can watch *Mumbai Saga*, a story of hopes, aspirations, friendships and betrayals in the backdrop of the early 90s. But, most importantly, it's the story of the Bombay that was and the Mumbai that it became. *Sandeep Aur Pinky Pharaar* starring Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra is about a man and a woman who represent two completely different morality. However, they are united by their mistrust, suspicion, and hatred for each other.

4



Free open-air gyms
A new way to keep fit during the ongoing pandemic is to join a free open-air gym. Set up by the sea, on the Muttrah corniche, and by Qurum beach, each open air gym consists of 11 pieces of equipment, including elliptical machines and benches to perform sit-ups. Entry is free. People can keep fit and spend some time outdoors during the pandemic. "This initiative also stems from our endeavour to encourage cooperation between the private and public sectors," said Nihad Al Bulushiyya, service partnership specialist at the Directorate General of Service Development at Muscat Municipality. "These arrangements will contribute to the development of Muscat Governorate."

5

Get ready for Mother's Day celebration
It is once again the time for flowers, cakes, chocolates, and happy moments to make your mother feel special with Mother's Day being round the corner. It is celebrated all across the Arab world on March 21. If you are thinking how to celebrate it during this pandemic don't get disheartened. Celebrate this year's Mother's Day at home. Be it a surprise gift or some fresh flowers, make the day extra special for her. And if you have an elderly mom at home ensure her health and safety by encouraging her to take the COVID-19 vaccination.



6

Take a hike
Grab your hiking shoes and explore outside with your family. This could be a walk around the neighbourhood or hiking off roads in Oman. With the weather still being pleasant in the morning, it's safe to go for hiking as long as you do it alone or with someone from your home at a trail or a park that isn't crowded. Remember the social distancing guidelines for safe outdoor activities.



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SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS



HM confers Order of Merit, First Class on professor Fred Scholz

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has conferred the Order of Merit, First Class, on Professor Fred Scholz in appreciation from His Majesty for Scholz's efforts and scholarly contributions in the Sultanate during the past years.

The order was handed over by Yousef Said Al Amri, Oman's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany when he received Professor Fred Scholz at the Sultanate's Embassy in Berlin yesterday.

— ONA

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Saudi Arabia King receives Oman envoy's credentials

RIYADH: The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) received via video conferencing on Wednesday credentials of His Highness Sayyid Faisal bin Turki Al-Said, the Sultanate's Ambassador to the KSA.

Sayyid Faisal conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to King Sal-

man along with His Majesty's best wishes of good health and wellbeing to him and the brotherly KSA people further progress and prosperity.

On his turn, King Salman asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to His Majesty the Sultan, and the Omani people further progress and welfare. — ONA

NCSI DATA

Fish catch up 38% in December 2020

MUSCAT: The total quantity of fish caught in the Sultanate rose by 38 percent at the end of December 2020 compared to the same period of 2019.

In December 2020, 799,366 tonnes of fish were caught, compared to 579,184 tonnes last year.

According to statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), the total value of the fish landed in December 2020 stood at OMR349,832,000, marking a rise of 15.6 percent compared to December 2019 when it was OMR302,679,000.

The highest quantity of fish



landed in the Governorate of Al Wusta reached 293,000 tonnes, followed by South Al Sharqiyah Governorate at 231,900 tonnes, Dhofar Governorate 83,000 tonnes, North and South Al Batinah Governorates 80,000 tonnes, Musandam Governorate 35,500 tonnes and Muscat Governorate 30,600 tonnes, respectively. — ONA

COVID-19

World is experiencing rapid propagation

Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, to follow updates about COVID-19 and ways to curb its spread and deal with its different impacts.

The Committee listened to a briefing from the technical team about the epidemiological situation in the Sultanate and noted the steady rise in the number of COVID-19 infection and death

cases in different governorates of the Sultanate.

It also studied the common causes of this serious surge, including familial and social gatherings.

The Committee noted the alarming surge in travel-related infections from some countries at a time the world is experiencing rapid propagation of the disease.

Concluding its statement, the Supreme Committee prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect all people against all harm. — ONA

Water research, eco school prize winners announced



The competition seeks to encourage Omani youths to conduct studies in the field of water use and water resources

MUSCAT: The Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC) announced on Wednesday the names of winners of 'Omani Young Water Researchers Award 2020' and the 'Eco School Prize'.

The competition seeks to encourage Omani youths to conduct studies in the field of water use and water resources.

The prize for the higher studies category went to Ibtiha Al Mantheri of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), whose entry was titled 'Water, Land and Energy Use Efficiencies of AC-cooled Greenhouses Based on Field Experiments.'

In the undergraduate category, SQU student Kawther Al Ismaili won first place through her research project titled 'Microwave-Assisted Synthesis of CdS Sub-Microspheres for the Degradation of Chlorophenols Under Solar Light Irradiation.'

The Wastewater Research Prize was won by Aziza Al Hinai and Halima Al Haimli of SQU for a research paper titled 'Comparison between two and three chamber



AWARD CEREMONY: The Omani water researchers award was founded by MEDRC in cooperation with the Embassy of the Netherlands in the Sultanate, Omar Al Zawawi Establishment and Haya Water. — ONA

MDC performance using buffered and non-buffered anolyte.'

The Omani water researchers award was founded by MEDRC in cooperation with the Embassy of the Netherlands in the Sultanate, Omar Al Zawawi Establishment and Haya Water.

The Eco School Prize was won by Al Maabala Al Shamalia School. The prize was sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Oman LNG Development Foundation, and supported by the Ministry of Education, SQU College of Engineering and Oman Film and Theatre Society.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr Rahma Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation. — ONA



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Debate competition

MUSCAT: A team from the schools affiliated to the Directorate of Education of Al Dakhiliyah secured the first place in the 5th National Championship for Debates for schools category.

The event organised by the Directorate General for Youth at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Culture in cooperation with Oman Debates Centre.

The team from the schools of Al Dhahirah's Directorate of Education came second in the final organised at the Stage of the Scouts Music Band affiliated to the Directorate General of Scouts and Girl-guides. The finals saw a tough competition between the two sides. — ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

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Location: Nizwa Industrial Area, Nizwa, Sultanate Of Oman
Contact Gsm No. 99107036

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Oman Flour Mills Company (S.A.O.G.)
P.O Box 566, P.C 112, Jibrah, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

REF: OFM/TD-21-019
Tender for Information System Security Audit

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites, Audit Firms contractors to participate in our tender for the "Information System Security Audit" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-21-019
Tender subject	Information System Security Audit
Start date for tender collection	18.03.2021
Last date for tender collection	23.03.2021
Site Visit (Mandatory)	24& 25.03.2021
Last date for receiving the technical queries	31.03.2021
Closing date of the tender	01.04.2021
Email address for communication	tender3@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals addressed to tender3@omanflourmills.com on the 31 st March 2021.

- Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.
- Each bidder must leave a business card with contact details for required communication.
- All tender communication must be addressed to: tender3@omanflourmills.com.

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GUNMEN ON MOTORCYCLES

58 civilians killed by gunmen in Niger

NIAMEY: Fifty-eight civilians were killed by gunmen on motorcycles in a volatile corner of Niger, the government said on Tuesday.

On Monday afternoon, "groups of armed, still unidentified individuals intercepted four vehicles carrying passengers back from the weekly market of Banibangou to the villages of Chinedogor and Darey-Daye," the government said in a statement read out on

public television.

"The toll from these acts [is] 58 dead, one injured, a number of grain silos and two vehicles burned and two more vehicles seized," it added.

A local resident said that the raids began with an attack on a bus in which "around 20 people were killed."

Just a few kilometers from the Malian border in the ma-

nor market town, people were killed while shopping, another resident said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the massacre.

The government announced three days of national mourning from Wednesday.

Security challenges

The Tillaberi region, where the attack took place, is located in the

"tri-border area" where the frontiers of Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali converge.

The region is plagued by jihadist activity which is made worse by counterterrorism offensives that help give rise to ethnic militias, analysts say.

Particularly near the border between Mali and Niger, intercommunal tensions have been aggravated as a result. **bw**



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



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SHOOTINGS

Eight killed in US shootings

ATLANTA: Shootings at three Atlanta-area massage parlours left eight people dead on Tuesday, authorities said.

Four people were killed and one person was injured at a massage parlor in Cherokee County, according to officials.

Shortly after, shootings at two Atlanta massage spas that are across the street from each other left four people dead. Police Chief Rodney Bryant said all four victims were female.

What happened at the Atlanta parlors?

Atlanta police responded to a call of a robbery taking place at a spa just before 6 p.m. local time (2200 GMT). Upon arrival, officers found three women fatally wounded from apparent gunshot wounds, police said.

While they were at that scene, they learned of a call reporting shots fired at another spa across the street and found a woman dead inside the salon. It seemed as though she also died after being shot.

Second shooting in Acworth

Earlier, at around 5 p.m., five people were shot at Young's Asian Massage Parlor in Acworth,



about 30 miles (50 kilometres) northwest of the state capital, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said.

Two of the victims were dead and three were transported to a hospital where two of them also perished, Sheriff spokesman Captain Jay Baker said.

It was not known if the shootings at the Atlanta salons were connected to the one in Cherokee County.

Man arrested

Later on Tuesday a 21-year-old man was in custody in relation to the fatal shootings.

He was captured in southwest Georgia, a few hours after the onslaughts took place.

Cherokee County officials confirmed the suspect was taken into custody in Crisp County on Tuesday night, roughly 150 miles south of Atlanta. **bw**

Castex's statement comes on the one-year mark since France announced the first coronavirus lockdown on March 16, 2020



PARIS: French Prime Minister Jean Castex on Tuesday said that the country has entered 'a kind of third wave' of COVID-19 infections, amid a surge of cases as numerous variants of the virus has affected the nation.

Castex's statement comes on the one-year mark since France announced the first coronavirus lockdown on March 16, 2020, reported Anadolu Agency. "The pan-

demic is playing overtime. We are in what looks like a form of third wave ... characterised by the variants," Jean Castex said, addressing the parliamentarians.

During the last 24 hours, 29,975 new infections and 320 deaths have been recorded in France.

Castex further said that the French government at the forefront of its strategy to fight the coronavirus. "We know that it is mass vaccination which will allow us to

get out of it," he said.

According to Anadolu Agency, France has vaccinated 5.29 million people after a sluggish pace marred with vaccine hesitancy and reluctance.

In addition to the presence of the UK, South Africa, and Brazil variants, local health authorities in France also confirmed a new variant in Brittany, located in the northernmost region across the English Channel.

Health officials said that the first analysis of the variant did not conclude "increased severity or transmissibility" in comparison to the original virus or variants. It is still classified as a "variant under investigation" after a cluster was first detected at the Lannion Hospital Center, in the Cotes d'Armor department.

So far, eight cases of the new variant have been confirmed by sequencing as the PCR tests showed negative results, Anadolu reported citing a press statement from Brittany's health authorities.

Authorities are now carrying out in-depth investigations and experiments to better understand the variant and to determine its reaction to "vaccination and to the antibodies developed during previous infections."

Meanwhile, hospitals in Paris are close to capacity and health professionals are rushing daily to find beds for their COVID patients. As of Monday, more than 4,200 patients were in intensive care units across France, reported Voice of America. **ANI**



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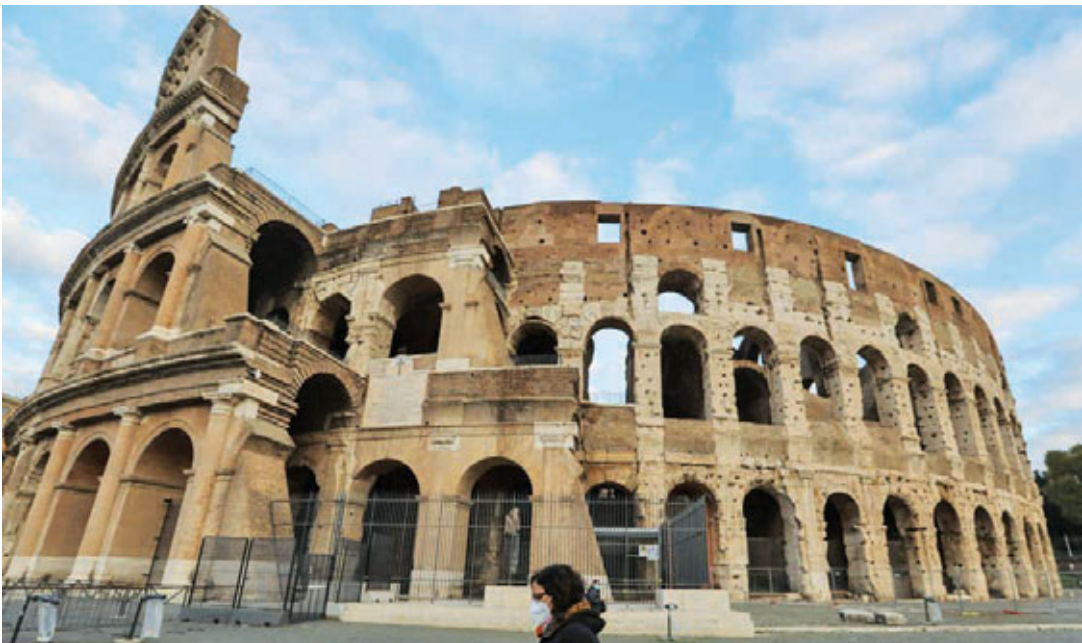
Italy reimposes restrictions a year after COVID-19 outbreak

In northern Italy's Veneto region, 1,901 new cases were confirmed on Tuesday alone, with the number of patients hospitalised or in intensive care units also on the rise

PADOVA: One year after northern Italy was first locked down amid the COVID-19 outbreak, most regions in the country are reimposing restrictions to curb a resurgence of the virus, closing down non-essential shops and reducing the movement of people.

Since Monday, 10 populous regions and the Autonomous Province of Trento have been labelled as high-risk "red zones." The containment measures will last until Easter in early April.

In northern Italy's Veneto region,



LOCKDOWN: Compared to the first lockdown in March 2020, people have a different feeling about COVID-19 restrictions this time.

1,901 new cases were confirmed on Tuesday alone, with the number of patients hospitalised or in intensive care units also on the rise.

Regional President Luca Zaia is concerned about the deteriorating situation, and told a regular press conference that "the alarming growth of cases is confirmed by both swab tests and hospitalizations."

"In this scenario, we will need to activate the COVID hospitals again, and we foresee a difficult situation for at least two weeks," he said.

On pedestrian shopping streets in the region, fashion shops were shut down, while patrolling police persuaded passers-by to return home. Like last year, pedestrians

have to justify why they are outside and where they are going -- any infringement of the anti-virus rules will be punished with a fine of at least 400 euros (476 U.S. dollars).

Compared to the first lockdown in March 2020, people have a different feeling about COVID-19 restrictions this time.

"Last year everyone was shocked,

afraid. You didn't understand what was going on, the perception of the intensity of the virus," said Andrea Bedorin, a communications consultant in Italy.

"Now you know more or less what is going on. We are equipped with masks, with devices, with supply of gel; hospitals know the procedures that they have to undertake," he added.

However, Bedorin said he senses the fatigue among Italians in the fight against COVID-19, who are further frustrated that the ongoing vaccination campaign in Italy has lagged behind that in Britain.

"You can feel the fatigue, because you don't see the end of this nightmare, I can say, because it seems there is no end at all. Also mentally you don't reach a level where you can plan the future months," he said.

Taxi driver Moreno Cabbia said he does not understand why the country is returning to a critical situation despite its one-year fight against the pandemic. "I see that many countries in a good condition were in lockdown for a longer period than what we did in Italy. In this regard, I still don't know what is the best solution."

As an essential worker exempted from the restriction measures, Cabbia said it is important to keep spirits high and be optimistic. "It is already good that we haven't been infected. We have to think positive, otherwise we will all end up at the psychologist's."

Meanwhile, anthropologist Laura Longo believes people are more scared today compared to last year.

"They are more desperate and after one year the problem is still there," she said, adding that the authorities should have implemented a lockdown as early as October to stop the fast-spreading virus and the growth of new strains.

"We are not ahead of the game. We are behind the game and this game is not in our hands," she said.

Regarding the fact that some people keep defying the containment rules, Longo said she believes there is a form of "provocation" in the younger generations, who only a few days earlier frequented bars and went shopping.

"I see there is a lack of understanding of the problem. There are people who realize the gravity of the situation and others who do not," she said.

Speaking about the public health strategies in such Asian countries as China, Longo said, "according to the news and data coming from Asia, their approach, in the fight against the virus, was more effective, so the real issue is to apply that model here." **Xinhua**

BENEFITS FOR DRIVERS

Uber drivers to get workers' rights in the UK

LONDON: Uber on Tuesday said it is giving its UK drivers employee status, with benefits including a minimum wage and holiday pay.

The shift in policy came into effect on Wednesday.

Weeks after the Supreme Court ruled against the US firm, Uber has responded by officially changing the status of those who drive for the company. The alteration means drivers will now be entitled to a pension.

Change of tack

It is a significant change in the business model of a company which had long argued that its drivers were self-employed.

The case goes back five years, beginning with two former Uber



drivers who took the ride-hailing firm to an employment tribunal, which ruled that they were due entitlements such as paid holidays. Uber appealed the decision and went all the way to Britain's top court, which ruled against it on February 19.

What it means

On Tuesday, Uber said drivers would be given holiday pay, be enrolled in a pension scheme and receive no less than the minimum wage, which in the UK is £8.72 (\$12.07, €10.18) per hour for those aged 25 years and over. The hourly

rate becomes effective once the driver accepts a trip request. Uber said its drivers usually earn more, so the minimum rate will rarely be required as it will only come into force for those who don't attain £8.72 per hour. "The UK Supreme Court ruling provides a clearer path forward as to a model that gives drivers the rights of worker status while continuing to let them work flexibly," Uber said.

Opposition

Since its inception in 2009, Uber has increasingly faced opposition from traditional taxi operators, while trade unions have often criticized the company for undercutting existing players, leading to protests from taxi drivers and disgruntled workers. **dw**

Trump encourages supporters to get vaccinated against COVID-19

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump on Tuesday urged his supporters to take the COVID-19 vaccine, as a growing number of Republicans remain opposed to get vaccinated. In an interview with Fox News, Trump was asked if he would recommend his supporters voluntarily receive the coronavirus vaccine.

"I would. I would recommend it and I would recommend it to a lot of people that don't want to get it and a lot of those people voted for me, frankly. But again, we have our freedoms and we have to live by them and I agree with that also. But it is a great vaccine. It is a safe vaccine and it is something that works," he said.

Trump further said that pharmaceutical companies and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been working "around the clock" to develop the various vaccinations. During the interview with Fox News, Trump also slammed President Joe Biden on several issues including the border crisis and the hike in gas prices.

According to The Hill, Democrats and Republicans alike have been clamoring for Trump to publicly urge his supporters to get a shot amid surveys showing many Republicans are hesitant to get vaccinated. A recent poll showed that 47 per cent of the people who voted for former President Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential elections have no plan to get vaccinated. **ANI**

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATES

EU plans to have vaccine certificates ready by summer

LONDON: The European Commission on Wednesday proposed the issuing of COVID-19 immunisation certificates to allow for free travel within the bloc's member states.

The EU is hoping to revive the travel sector, but there are fears over the fairness of such certificates amid a slow vaccine rollout.

What is the 'Digital Green Certificate'?

Dubbed "the Digital Green Certificate," the proposal is set to facilitate the movement of people from one EU member state to another.

The certificate will provide information on COVID-19 vaccination, recovery and test results.

The EU will also coordinate with the World Health Organization for the certificates to be recognized outside Europe.

The bloc laid out a plan to finish technical work on the scheme within three months.

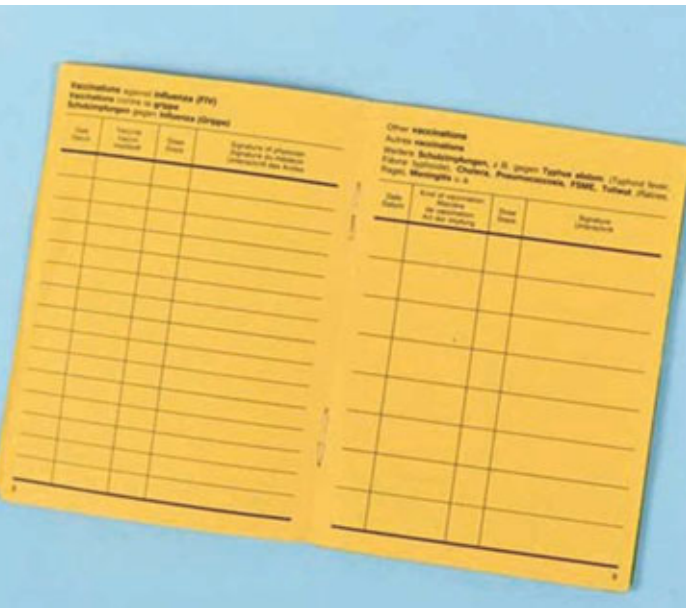
EU member states will prepare for the issuance and verification of the certificates.

What are the concerns over vaccine certificates?

There have been fears over the fairness of issuing immunization certificates if many people have not been offered the vaccine.

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Slovenia raised concerns on Wednesday over the "possible gaps in the vaccine distribution between member states", an EU official told Reuters.

The EU aims to vaccinate 70% of its adult population by the end of the summer. But critics of vaccine certificates have cited the slow vaccination rollout across the EU.



The bloc has blamed pharmaceutical companies for supply shortages and delay in deliveries.

Critics have also raised concerns over the ethical implications of vaccine certificates, given how vaccination is voluntary.

But the EU has assured that the implementation of digital certificates would be non-discriminatory and would "meet data protection, security and privacy requirements."

What about the AstraZeneca suspension?

Another threat to the bloc's vaccination plans is the suspension of the use of AstraZeneca vaccine in some member states over safety concerns.

The EU medical regulator confirmed on Tuesday that it had found "no indication" that the vaccine was causing blood clots.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine "outweigh the risk of these side effects."

What about the EU vaccine exports?

The EU has tried to speed up the rollout by ordering more doses from suppliers and authorizing more vaccines.

President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen addressed vaccine shortages on Wednesday, threatening to curb exports.

"The EU has been exporting vaccines in support of global cooperation. But open roads run in both directions," von der Leyen said. "If needed we'll reflect on how to adjust our exports based on reciprocity and, in the case of countries with higher vaccination rates than us, proportionality." **dw**



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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Manchester City, Real Madrid reach Champions League quarters

LONDON: Manchester City and Real Madrid both won their second-leg matches in the UEFA Champions League last 16, reaching the quarterfinals with ease.

Real Madrid qualified for the quarterfinals with a 3-1 win at home to Italian side Atalanta, which gave them a 4-1 aggregate victory.

The Dea paid a heavy price for failing to take chances in attack, while making important errors in defense, which made Real Madrid's task easier on the back of their 1-0 win in Bergamo three weeks ago.

Atalanta could have got right back into the tie when Robin Gosens failed to take advantage of good work from Luis Muriel on the left and could only hit a tame shot at Thibaut Courtois when he should have done better.

Vinicius Jr also missed a good chance for Real Madrid on 27 minutes, but it didn't matter as his side took the lead five minutes later following a howling error from Marco Sportiello.



The Atalanta keeper sent his clearance straight to Luka Modric, who only had to pull the ball back for Karim Benzema to score a simple goal to put Real Madrid in command.

Vinicius produced a magnificent run early in the second half but failed to hit the target to score what would have been a spectacular goal, but just five minutes later he drew a foul in the Atalanta area that allowed Sergio Ramos to double Madrid's lead on the night.

Substitute Josip Ilcic fired wide for Atalanta when he could have

done better before Courtois responded well on two occasions to frustrate Duvan Zapata.

The Madrid keeper also got a hand to Muriel's impressive free-kick seven minutes from time but was unable to keep out the excellent strike after a cleverly worked free-kick.

Any hopes Atalanta had of a fightback were quickly snuffed out after Lucas Vazquez was allowed space down the right to cross from Marco Asensio to make it 3-1 on the night after taking a touch in the area. Manchester City cruised into the Champions League quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over Borussia Monchengladbach in the second leg on Wednesday.

In the first leg as well, Manchester City had defeated Borussia Monchengladbach 2-0. Manchester City started the match brightly and scored both their goals in the opening 20 minutes. -ANI/ Xinhua

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OMAN CRICKET

Oman Cricket to host T10 Ramadan Bash MRI-ball tournament in April



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket will organise 1st T10 Ramadan Bash Floodlight MRI-ball Cricket Tournament on its OC Turf 1 green ground in Al Amerat from April 10 to 21.

Country's top 16 softball teams, to be registered on first come, first served basis, are likely to participate in Ramadan's biggest cricket bonanza that guarantees each team a minimum of two league games before moving on to the knockout stage.

As per the tournament format, two matches will be played daily, first starting at 7.15 pm, to be followed by the second at 9 pm. Each team must pay OMR 140 as the registration fee and fill up the Google form at <https://forms.gle/>

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A maximum of two players from the Premier Division are allowed to play for one team. All the teams will be required to arrange their own jersey (t-shirt and trouser) of a colour of their choice.

The OC-organised tournament, to be supervised by qualified umpires, offers an array of cash and other prizes including OMR10 for man of the match prize for each game till the semifinals.

The amount will be doubled for the final. Player of the series will also be rewarded with a cash prize of OMR20. The tournament's champion will walk away with the Winner's Trophy and a cash prize of OMR250 with the Runner-up receiving a trophy and a cash prize of OMR 150.

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Pitspot, Vanderlande, Israr Ghala, Safara advance in junior division tournament

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Wajid Ali's superb half century and Mohazin Moosa's brilliant bowling powered Pitspot to a thumping 75-run victory against Team Coorg Muscat (TCM) in a Junior Division Knockout tournament game at Muscat Municipality ground 4 in Amerat on Friday. Wahid's 27-ball 50 was the highlight of Pitspot's total of 222 for 6. TCM failed to bat with the same flourish, managing only 147 for 8 due largely to Mohazin's superb 3 for 21 off 4 overs including a maiden.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): Pitspot 222 for 6 in 20 overs (Wajid Ali 50 - 6x4, 1x6, Gopalakumar Gopalakrishnan 30 - 3x4, Banwari Lal 2-51) thrashed Team Coorg Muscat (TCM) 147 for 8 in 20 overs (Prabakaran Ranganathan 59 - 8x4, 1x6, Mohazin Moosa 3-21, Aneesh Chaziyottil 2-34) by 75 runs.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): KCA Deutag 118 all out in 19 overs (Balushi Arayaf 27 - 4x4, Vignesh Kumar 3-28, Irtaza 2-26, Joseph Navin 2-20) lost to Vanderlande 120 for 2 in 13.1 overs (Barathwaj Vinayagam 54 - 5x4, Aasim Mohammed 32 - 4x4) by 8 wickets.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): Israr Ghala 159 for 9 in 20 overs (Ahmed Tahir 45 - 4x4, 2x6, Sagheer Muhammad 37 - 4x4, 1x6, Asanka Deepal 4-25, Alif Khan 3-17) beat Landmark Group 150 for 9 in 20 overs (Mohammed Farzan 44 - 6x4, Yasir Jamal 3-22, Amir Munir 2-28) by 9 runs.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): Mazoon Up 161 for 6 in 20 overs (Feisal Babu 40 - 5x4,



Wajid Ali of Pitspot

Ali Akbar 2-24) lost to Safara International 162 for 1 in 16.2 overs (Adeel Anwar 67 - 10x4, 2x6, Shameel Mohamed 25 - 2x4) by 9 wickets.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): Sketch International 197 for 4 in 20 overs (Manish Bhatia 83 - 11x4) beat Danmark CC 148 all out in 17.5 overs (Mohammed Samil 36 - 4x4, Yusuf Patanwala 3-17, Ameer Hussain 2-37, Issam Othman 2-26) by 49 runs.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): BSI CT 185 for 4 in 20 overs (Mohammad Arfath 56 - 6x4, Sanket Cyril 37 - 2x4, Vijith Ravi 2-27) lost to Sam Royals 186 for 5 in 19.5 overs (Prasad Kumar 40 - 4x4, 1x6, Arjun Rajesh 35 - 4x4, Arafath Ahmed 2-11) by 5 wickets.

Brief Scores (Knockout - Junior): Y Horizon 171 for 7 in 20 overs (Rudhi Rasheed 49 - 4x1, 1x6, Jatin Patel 34 - 3x4, Mohammed Muslim 2-26, Sooraj A Raj 2-26) lost to Ideal Technology 172 for 7 in 19.5 overs (Vijesh Vijayakumaran 73 - 13x4, Ali Zubair 3-25, Sanjay Makwana 2-31) by 3 wickets.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2021 reaching \$66.63, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 1 cent from the price of Tuesday, which was \$66.62. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Securities Market (MSM) general index (30) lost 4.8 points, comprising a decline by 0.13 per cent to close at 3,738.01 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 3,742.78 points.

New incentives offered to boost investment in industrial sector

New incentives for the industrial cities under Madayn among others include exemption from rental value for a period of two years for all new projects, followed by a reduction in the rental value for a period of three years by 50 per cent for contracts concluded during the period from 2021 to 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new line-up of incentives to support and boost the investment climate in Madayn's various industrial cities across Oman was approved on Wednesday.

This was announced by the Board of Directors of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) during its second meeting this year.



INCENTIVES Madayn's incentives shall support its vision in enhancing the Sultanate's position as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, ICT, innovation and entrepreneurship excellence, and its mission in attracting industrial investments. - Supplied picture

This comes in line with the efforts made to mitigate the economic consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the global drop in oil prices.

Investment opportunities

To enhance investment opportunities in Al Buraimi, Ibri, Al Mudhaibi and Thumrait Industrial Cities and any industrial city to be announced later, the announced incentives for these industrial cities include exemption from rental value for a period of two years for all new projects, followed by a reduction in the rental value for



Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, Chief Executive Officer of Madayn

a period of three years by 50 per cent for contracts concluded during the period from 2021 to 2024, in addition to reducing all other fees listed in Annex no. (1) of the Investment Regulations by 50 per cent for all new projects during the period from 2021 to 2024.

The incentives also include reducing fees for IT activity license by 50 per cent for a period of two years the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, for the existing and new projects in the Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM); in addition to not imposing fines for the delay in payments

for the years 2020 and 2021.

Commenting on the announced incentives, Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, Chief Executive Officer of Madayn, stated that the new incentives stem from Madayn's responsibility towards supporting the investors and industrialists in the Sultanate and boosting an ideal investment environment that attracts new investments.

Al Hasani emphasised that Madayn's new incentives come along the lines of the recently announced incentives covered by the Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP) endorsed by the Council of Minis-

ters to support efforts of enhancing economic recovery and boosting national economic performance.

Al Hasani said Madayn's incentives shall support its vision in enhancing the Sultanate's position as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, Information and communications technology (ICT), innovation and entrepreneurship excellence, and its mission in attracting industrial investments and providing continued support, through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value-adding services, and easy governmental processes.

OPAZ BOARD MEETING

OPAZ board approves allocation of two sites in Sezad for gas-based industries

MUSCAT: The progress made over the past few months in regards to urging local and international companies to localise investments of producing clean energy in Sezad was discussed in a meeting on Wednesday.

This was proposed through two potential projects for producing green hydrogen and another in Sohar Free Zone, Sohar Solar Energy Project. On Wednesday, the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) held its first meeting for the year 2021, chaired by Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Board Chairman.

The meeting was held in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad). Eng. Yahya bin Khamis Al Zadjali, In-Charge of Managing Operations of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), explained that the Board approved the allocation of two sites in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm for gas-based industries. These sites include the first block, covering an area of 11.1 square kilometres and the second block with an area of 33.5 square kilometres. In view of this, the Board called on all local and international companies, which are interested to invest in the Zone and require gas for operations, to submit their studies



INVESTMENT: The Board called on all local and international companies, which are interested to invest in the zone and require gas for operations, to submit their studies related to their requests to provide gas in Duqm upon the completion of the gas pipeline. - Supplied picture

related to their requests to provide gas in Duqm upon the completion of the gas pipeline.

Moreover, Al Zadjali noted that the board initially approved allocating a site for the uses of modern technologies including artificial intelligence such as drone experi-

ments. The board also directed the zone's management to complete studies regarding technical and legal aspects and to assess the required Internet speed and initial cost to attract local and foreign companies interested in developing future technologies.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) paid a visit to the two sites designated for the gas-dependent industries and other existing projects in Sezad to get familiarised with the latest progress.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY



CMA's long-term training programme on Branch Manager Certificate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) will commence implementation of Tamkeen training plan this year by organising long-term specialised training programmes in collaboration with the College of Banking and Financial Studies. The first programme will be on Branch Manager Certificate.

This year's plan focuses on the quality of the presented programmes and their importance for providing specialised qualified Omanis and the Omanisation of key managerial positions through long term and short terms specialised training programmes.

Specialised programmes aim to prepare the national cadres to take the available positions in the management of insurance companies through acquainting them with the knowledge and skills required for dealing with customers and in sales, marketing and customer service and empowering them to transfer knowledge and team leadership in insurance companies. The first programme will be for the managers and assistant managers in the various branches of insurance companies operating in Oman with the participation of 30 persons via remote learning techniques.

The 30-day programme will comprise 90 training hours at an average of 3 hours daily for 4 days per week. The first part covers subjects such as insurance principles, underwriting practices, insurance products, insurance claims, understanding financial statements, operational risk

This year's Tamkeen plan focuses on the quality of the presented programmes and their importance for providing specialised qualified Omanis and the Omanisation of key managerial positions through long term and short term specialised training programmes

management, marketing, sales team management and customer services. The second part covers management and leadership.

It is noteworthy that the Omanisation ratio in the insurance sector reached 79 per cent with 51.7 per cent Omanisation in senior management, 72.4 per cent in medium technical and administrative positions and 85.7 per cent in operational positions according to the insurance sector statistics for the year 2020.

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY REPORT

Global oil markets face uncertain future



The forecast for global oil demand has shifted lower. file

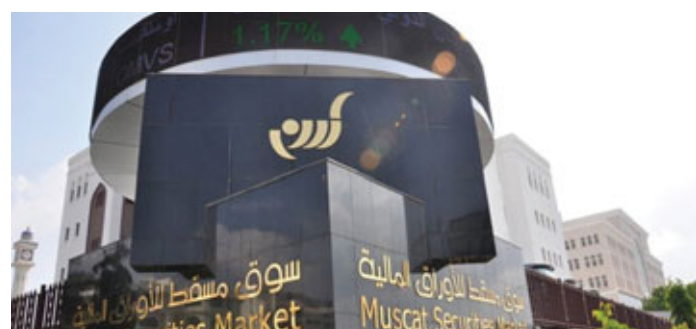
PARIS: World oil markets have rebounded from the massive demand shock triggered by COVID-19 but still face a high degree of uncertainty that is testing the industry as never before, according to a new International Energy Agency (IEA) report.

The forecast for global oil demand has shifted lower, and demand could peak earlier than previously thought if a rising focus by governments on clean energy turns into stronger policies and behavioural changes induced by the pandemic become deeply root-

ed, according to Oil 2021, the IEA's latest annual medium-term market report. But in the report's base case, which reflects current policy settings, oil demand is set to rise to 104 million barrels a day (mb/d) by 2026, up 4 per cent from 2019 levels. Asia will continue to dominate growth in global oil demand, accounting for 90 per cent of the increase between 2019 and 2026. By contrast, demand in many advanced economies, where vehicle ownership and oil use per capita are much higher, is not expected to return to pre-crisis levels.

MARKET

MSM index ends lower



pointed out that the market value rose by 0.117 per cent to reach about OMR20.54 billion.

The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached OMR446,000, comprising 35.34 per cent. The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached OMR135,000, comprising 10.67 per cent. The net non-Omani investment increased by 24.67 per cent to OMR312,000.

— United Securities

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,745.28	3,721.06	3,738.01	3,742.78	-4.77	-0.13
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,757.43	5,720.12	5,747.79	5,749.21	-1.42	-0.02
Services Index	1,540.98	1,538.02	1,540.98	1,538.02	2.96	0.19
Industry Index	4,658.65	4,643.22	4,658.65	4,656.56	2.09	0.04
MSM Shariah Index	547.79	545.04	547.79	546.16	1.64	0.30
MSM TR INDEX	4,322.38	4,294.43	4,313.99	4,319.50	-5.51	-0.13

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S&P REPORT

Emerging Asia's recovery can withstand reflation trade

SINGAPORE: The reflation trade that is lifting US yields will not hit Asian emerging markets' financial conditions and growth outlook as much as during the taper tantrum of 2013, S&P Global Ratings said on Wednesday.

"The recovery across Asia's emerging economies should withstand rising US yields so long as this reflects an improving growth outlook and reflation rather than a monetary shock," said Shaun Roache, Asia Pacific Chief Economist at S&P.

In 2013, US yields leapt after the Federal Reserve indicated it will begin unwinding its quantitative easing programme. The resulting panic over rising credit costs led to sharp outflow from emerging markets, including Asia's, and forced central banks to hike interest rates. -ANI

DATA

Bahrain awarded \$4.1 billion worth of contracts in 2020

MANAMA: Bahrain awarded 1,688 tenders throughout 2020 worth a total of US \$4.1 billion (BHD 1.6 billion) compared to a total of US \$4.8 billion (BHD 1.8 billion) in 2019, according to new data released by Bahrain's Tender Board – the country's government procurement regulator.

In terms of the value of contracts, the oil sector took on 228 tenders worth US \$1.6 billion (BHD 598.1 million) followed by the construction and engineering industry, winning 317 tenders worth a combined US \$875.7 million (BHD 330.1 million) – clearly underscoring the Government's continued commitment to its extensive pipeline of major infrastructure projects, currently valued at some US \$32 billion.

The construction and engineering sector was followed by the aviation sector, the materials and equipment sector, and finally, the services sector, which saw a total of US \$638.2 million (BHD 240.6 million), US \$606.1 million (BHD 228.5 million) and the US \$424.8 million (BHD 160.1 million) worth of tenders awarded respectively. While bringing up the rear in terms of the value of contracts, the services sector was awarded the highest number of contracts, at 599.

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Contact 97500522 Email: mohamdelgeziry@gmail.com

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Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.

Contact: 968-94029112 Email: sakthiveljothi@gmail.com

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator

Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Please contact – 78022980

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CONTACT 99283938

GIS Engineer

Indian Male, Age 24, B.E. Computer Engineering and Masters of Science in GIS (Geographic Information System's) from U.K. Seeking suitable placement in GIS field. Having Oman Driving License. Resident of Oman. Ready to join immediately.

Contact: 99738614, deepitkotian14@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian Female (MBA Finance) having 15 years (Oman) of work experience in Banking / Finalization / Audit; seeks suitable placement.

Contact 94953826 / 92824146

ACCOUNTANT

A certified VAT professional having Masters degree & 10 years of GCC experience in senior positions, is available to handle accounts & VAT compliance.

Contact 71990782

Finance Head

CPA, CMA, CIA with 19 years' experience in Strategic finance, Banking, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

Contact 92148608

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B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL.

Contact No. 92180869 E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com

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FINANCE

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Contact 97131091, Email: gokulsbg@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Indian Bachelor, B.Com, 4 yrs experience as ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT seeks suitable placement. D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 96324484

PURCHASE + STORES + ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male 10+ yrs experience in Oman (Currently available in Oman). Experience in Engineering / Construction/Structural Steel Projects, Manufacturing & Trading Concern. With administrative skills with D/L & NOC. Looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 78039935

FOOD AND QUALITY

A Post Graduate in Food science and Technology, with certification in Food Safety Level 4 and HACCP Level 3, actively looking for a job in food industry.Ability to handle in-Process quality and Food Technology related activities. Excellent communication and Interpersonal skills.

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JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Construction engineer with 10 yrs experience in Oman consulting offices 7 experience in government project. Contact 96965100

Planning engineer, Indian more than 20 yrs experience in Oil & gas, pipeline building & MEP projects scheduling using primavera P6 seeks suitable job. NOC available. Contact 92651105 Email reji-mathai@hotmail.com

Civil engineer with 9 years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

Indian female M.Tech in Electrical power system having 4+ yrs of experience in Oman seeking suitable placement. Contact 79733520, 94306164

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman experience in all kinds operation of civil & MEP and interior fit- out field with valued Visa and D/L, 95206259, looking placement

Electrical engineer 9 years experience in primary substations, OHL, and underground cables. With a valid D/L. Contact 98223842

Indian Male B.E Civil 6Y experience currently available in Oman. Ready for Immediate join Looking for Any job. Contact 91406778

Senior Civil Engineer with 12 years Exp in government and private construction projects. looking for a suitable position. Contact 95962450. Email: solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

B.E Mechanical engineer, 25 yrs with 2.5 yrs of experience in MEP execution & estimation is seeking suitable placement. Contact 94846765. Email akshaygopinath@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer (RE) with over 10 years of experience on major projects (Residential, Commercial & Industrial). Please contact 78270396

B.E in Mechanical Engineering with 2 yrs of experience in fire fighting & MEP. Currently working as estimation & design engineer is looking for a suitable placement. Contact 94417169

Indian B.Tech Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/ MEP engineer. NOC available. Contact 99873092 Email ranjithbr17@gmail.com

Indian B.tech Electrical male engineer having 14 yrs experience in construction,looking for suitable placement as Estimation Engineer/ MEP engineer/MEP Qs. NOC available. Contact 92121940 Email abyeeee@gmail.com

Planning Engineer, Indian BE (Mechanical), 20 yrs experience in using primavera (P6) with NOC, D/L. Contact 79822993

Civil Engineer (B.TECH) Indian, 1 year experience in site and design, currently in visit visa seeks job. Contact 91282483, 96345471

Indian Mech. Engineer with 14 yrs exp. in various industrial activities looking for short/long term project manager/engineer post anywhere in Oman. Visa available. Contact / whatsapp 95326432

Exp 18 yrs Infrastructure engineer, looking job, have visa. Contact 79041286

Civil engineer diploma with BBA, NEBOSH IGC, valid Oman D/L, 9 yrs experience building construction, network tower erection, gas pipe line project. Contact 00971501140652, 95305786

B.Sc civil engineer, 10 years experience (supervision, execution, project, QS, roads, building with PMP certified & HSE certified) Oman D/L valid. NOC available. # 91347385.

Indian Male (23) Fresh Mechanical Engineer, experience in quality control, CNC, research & automation. Available for immediate joining. Contact 71502536

Indian Graduate 3 years experience looking for suitable job. Contact 968 94575752

Sudanese civil engineer, 10 yrs experience (Supervision & execution, projects, management, dams, roads) with Masters degree in Business Management. Contact 93214768

B.E civil engineer having 14 yrs of Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Please contact: 72132426

Site civil engineer, 9 yrs experience building construction.Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 94334402. Email nishath.ind91@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer, experience 4-5 yrs as Mechanical supervisor seeks job. Contact 79859336

Indian male Diploma Electrical Engineer, with 15 years of experience with 8 yrs exp in Oman with CEP and NOC available. Valid Oman D/L. Looking for suitable placement can join immediately. Contact 99579171

Civil Engineer fresh graduate, 6 months UAE/ Oman intensive training in construction and infrastructure, holder of valid D/L, Arab native who speaks 3 languages on a visit visa. seeking a job. # 97727285

Indian 25 yrs, Mechanical engineer, having Oman valid D/L. Looking for suitable placement. # 78043052

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian, 1 year Exp, living in Oman seeks job. Contact 94227623

BSc.Civil Engineer PMP Certified with 12 years experience in construction and road works. # 99715328

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926. Email mubashirosm89@gmail.com

HSE, professional having 20+ yrs of experience in HSE field in building,airport construction & oil & gas. Contact 90125179

Omani National Female with have Bachelor Degree in water technology. Contact 94421774

Technical supervisor, ELV, CCTV, IP/HD, Fire alarm & ups, electrical work. Have D/L. Contact 94625245

Tower crane operator. NOC available. Contact 91519095

Indian fitter with diploma certification in piping & structural engineering looking for job. Immediate joining. Contact 79500069

Indian male civil supervisor, 25 yrs experience in galfar Oman.Client approved permit holder OETC scaffolding tag inspector, reservoir, HDPE, DI pipeline, earth works shuttering, reinforcement, concrete. Contact 97680142 Email awadhesh37@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male, 10+ yrs experience in the field of purchase,store,asset coordinator.Valid D/L. Immediately available for joining. Contact 71596360. Email praveenskurup82@gmail.com

Procurement, purchase officer having master degree searching for job. 07 yrs exp in oman in a well known construction & maintenance group of companies. NOC available. Contact 92587919, 99423614. Email jahanzeb_athar@yahoo.com

Indian, purchase assistant, store keeper 9 years working experience in oman. Valid Oman D/L(light) Looking for suitable job. Contact 98615731 Email: sanalk73@gmail.com

Indian male, 16 yrs experience in a multinational freight forwarding & logistic co,worked under the capacity of Senior operation executive/senior accountant (Ocen freight,air freight, land transport, warehouse operations & finance & accounting). NOC available. Contact 93587605

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Store Incharge, Sales associate, customer service, retail, warehouse logistics and merchandiser with D/L. Contact 95042624

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

SALES / MARKETING

14 yrs of Sales experience in FMCG, valid D/L. Looking for Supervisory / Management position. Contact 71554818. Email: mohammedsultan1977@gmail.com

MBA marketing having 12 years of experience in sales of various B2B products.Experience in making and implementing marketing plans. Capable to market any good product. Call 91690869

Indian Male 15 years Experience (MBA) looking for job in Sales & Marketing. Currently in Oman with Valid Driving License and Valid Visa. Contact 91127809

Indian male (24) BBA, 2year experience in sales and administration. Contact 94890534 Email: jebinahmed@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer, 4 yrs experience in Oman & 1 yr in India, have Oman valid D/L.Looking for suitable placement. Contact 91521567

Indian male, 38 yrs old MBA graduate, 14 yrs experience in Oman. looking for appropriate placement in sales & marketing job in Muscat region having valid D/L. Contact 92255983 Email vijukrishnann@gmail.com

Indian males Sales officer with 3 years experience capable to manage from quotation till finalization tally. Contact 79880058

Indian Male, Graduate having 8 yr Oman & 7yr India experience in Marketing and Sales field looking for suitable placement. Contact 79584458, 92369044. Email: rkumarkotian21@gmail.com

Indiam male MBA post graduate, 9 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing, Oman DL holder. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 71537034

B.Tech MBA, Indian 10 yrs experience, sales,marketing IT. Contact 90725202

TOUR / TRAVEL

Seeking job in Travel & Tourism, 12 years experience, Graduate (B.Sc) IATA Certified professional presently available in Oman. Contact 968 92477622, 79842322 Email: thahaspm@gmail.com

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168. e-mail: anwarijalil51@gmail.com

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Data Sources Readership: IPSOS NRS 2017, Web reach: Effective Measure/Narrative, Google Analytics January 2020; Social media numbers verified online as of January 2020; *Whatsapp subscribers x 4 pass-on rate

Huawei drops sleek Huawei Watch Fit Elegant in the Sultanate

The Huawei Watch Fit Elegant arrives with a stainless steel body, continuous SpO2 monitoring, 10-day battery life and a host of smart features that make your life a whole lot easier

MUSCAT: Huawei announced the launch of the Huawei Watch Fit Elegant, the latest addition to its Huawei Watch Fit Series in Oman. The Huawei Watch Fit Elegant arrives with a stainless steel body, continuous SpO2 monitoring, 10-day battery life and a host

of smart features that make your life a whole lot easier.

Redefined design: Light and comfortable
The Huawei Watch Fit Elegant spices the Huawei Watch Fit Series with a refined stainless steel body. The 1.64-inch large AMOLED rectangular display is made of polished glass, which gives a high-end look, and providing you truly with an immersive viewing experience thanks to its Stylish HD screen. Additionally, the Huawei Watch Fit Elegant is equipped with a soft fluoroelastomer strap that is ergonomically designed for comfort and greater durability. Moreover, with a single tap on your Huawei smartphone, you can select a photo from your Huawei smartphone gallery and use it as your watch face.

A healthy lifestyle with accurate monitoring
Huawei's latest fitness smartwatch provides all-day monitoring of blood oxygen saturation (SpO2), which is an important indicator of a person's

health levels. You can also keep track of your heart's health with Huawei TruSeen 4.0 heart rate monitoring technology that monitors your heart rate continuously and quickly. You can also keep track of your relaxation state of mind, thanks to the Huawei TruRelax technology which provides 24/7 pressure monitoring, allowing you to maintain a relaxed state of mind at all times.

10 days long battery life
A small device that packs a powerful punch – this is the Huawei Watch Fit Elegant in a nutshell. The Huawei Watch Fit Elegant can last up to 10 days, on top of this and it also supports Huawei's fast charging technology. A five-minute charge can sustain the smartwatch for an entire day of typical use, while just half an hour will charge the battery 70 per cent. You can charge the Huawei Watch Fit Elegant in no time while enjoying breakfast or freshening up for a long day ahead.

Fitness trainer on your wrist
To meet your fitness needs, the

Huawei Watch Fit Elegant comes with an expansive range of fitness features to kick-start an effortless new active lifestyle. This fitness smartwatch supports 96 workout modes. It comes with 13 pre-installed running courses for runners of all abilities; together with the built-in GPS and multiple sensors, the Huawei Watch Fit Elegant can record your running and jogging routes to provide you with real-time guidance to improve your efficiency.

Smart companion for your daily smart life
The Huawei Watch Fit Elegant embeds grace with modern technology. Packed with some smart and interesting features that make everyday life more convenient such as Incoming calls and message reminders, a remote camera shutter that allows you to snap photos when you are not carrying your phone and even a music playback control.
Starting March 18, the Huawei Watch Fit Elegant will be available for sale from the Huawei e-shop website or stores for OMR49.900.



EXPANSION

Alfardan Group launches Sotheby's International Realty's first office in Oman

MUSCAT: Alfardan Group has announced the opening of Sotheby's International Realty, a global leader in real estate franchising and brokerage firm, in Finaa Alfardan, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

The branch marks the brands first foray into the real estate market in Oman and will be operational starting March 18.

The Oman Sotheby's International Realty chapter will be operated under Alfardan Group, a Doha-based conglomerate whose legacy extends over 65 years and maintains a strategic and ambitious expansion drive in the region. Alfardan Group has significantly evolved to become one of the largest business groups which include several subsidiaries across a wide range of industries. Oman Sotheby's International Realty will join under the Alfardan Group umbrella enriching the real estate industry in Oman.

Oman offers prospective investors new horizons for investment with a growing economy and a geographical location that overlooks international and regional sea lanes alongside lucrative ports. Projecting a positive outlook, Oman is ripe for investment



backed by a stable economy, strong infrastructure, and qualified human resources.

Commenting on the launch of the brand, Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and CEO, Alfardan Group, stated, "Oman offers a diverse culture, a rich heritage and a world of opportunity in terms of real estate that attracts Oman Sotheby's International Realty. As one of the emerging markets in the GCC region, luxury real estate in Oman is growing rapidly at par with swift development across hospitality, tourism, and economic

sectors. These exciting developments are just the pinnacle of what the Omani property market has to offer, and Oman Sotheby's International Realty will be one of the brokerages proud to give buyers and investors exclusive access to exceptional properties around Oman and the world."

The international realty enters the market with a mission to deliver the highest quality of service for an elite clientele with expertise in the industry and extensive knowledge of the market. Through its premier resources in the Om-

ani property market, OSIR offers unique property listings in key areas and a team of highly skilled experts to aid sellers, buyers, renters, and investors navigate the real estate market.

Oman Sotheby's International Realty is set to begin operations, effective March 18, with a portfolio of high-end properties in prime locations around Oman and internationally. Properties range from apartments, duplexes, to penthouses and villas.

The Sotheby's International Realty network currently has more than 23,000 affiliated independent sales associates located in 1,000 offices in 70 countries and territories worldwide. The firm's brokers and clients will benefit from Sotheby's network by being able to access international developments and listings through affiliate offices worldwide.

The launch of Oman Sotheby's International Realty opens a new destination for foreign investors. Tourism is enshrined as a key pillar of the Oman National Vision 2040 and considered as an engine of economic growth which has already seen over OMR20 billion in investments as it continues to develop.

TEASER IMAGES

Hyundai offers first peek at STARIA, new MPV with premium and futuristic design

DUBAI: Hyundai Motor Company unveiled teaser images of STARIA, the brand's new multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) lineup. The images show the STARIA Premium, a high-end variant of STARIA standard model.

The STARIA name combines 'star' and 'ria'[1], in reference to the vehicle's future-oriented product values and streamlined design characteristics defined by one curve gesture silhouettes as well as clean and pure body volume.

STARIA reflects Hyundai's commitment to lead the future mobility industry as a Smart Mobility Solution Provider, under the brand's vision of 'Progress for Humanity.' STARIA is equipped with various driver-centric features and futuristic design elements that deliver new experiences for drivers and passengers that make time in transit more productive and worthwhile.

STARIA offers a strikingly futuristic and mysterious ex-

terior, resembling a spaceship. The front is highlighted by a long, horizontal daytime running light and headlamps positioned underneath. The spaceship vibe is echoed by its expansive panoramic windows and lower belt lines, underscoring the openness of the interior. The height of the cabin is also optimised for premium comfort and convenience, making it ideal for both business and family use.

"STARIA is Hyundai's new MPV lineup that opens up a new mobility era," said SangYup Lee, Senior Vice President and Head of Global Hyundai Design. "STARIA will provide a completely new experience and value proposition for customers through its unprecedented design features."

STARIA Premium, which will be available in select markets, takes mobility to the next level, sporting premium features and variant-exclusive finishes for a more luxurious look and feel.

BLOOD DONATION EVENT HELD

A blood donation event was organised by Hamdan Group in coordination with Sultan Qaboos Hospital Salalah. Around 30 employees from Hamdan Exchange, Hamdan Plaza Hotel, Hamdan Transport, Hamdan Trading Group gave their blood as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Tariq Ahmed Muflih, Dr Mohammad Ahmed Morgan from Qaboos Hospital, Rajesh MP, Govind Raj, Fawas, Premkumar from Hamadan Group were present throughout to make this programme successful. Rajesh, General Manager - Hamdan Exchange said, "Due to the pandemic situation the demand for blood donation is high since last many months. We will keep continuing these kinds of social commitments across the nation as we have employees located in different regions. To make it better, we are also thinking about the inclusion of our loyal customers and business partners in future activities." — Supplied picture



WEBINAR

Al Mar'a Fe Aser Al Nahda: Women in Renaissance event organised

MUSCAT: The Al Mar'a Fe Aser Al Nahda: Women In Renaissance webinar organised by BPOS Global was held on Monday under the auspices of Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, who was the chief guest. Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, Member of the Majlis Al Dawla, Chairperson for Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial & Consumer Solutions (ITICS) of Mohsin Haider Darwish was the Guest of Honour.

This webinar was a great success. BPOS Global was immensely proud of how the event came together and they are eternally grateful to the panellists from Oman, the USA, Canada and Sri Lanka, who shared their stories. Without their contributions, BPOS Global would not have been able to produce such a well-rounded and informative webinar. Wholly and strongly positive feedback received by the Organizers from within Oman and globally proved that this event was a wonderful success. The presentations by the successful Omani women role models showcased the achievements of Omani women over the past half-century.

BPOS Global is indebted to their sponsors, the Exclusive Presenting Partner – Oman Arab Bank, the Supporting Partners – Khimji Ramdas, Muscat Pharmacy, United Finance Company and Lakhoos Exchange and the Media



Partner – Times of Oman, who helped make this event possible.

Anselm Perera, the CEO, BPOS Global said, "I am delighted that through the webinar, BPOS Global, was able to bring the brilliant stories of our panellists to everyone's attention."

To ensure the benefit of this webinar was felt well into the future, he said that BPOS Global will make it available for streaming on our Facebook page and YouTube. He thanked the BPOS Team who

worked tirelessly to present this webinar that has received many accolades and appreciations.

He added, "I believe the nation will be forever grateful to Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said for His Majesty's vision in bringing women to the forefront of Omani society and to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for His Majesty's renewed efforts towards equality for women, and His Majesty's wise leadership in developing the Omani women's role for the future."

ROUND-UP



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Own stylish, powerful Kia Sportage and save with exclusive benefits

The stylish and powerful Kia Sportage makes a mark with its advanced features, fuel-efficient performance and inspiring technology

MUSCAT: Kia Sportage is now available with cash gift up to OMR2,900 (Varies on MY / grade selected), 0 per cent interest rate for 2 years, 3.49 per cent interest rate from 2 years up to 5 years, insurance (comprehensive & private), up to 8 years/80,000km service package and registration 1 year. (Conditions apply. Please visit your nearest Kia showroom for details.)

The stylish and powerful Kia Sportage makes a mark with its advanced features, fuel-efficient performance and inspiring technology. The Sportage features front and rear fog lamps and projection headlamps with bulb type LED daytime running lights, 17" alloy wheels and Continental tyres that enhance the SUV's overall looks for a more modern appearance.

The Sportage also features power outer side mirrors, a keyless entry system, auto cruise control, side repeater lamps in the outside mirror, roof rack and cargo screen among others. The Sportage's cabin exhibits a sense of modernity. It is equipped with power windows, rear AC vents, steering audio controls, Bluetooth, radio with USB, tinted glass, driver's seat height adjuster, 60:40 split rear seats, tilt steering,



a trip computer, sunglass case and cigar lighter with an ashtray.

The Sportage is available in options of 1.6-litre GDi Euro4, 130 hp engine producing 16.4 kg.m. Torque; 2.0-litre MPI Euro4, 153

hp engine, producing 19.6 kg.m. torque and 2.4-litre, 182 hp engine producing 24.2 kg.m. torque. The engines are paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission.

Already a strong performer in

Euro NCAP's important 'Safety Assist' category, Sportage buyers have access to a wide array of existing driver-assist systems. These include an anti-lock braking system (ABS), driver and front

passenger airbags, electronic stability program (ESP), hill-start assist control (HAC), downhill brake control (DBC), tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) and rear parking assist system.

Kia models are equipped with some local accessories to enhance their looks, feel and functionality. Customers are welcome to get full details of these local fitments by visiting any Kia showroom.

CONSOLIDATED PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Results exceed expectations for Ferrari in 2020, COVID-19 downturn offset by a recovery in H2

MARANELLO: Ferrari NV announced its consolidated preliminary results for the fourth quarter and 12 months ended December 31, 2020.

The company recorded net revenues of Euro 3,460 million, down by 8.2% over the previous year, and total shipments of 9,119 units in 2020, down 1,012 units or 10% vs. the year prior, in line with H2 production planning after a seven-week production suspension in H1 and a temporary closure of dealerships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The downturn was partially offset by a gradual production recovery in H2 2020.

Sales of both 8-cylinder models (V8) and 12-cylinder models (V12) were down 10.3% and 9.0%, respectively. The Ferrari Monza SP1 and SP2 were delivered as originally scheduled, and the F8 family ramp-up offset the decline in the 488 Pista family, which was approaching the end of its lifecycle. The 812 GTS was in the ramp-up phase and reached global distribution, while the Ferrari Portofino phased out ahead of the introduction of the Ferrari Portofino M in 2021. The deliveries of the SF90 Stradale started in Q4 2020 following the industrialization delays experienced and then solved. In addition, the Ferrari Roma commenced deliveries in the same quarter.

Yearly shipments were affected

The company recorded net revenues of Euro 3,460 million, down by 8.2% over the previous year, and total shipments of 9,119 units in 2020, down 1,012 units or 10% vs. the year prior, in line with H2 production planning after a seven-week production suspension in H1 and a temporary closure of dealerships due to the COVID-19 pandemic

by the deliberate geographic allocation, driven by the phase-in pace of individual models. As a result, EMEA and the rest of APAC were almost in line with the year prior, while the Americas was down 19.8%. Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan posted a decrease of 45.5%, mostly as a consequence of the advance deliveries in 2019.

In 2020, for the first time in Ferrari's history, three new cars were unveiled with dedicated digital events: the Ferrari Portofino M, the SF90 Spider and the 488 GT Modificata, shipments of which will commence in 2021.

Total net revenues

Net revenues for 2020 were Euro 3,460 million, down 8.9% at con-

stant currency. The decrease of revenues from Cars and Spare Parts to Euro 2,835 million (down 3.1% or 4.1% at constant currency) reflected lower deliveries as well as their personalization. This was partially offset by the positive mix thanks to the Ferrari Monza SP1 and SP2. The decrease in Engines revenues (Euro 151 million, down 24.0%, also at constant currency) reflected lower shipments to Maserati and revenues from the rental of engines to other Formula 1 racing teams.

Sponsorship, commercial and brand revenues (Euro 390 million, down 27.5% or 27.8% at constant currency) were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in a decreased number of Formula 1 races as well as lower in-

store traffic and museum visitors.

Other revenues (Euro 84 million, down 19.5% or 18.3% at constant currency) were mainly impacted by reduced sports-related activities and the cancellation of the Moto GP at the Mugello race-track, only partially offset by the first-ever Formula 1 Grand Prix held at the Mugello racetrack.

Currency - including translation and transaction impacts as well as foreign currency hedges - had a positive impact of Euro 32 million (mainly USD).

2020 highlights

Suspension of production in Maranello and Modena due to the Covid-19: On March 14, 2020, Ferrari announced the decision to suspend production in Maranello and Modena in light of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ferrari gradually restarted its Maranello and Modena plants on May 4, 2020, returning to full production by Friday, May 8, 2020.

Termination of the third tranche of the disclosed multi-year share repurchase program: On April 1, 2020, Ferrari announced that it would temporarily suspend its multi-year share repurchase program in its Third Tranche (with Euro 154 million executed out of a total of Euro 200 million) and, consequently, to early terminate its non-discretionary share repurchase agreement in place.



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