

MEETING

Sayyid Fahd, Turkish Minister review ties



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received here on Wednesday Mevlut Cavusoglu, Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

After Sayyid Fahd welcomed the guest and his accompanying delegation, the growing relations between the two countries and means of promoting cooperation between them were reviewed in all economic and trade fields, in addition to encouraging joint ventures. Current regional and international issues and developments were also reviewed.

The Turkish Minister conveyed greetings of the leadership of Turkey to His Majesty Sultan

Haitham Bin Tarik. He expressed the importance of visiting the Sultanate due to its positive outcomes at the level of exchanging visions on several matters of concern to the two countries.

The Turkish Minister also affirmed his country's appreciation to the balanced policy pursued by Oman in its international relations, as well as the Sultanate's support to paths of understanding among nations. He also commended the talks he conducted with the Omani Foreign Ministers and officials.

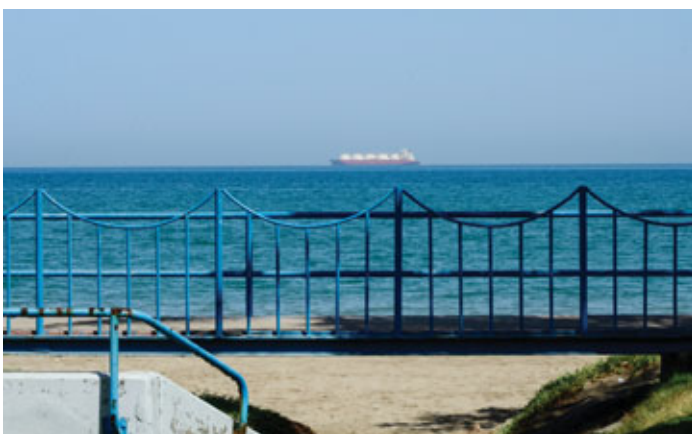
The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Ayse Sozen Usluer, Turkish Ambassador to the Sultanate. -ONA

The Committee has decided for a mandatory institutional quarantine for all arrivals at their own expenses

MUSCAT: The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic held a meeting on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al-Busaidi, Minister of Interior. The meeting was aimed to discuss updates on the pandemic, measures for prevention of infection and ways to address other impacts.

The Supreme Committee issued the following statement: "With extreme anxiety, the committee took note of the unabating

PARKS AND BEACHES TO BE CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- To continue the closure of all land borders of the Sultanate till further notice
- To make institutional health isolation compulsory to all incoming travellers at their own cost
- To keep commercial activities in North Al Sharqiyah closed from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. with effect from 12 February 2021
- To close all beaches, leisure spaces and public parks in all governorates from 11 February 2021
- 50% visitors allowed to government departments or private establishments or business outlets or restaurants or cafeterias or cafes serving shisha or indoor sports halls, from 11 February 2021



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

'Read fine print before switching jobs'

1 Expats looking to change jobs must make sure they fulfil all of the conditions related to leaving their company that are listed in their current employment contract. The advice comes in the wake of the removal of the No Objection Certificate, which was required before 1 January 2021, for non-Omanis staff. **>A2**

WORLD

Senate goes ahead for Trump impeachment

2 US Senate has voted to proceed with the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. The Senate voted 56-44 that the impeachment trial of Trump is constitutional despite calls from some Republicans to dismiss proceedings. Six Republicans voted with all 50 Democrats. **>A6**

MARKET

Bank deposits grow 2.9% to OMR24.3bn

3 The total deposits held with ODCs (other depository corporations) reached OMR24.3 billion at the end of December 2020, increasing by 2.9 per cent from December 2019, CBO data shows. Total private sector deposits increased by 10.5 per cent to OMR16.8 billion.



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Asr.....	3:40pm
Maghrib.....	6:05pm
Isha.....	7:16pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5.26am

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A story on Driver Visa renewal reached 43,974 people and had 11,724 engagements on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

4,700 VIEWS

Let's Talk Legal episode promo

The Let's Talk Legal episode promo on NOC got 4,700 views and reached 15,100 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

2,409 VIEWS

Fighting Covid episode

The Fighting Covid episode had 2,409 views and 124 likes on Instagram

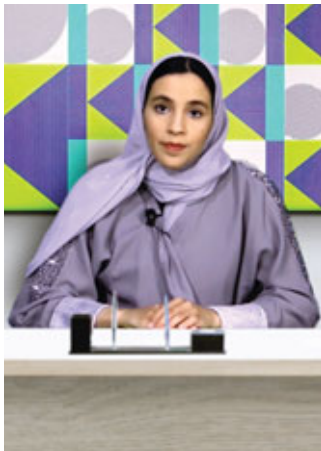
Read contract fine print before switching jobs

The advice comes in the wake of the removal of the No Objection Certificate, which was required before 1 January 2021, for non-Omani employees to switch jobs in the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expats looking to change jobs in Oman must make sure they fulfil all of the conditions related to leaving their company that are listed in their current employment contract.

The advice comes in the wake of the removal of the No Objection Certificate, which was required before 1 January 2021, for non-



EXPERT ADVICE: "Once you plan on getting a new job, ask all the right questions and read your contract carefully," said Ola Al Nabhani, a lawyer at local law firm BK Law

Omani employees to switch jobs in the country.

"Once you plan on getting a new job, ask all the right questions and read your contract carefully," said Ola Al Nabhani, a lawyer at local law firm BK Law. "This is because your previous employer may place continuing obligations on you so that you do not compete with them

by joining companies or businesses that work in the same field.

"You are also not allowed to divulge any previous knowledge that comes to you from your former employer during the course of your work," she added, speaking to Times TV. "You don't even need to justify the grounds for leaving your employer. However, you must make sure your current contract comes to an end."

Depending on the nature of the contract, there are many ways in which they can be ended, explained Al Nabhani. Before switching from one job to the next, though, there are two things expatriates need to keep in mind.

"The first is that your employment relationship with your current employer is over before pursuing another one, and that your next relationship is approved by the government authorities," she said. "Either your contract naturally comes to the end of its term, or it is terminated beforehand. This can happen in multiple ways, depending on the type of contract you have.

"If you have an unlimited contract, and receive a monthly salary,

then the employer may, on justifiable grounds, terminate your contract after issuing a 30-day notice," Al Nabhani added. "However, if you have an unlimited contract but receive your wage in a different manner, your employer may terminate your contract on justifiable grounds with a 15-day notice."

Expatriates who wish to voluntarily leave their jobs but are on unlimited contracts can provide a resignation letter, provided they uphold the same notice period as stipulated by their employers. "On the other hand, if your employment contract is limited, the only way it can be terminated is subject to the terms of the contract," Al Nabhani went on to say. "However, please take note that once a limited contract is renewed, it is considered unlimited, even if the employer places a specific term of employment in its renewal."

The removal of the NOC "enables employers to draft non-standardised contracts," she said. "What this means is that you'll have more bargaining power and greater flexibility in negotiating terms that are higher than those prescribed by the law."

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AGREEMENT

National Museum to display antiques at Muscat International Airport soon



JOINING HANDS: The agreement was signed by Jamal bin Hassan Al Mousawi, Secretary-General at the National Museum of Oman, and Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, as part of the collaboration between the National Museum and Oman Airports.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Museum of Oman and Oman Airports signed an agreement to display artefacts in a museum corner at Muscat International Airport.

The agreement was signed on Wednesday at the National Museum of Oman in Muscat by Jamal bin Hassan Al Mousawi, Secretary-General at the National Museum of Oman, and Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, as part of the collaboration between the National Museum and Oman Airports.

Commenting on the agreement, Jamal Al Mousawi, "This agreement is aimed at strengthening joint cooperation in the cultural field in accordance with the goals set by the National Museum which include reaffirming noble Omani values, raising public awareness and promoting a sense of belonging for citizens, residents

and tourists alike towards Oman – its history, heritage, and culture.

"This agreement entails lending of museum collections for a museum set up at Muscat International Airport, through which we strive to infuse Muscat International Airport's passages with a unique cultural experience from the country's National Museum."

For his part, Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, said, "We are pleased to have concluded this agreement with the National Museum, which is in line with our mission to uncover the magnificence of Oman – its cultural potential and its time-honoured heritage to all visitors and travellers through Muscat International Airport owing to its touristic and cultural significance in the Sultanate."

He further added, "This agreement will add more value to the airport's terminal, as this museum corner will convey live models

and reflect Oman's historical and sociological realities discovered through an outstanding travel experience that we aspire to offer through the Sultanate's airports."

It is worth mentioning that by collaborating with Oman Airports, the National Museum seeks to enrich travellers' experience by offering cultural spaces that highlights the three expanses of Muscat International Airport, which represent the sea, oases, and desert.

The set up will display some of the museum's finest collections in proportion to these elements either as graphic works, as well as open displays in a corner dedicated to the National Museum at Muscat International Airport. The selected collections tell a story about the prominence of Muscat International Airport marking a new era in the history of Oman's connection with the world.



Souq Al Madina set to open to the public in Madinat Sultan Qaboos



7,500

Leasable Area (sqm)

60+

Shopping Outlets

400+

Parking Spaces

10AM-10PM

Centre Timing

Souq Al Madina, the retail and commercial centre in the heart of Madinat Sultan Qaboos, will open its doors to the public next week. The development, promoted by the WJ Towell Group, promises a unique and traditional shopping experience that captures the magic of traditional Omani souqs, offered along with modern conveniences.

“Souq al Madina is a unique lifestyle destination that has been developed to recreate the charm of the old souqs that have been part of Omani culture for centuries. It’s a matter of great pride that Souq Al Madina stands testimony to our roots right at the heart of Madinat Sultan Qaboos.”

- Ivor Braganza, CEO of Towell Property

Souq Al Madina is a key part of the redevelopment of Madinat Sultan Qaboos’ popular commercial precinct which has been home to a number of premium brands over the years. The Souq is spread over 3 levels and can house more than 60 brands spread over 7,500 sq.m of leasable area.

Speaking on the state of the industry and the way forward, Ivor said, “Online retail has grown significantly over the past few years and has received a boost during this pandemic. While some might consider this a challenge for the retail industry, these times represent an opportunity for the industry to adapt to a new hybrid model and not just survive – but thrive. The ones who will do so are those that will reimagine and redefine their stores and business model for the digital age. Brick and mortar stores still have an enormous opportunity to leverage the in-person shopping experience that digital stores will find hard to replicate online.”

On the occasion of the opening of the Souq and Spinney’s, Sabah Hassan, said, “Spinney’s is a key part of our tenant mix for the retail centre that will focus on Convenience, Cuisine, Community and Culture. This opening is yet another milestone in our long and trusted 40+ year relationship with Fine Fare Foods.”



The Souq will bring together both international brands as well as home grown concepts to serve the needs of residents in the Madinat Qaboos, Madinat Ilam, Shatti al Qurum, Qurum 29 and surrounding areas. The tenant mix is designed to focus on catering the convenience needs of the community, areas for souq, handicrafts and luxury items, health and wellness, apparel and food and beverage – including full and quick service restaurants, cafés, delis, and confectioners.

The Souq precinct is already home to several brands, banking institutions and premium retailers that have enjoyed success with a majority having traded for over 10 years.

“Souq al Madina offers a lucrative opportunity for both global brands to increase their reach as well as local home-grown concepts to break out in a competitive market; whether you’re looking at expanding or relocating an underperforming store, Souq al Madina is an opportunity that you won’t want to miss out on.”

- Sabah Hassan, General Manager



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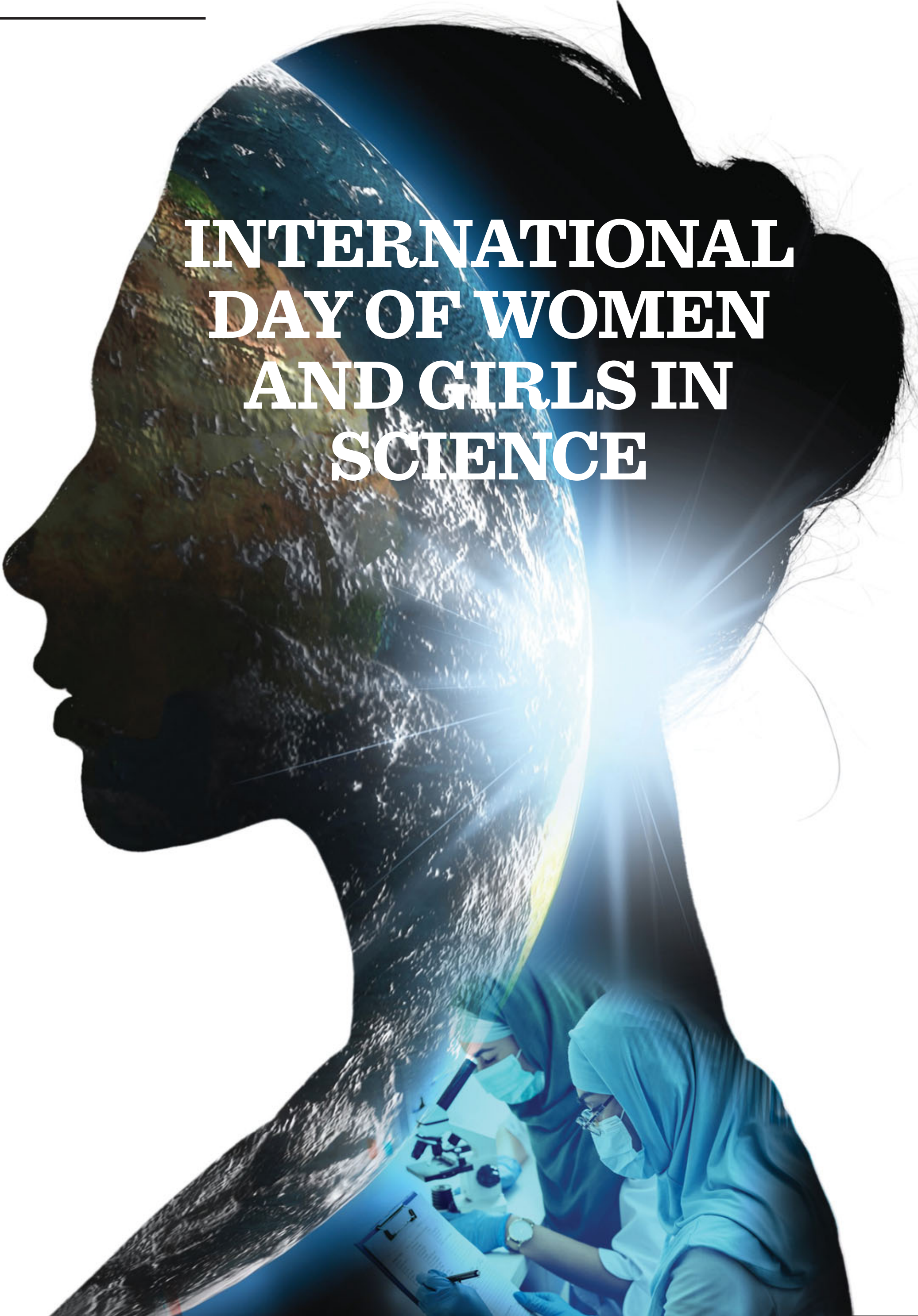
henever we refer to the greatest scientists of the world, the names that instantly come to our minds are Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton and many others who have made remarkable discoveries and have changed our understanding of the world. But let's not forget that in this journey of science and discoveries there are many women who have also made significant strides. Be it Marie Curie who discovered radioactivity and invented a mobile X-ray unit during World War to become the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, Rosalind Franklin for her revolutionary work in discovering the double helix structure of DNA, astronomer Vera Rubin who discovered the existence of dark matter, Janaki Ammal, a botanist from India, who as In-

dia's first female plant scientist, developed several hybrid species and Wong-Staal who was the first scientist to clone HIV and create a map of its genes... the list is endless. To honour the achievements of these women from the past and to encourage those who are currently making a difference in the world of science so that they achieve full and equal access for participation in science and further achieve gender equality, the United Nations General Assembly declared February 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. According to the reports by the United Nations over the past 15 years, though the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in

science, yet women and girls continue to be excluded from participating fully in science. At present, less than 30 percent of researchers worldwide are women. This year the theme is 'Women scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19'. According to the UN, "The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the critical role of women researchers in different stages of the fight against COVID-19, from advancing the knowledge on the virus, to developing techniques for testing, and finally to creating the vaccine against the virus. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic also had a significant negative impact on women scientists, particularly affecting those at the early stages of

their career, and thus contributing to widening the existing gender gap in science, and revealing the gender disparities in the scientific system, which need to be addressed by new policies, initiatives and mechanisms to support women and girls in science. Against this backdrop, this year's celebration of the Day will address the theme "Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19" and will gather together experts working in fields related to the pandemic from different parts of the world." In Oman, there are many women who are finding their stance in science and are excelling as well. A considerable number of female graduates are majoring in sciences, such as chemistry, biological technology and environmental biology.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE





Turkish Minister hails Oman's foreign policy

Sayyid Theyazin meets China's envoy

Invitation to Tender





OMAN WORLD



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US Senate votes to proceed with impeachment trial of former President Trump

The Senate voted 56-44 for the impeachment trial of Trump is constitutional

WASHINGTON: US Senate on Tuesday voted to proceed with the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump.

The Senate voted 56-44 that the impeachment trial of Trump is constitutional despite calls from some Republicans to dismiss proceedings. Six Republican senators voted with all 50 Democrats. “The Senate shall proceed with the trial,” said Democratic senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, who is presiding over the trial, after the vote was tallied. The vote came after House impeachment managers and Trump’s



defense team spent four hours debating over whether a president who is out of office can be subject to a Senate trial. Congressman Jamie Raskin of Maryland, the lead impeachment manager, opened his presentation with a video showing disturbing footage of how protesters overran police and ransacked the Capitol. The 13-minute video concluded with Trump’s deleted tweet on Jan. 6, which said “these are the

things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so uncereemoniously & viciously stripped away.” “If that’s not an impeachable offense, then there’s no such thing,” Raskin said. Trump’s legal team contended that Trump did not incite the rioters and that his speech about the election was protected by the First Amendment. Trump’s lawyer David Schoen charged that Democrats were us-

ing impeachment as a political “blood sport” to try to keep Trump from running for office again. Opening arguments in the trial are set to begin Wednesday. It will continue at least through Friday, but could extend into next week. The House impeachment managers and Trump’s team will have 16 hours over two days each to present their case to the Senate, according to the agreement struck between Democrats and Republicans, as well as the House managers and Trump’s legal team. The House, where Democrats have a majority, voted to impeach Trump over “incitement of insurrection” on Jan. 13, a week after his supporters stormed the Capitol building. Trump has rejected a request that he testify during the trial, and the former president’s legal team argues that any conviction would be unconstitutional. Senate conviction requires a two-thirds majority. Democrats, who only hold half of the 100 Senate seats, would need at least 17 Republicans voting to convict the former president. **xinhua**



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

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

His Majesty sends cable of congratulations

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Dr Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on his country’s National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the president and for his country’s people further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**

SUPREME COMMITTEE

< FROM A1 Institutional health isolation compulsory

Common causes of non-compliance include holding large gatherings for social occasions, individuals’ failure to stick to quarantine procedures or wear face masks and the failure of some establishments to abide by health measures. On the recommendations of the specialised technical team, the Supreme Committee has decided to impose the following conditions:

- To continue the closure of all land borders of the Sultanate till further notice, except for the passage of trucks. Omani citizens abroad who wish to return to the Sultanate will be allowed to return home, but only within a period of 10 days from the time of publication of this statement, namely till 10 a.m. of Sunday 21 February 2021, after which no individuals will be allowed to enter the Sultanate till such time that the closure of land borders is lifted. All citizens wishing to come back to the Sultanate (within the 10-day period) have to undergo institutional health isolation at their own cost, besides being abiding by other procedures imposed on incoming travelers.

■ To make institutional health isolation compulsory to all incoming travellers via land, sea and air border checkpoints, all at their own cost, because many failed to adhere to home quarantine and breached previously approved procedures.

■ To keep all commercial activities in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate closed from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. with effect from the evening of Friday 12 February 2021, for a period of 14 days, with the exception of fuel filling stations, health establishments and private pharmacies.

■ To close all beaches, leisure spaces and public parks in all governorates of the Sultanate with effect from Thursday, 11 February 2021, for a period of two weeks, while at the same time maintaining the ban on all gatherings, irrespective of their whereabouts—be it in rest-houses, farms, winter camps, manor houses or elsewhere. The committee recommends avoiding assembling of families within homes or other private places.

■ Down-sizing by 50% of the number of visitors to government departments or private establishments or commercial centres or business outlets or marketplaces or restaurants or cafeterias or cafes serving shisha or indoor sports halls. The downsizing begins in the morning of Friday 12 February 2021 and continues till further notice.

■ Postponement of loan premiums payable to (the previous) Al-Raffid Fund by owners of small and medium enterprises for the period from 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021. This is in addition to offering incentives to beneficiaries from (the previous) Sanad and Livelihood Resources Programme. The incentives will be announced later by the authorities concerned.

Avoid travelling abroad
The committee strongly advises all citizens and residents to avoid travelling abroad during the coming period, except in cases of extreme necessity. It also reminds all that many countries have re-imposed curbs on movement and travel.

Elaborate check-up
The committee recommends minimising the travel of citizens and residents to be dispatched abroad on official missions or participation.

The Supreme Committee reaffirms that it will maintain elaborate check-up of updates on the pandemic, locally and internationally, and that the authorities concerned will continue to penalize all offenders who breach the decisions undertaken to protect individuals and society against the spread of the virus and its new strains.

Punitive action
The punitive action includes exposing the offenders by publishing their names and photos in the media. The authorities concerned will also shut down any business establishment found to be violating the procedures. Such establishments will be exposed to the public through the media, which will publish names and particulars of the breaching establishments. May the Almighty Allah to protect all people against all harm!” — **ONA**

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Refreshment Company SAOG, I am pleased to present to you the annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Business Environment

Omani economy has been significantly impacted in 2020 by COVID-19 global pandemic situation compared to the previous year, this has been coupled the volatile international oil prices and other regional & global economic challenges.

The consumer-packaged goods market in Oman remains subdued mainly due to recent adaptation of new excise tax decree on all sugary products related drinks coupled with operational environment posed several challenges such as affordability of all type of drinks along with the increasing stiff competition Snacks product segment in a highly price sensitive local market. On the other hand, stagnant consumer prices at multiple customer channels have added to the existing challenges of the business environment. Also, the operating margins were severely tested by the growing pressures of flat gross margins, revised fees, and charges, labour market and wages bill.

Financial Highlights

The company has achieved a net profit after tax of RO 8,585,198 on a total turnover of RO 63,962,261 for the year 2020 compared to net profit after tax of RO 8,456,046 on a turnover of RO 63,765,515 in 2019. The overall revenue has slightly increased by 0.3% despite the overall economical situation. The management, in partnership with the principal (Pepsi co) has introduced new line of products such as Sport Drink (Gatorade) and Lipton Ice Tea (PET), in addition to No Added Sugar juice product range, as well as cereals and frozen vegetables. The company continued its efforts aiming at reducing the price impact on the consumers and has been continuously improving efficiencies out of various cost control & costs optimisation measures, despite the challenges of increased prices of certain key input materials compared to previous year, due to the prevailing job market conditions.

During the year 2020, the Gross Profit margins (GM) has increased to 42.2% (40.1% in 2019) and Profit After Tax have increased marginally to 13.4% in 2020 (13.3% in 2019) Respectively.

There were no changes in the past year or expected in the next year to the overall financing structure of the company other than financing of certain capital expenditure projects through long term borrowings for efficient working capital management.

Further, company has contributed to various corporate social responsibility activities by an amount totaling 108,000 Omani Rials, out of which 100,000 Omani Rial was contributed to the COVID-19 prevention efforts

Internal Control System

The Board has regularly reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the existing internal control system in the Company and found it to be satisfactory.

Dividend

The Company's dividend policy is to reward the shareholders by distributing an optimal amount of profits earned during the year. While considering the payout for the year, the Board of Directors considers the need for retention due to new project/investment possibilities and additional working capital to be financed. The Company strives to maintain a balance between current payout and a sustainable, growing dividend rate.

Based on company performance during 2020, and after reviewing the company's liquidity requirements, future

earnings and shareholders interest, the Board is pleased to recommend a cash dividend of 50 Baizas for each share for the year 2020.

Future Outlook

As part of improving business productivity and operational efficiencies, the company shall continue to invest suitably in operational capabilities & facilities to meet the diversified consumer preferences, upgrading & modifying business systems and replacing aging assets. The Company is aware of the intense competition in a highly price sensitive local market and will remain focused to sustain & profitably maintain its market share. The company is optimistic about the future prospects with the product expansion & diversification plans in the pipeline and continued focus on achieving improved operational efficiencies. However, the volatile prices of key input raw materials, packing materials, unstable job market & rising wage bill and stagnant consumer prices, besides growing fees & charges for various public services, proposed reduction /removal of subsidies for certain utilities and recent adoption of new excise tax decree on sugary products in addition to the new regulations for VAT implementation in April 2021 and other changing regulations may severely impact profitability of the Company in the near future. The company is closely monitoring the raw material prices and endeavors to minimize their adverse impact through forward purchase commitments. Further, the Company is also watchful of the ongoing changes in the regional economic conditions due to volatile international oil prices which may also impact its business performance and consequently its investment strategies.

Nurturing Omani talent & Omanisation of workforce

Implementation of the new organization structure, policies and procedures, revision to the pay structure benchmarked to the leading industry practices that was aimed at attracting and retaining the best local talent, is already delivering the desired results in terms of attracting best available local talent, staff retention and moderate staff turnover. Though, these measures continue to have significant financial impact, the Board believes that the Company has now geared up to meet the needs of the dynamic job market and the challenging business environment.

As a responsible Omani corporate citizen, the Company is totally aligned with Sultanate of Oman strategic vision to nurture Omani talent in the private sector. The company's HR strategy focusses on recruitment of right staff & their continuous development, through on the job training and by providing focused learning opportunities commensurate with the responsibilities to enable them assume higher responsibilities in the organization. The Company consistently maintained its staff Omanisation target above the prescribed requirement.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the performance of the management and employees of the Company. I also take this opportunity to thank our consumers, customers, Pepsi Co, other key partners, bankers and various Government authorities for their valuable support.

Further, on behalf of the Board of Directors & the management, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and His Government for their wise leadership, guidance and direction which continue to motivate and inspire us towards greater participation in the development and service of Oman. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bestow His Majesty with the best of health and bless him with long life to lead the Sultanate of Oman on the path of prosperity.

Buti Obaid Al Mulla
Chairman

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Parent		Consolidated	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Assets				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	26,804,459	26,686,865	27,014,287	26,922,344
Intangible assets	-	-	613,714	663,714
Right-of-use assets	11,845	23,690	11,845	23,690
Investment in subsidiary companies	730,000	730,000	-	-
Deferred tax asset	132,698	289,360	132,698	289,360
Term deposits	23,901,720	7,000,000	23,901,720	7,000,000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	13,765	13,765	13,765	13,765
Total non-current assets	51,594,487	34,743,680	51,688,029	34,912,873
Current assets				
Inventories	6,677,934	6,160,293	6,763,483	6,299,719
Trade receivables	6,103,930	6,129,276	6,281,170	6,323,931
Other receivables	4,916,616	5,352,955	4,214,708	4,569,077
Other current assets	3,256,830	1,183,014	3,294,382	1,191,201
Advance for property, plant and equipment	-	280,952	-	280,952
Term deposits	16,930,385	25,500,000	16,930,385	25,500,000
Cash and cash equivalents	11,821,985	6,614,936	11,890,039	6,853,121
Total current assets	49,707,680	51,221,426	49,374,167	51,018,001
Total assets	101,302,167	85,965,106	101,062,196	85,930,874
Equity and liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Legal reserve	1,666,667	1,666,667	1,668,770	1,668,770
General reserve	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Retained earnings	60,070,222	53,889,305	59,971,025	53,885,827
Total equity	69,236,889	63,055,972	69,139,795	63,054,597
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	2,731,780	5,308,971	2,731,780	5,308,971
Lease liabilities	-	11,845	-	11,845
Employees' end of service benefits	1,268,239	1,492,496	1,272,862	1,494,733
Total non-current liabilities	4,000,019	6,813,312	4,004,642	6,815,549
Current liabilities				
Term loans	7,656,154	2,654,486	7,656,154	2,654,486
Lease liabilities	11,845	11,845	11,845	11,845
Trade and other payables	18,981,754	12,136,646	18,837,651	12,093,100
Provision for income tax	1,415,506	1,292,845	1,412,109	1,301,297
Total current liabilities	28,065,259	16,095,822	27,917,759	16,060,728
Total liabilities	32,065,278	22,909,134	31,922,401	27,876,277
Total equity and liabilities	101,302,167	85,965,106	101,062,196	85,930,874
Net assets per share	1.385	1.261	1.383	1.261

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FULL YEAR

	Parent		Consolidated	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Revenue	63,441,144	63,169,098	63,962,261	63,765,515
Cost of sales	(36,645,125)	(37,807,677)	(36,986,326)	(38,182,855)
Gross profit	26,796,019	25,361,421	26,975,935	25,582,660
Selling and distribution expenses	(13,977,285)	(12,969,415)	(14,207,084)	(13,156,557)
General and administrative expenses	(3,604,275)	(3,595,008)	(3,644,713)	(3,632,368)
Impairment loss on financial assets	(499,721)	(127,240)	(502,569)	(127,240)
Other income	83,391	86,546	83,391	97,687
Finance income (net)	1,447,941	1,171,483	1,447,941	1,171,483
Profit before income tax	10,246,070	9,927,787	10,152,901	9,935,665
Income tax	(1,565,153)	(1,465,220)	(1,567,703)	(1,479,619)
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	8,680,917	8,462,567	8,585,198	8,456,046
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to equity holders of the parent company	0.174	0.169	0.172	0.169

Notes:

- The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder, who requests them either in Arabic or English, within 7 days of receipt of such request.
- The address to which the shareholder should send his/her request is as follows: Oman Refreshment Company SAOG, P.O. Box 30, CPO Airport, PC 111, Sultanate of Oman



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Ola Al Nabhani
Lawyer at BK Law Firm

VACCINE ROLLOUT

EU chief von der Leyen says bloc was ‘too late’ on vaccine approvals

BRUSSELS: Questions — and criticism — faced the European Commission head on Wednesday as she explained the bloc’s faltering vaccine rollout to the European Parliament.

Ursula von der Leyen is under pressure as EU states lag behind the front-runners in the race to inoculate their populations against COVID-19.

The Commission chief had previously confessed that the EU underestimated possible complications and delays in vaccine production.

What did von der Leyen say?

In the plenary session on Wednesday, the Commission president said the bloc had been too late to authorise vaccines and that it had placed too much confidence in vaccine suppliers.

“We were too late on the ap-



provals. And perhaps we were too sure that what we ordered would actually arrive on time,” von der Leyen said.

“We need to ask ourselves why this was the case and what lessons we can draw from this experience.”

Von der Leyen defended the EU’s joint procurement program, which saw the bloc order vaccines collectively.

“I cannot even imagine if just a handful of big players, big member states, had rushed to it and everyone else would have been left empty-handed. What would that have meant for our internal market and for the unity of Europe?”

Opening her address, von der Leyen said the vaccination campaign in Europe had gained momentum, with 26 million jabs

given to 17 million people so far.

“We’re going to work as hard as we possibly can to meet our objective so that at the end of the summer, 70% of the population will have been vaccinated,” she added.

What have the problems been so far?

European Union leaders have faced public anger and scrutiny over the slow rollout of the immunisation programme in member states.

They became embroiled in heated public disputes with pharmaceutical companies over shortages in the supply of the vaccine.

In particular, von der Leyen criticized British-Swedish giant AstraZeneca amid major hold-ups at one of its EU production sites. She accused the firm of falling short on contractual commitments to supply its vaccine to EU governments. **ow**

INCREASE IN TRANSMISSIBILITY

UK variant of COVID strain detected in 86 countries: WHO

WASHINGTON: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday (local time) announced that coronavirus variant B.1.1.7, which was first identified in the United Kingdom on September 20, has been reported in 86 countries.

The variant B.1.1.7 has shown an increase in transmissibility, and some evidence of increase in disease severity based on preliminary findings. As of February 7, an additional six countries have reported cases of this variant, CNN reported. In the UK, for example, COVID-19 test samples of this strain increased from 63 per cent in the week of December 14 to 90 per cent in the week of January 18, the WHO said in its weekly epidemiological update.

The WHO has also been monitoring two additional coronavirus strains that are actively



spreading: B.1.351, initially seen in South Africa, and the P.1 strain that was first identified in Brazil, CNN reported.

As of February 7, the B.1.351 strain has been reported in 44 countries, while the P.1 strain has been reported in 15 nations, said the WHO. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

Moving beyond Paris, India steps up its climate ambitions

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India.

NEW DELHI: Five years after the Paris Agreement, India is among the few developing countries that are not only meeting their “green” targets but are aspiring for more ambitious climate goals. At the recent Climate Ambition Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated the Indian approach. He said that we must set our sights “even higher”, even as we do not lose sight of the past.

He added that India would not only achieve its Paris Agreement targets, but would exceed them. At the U.N. Climate Action Summit in 2019, Modi said that an ounce of practice is worth more than a ton of preaching. We are taking practical steps across all areas, including energy, industry, transport, agriculture and protection of green spaces, in our whole-of-society journey to become a leader in climate action and climate ambition.

India recognises that climate change cannot be fought in silos. It requires an integrated, comprehensive and holistic approach. It requires innovation and adoption of new and sustainable technologies. Conscious of these imperatives, India has mainstreamed climate in its national developmental and industrial strategies.

Energy is at the centre of all climate strategies. We believe India has become a clean energy powerhouse and is a leader in energy transition from carbon dioxide-producing sources to renewables and non-fossil-fuel sources.

We intend to keep harnessing India’s renewable energy potential. Our renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world and the capacity expansion being

undertaken is also one of the largest in the world. The bulk of this will come from the cleanest energy source, the sun.

We are seeing progress already. We initially committed to 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022. We have gone further and expect to cross 220 GW in the next two years. We have an even more ambitious target of 450 GW by 2030.

We are working to ensure that 40% of electric power in India is from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. This clean energy push goes hand-in-hand with a parallel effort to reduce the emissions intensity of our economy by 33-35% (from 2005 levels) by 2030.

The Ujala scheme – a national drive to use LED lamps – is reducing CO2 emissions by 38.5 million tonnes every year. The Ujjwala scheme, under which over 80 million households have been provided access to clean cooking gas, is one of the largest clean energy initiatives in the world.

Climate action and sustainability is being brought into government schemes across multiple sectors. Our Smart Cities Mission is working with 100 cities to help them become more sustainable and adaptable to the challenges of climate change. The National Clean Air Programme aims to reduce air pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) by 20-30% in the next four years.

The Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India, has a strong sustainability focus. More trees are being planted and degraded land is being reclaimed to create a carbon “sink” that can absorb 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO2. We are

also working rapidly to create a green transport network, to offset a sector known for its polluting emissions particularly in our big cities.

India is building next-generation infrastructure such as mass transit systems, green highways and waterways. A national electric mobility plan is creating an e-mobility ecosystem with the aim to have over 30% of all vehicles on India’s roads to be electric.

These initiatives are for our own good as India is among the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

We recognise there is still a long way to go but these efforts are already paying dividends. India’s emission intensity has reduced by 21% over the period 2005-2014. Over the next decade, we are expecting even greater reductions.

India intends to be a responsible global citizen in the climate space. We are not only going beyond our Paris Agreement commitments. We are adopting innovative instruments to further international cooperation in climate action.

We have created international organisations like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure that are working on creating global low-carbon pathways. More than 80 countries have joined the International Solar Alliance, making it one of the fastest-growing international bodies. This combination of national action and responsible international citizenship makes India unique amongst developing countries and is placing it on the path to realise its ambitions to be a leader in thought and action on climate.

The views expressed in the write up are personal

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Solskjaer defends van de Beek for tidy job in FA Cup quarters

Solskjaer's remarks came as United defeated West Ham 1-0 in the FA Cup quarterfinals

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has come to the rescue of Donny van de Beek, saying that the defender did a neat and tidy job in the FA Cup match against West Ham United. Solskjaer's remarks came as United defeated West Ham 1-0 in the FA Cup quarterfinals on Tuesday. The only goal of the match was registered by Scott McTominay. Van de Beek got a chance in the starting XI as Bruno Fernandes was benched for the clash against West Ham. "I thought in the first half, we and Donny played really well. We created spaces and he was part of that. He did his job neat and tidy,



FA CUP: The United manager also praised the performance of Dean Henderson and Mason Greenwood in the FA Cup clash against West Ham.

had a half chance. In the second half, the whole team fell off a little bit and we just wanted to make a few changes," Goal.com quoted Solskjaer as saying. Solskjaer decided to bring van de Beek out of action in the 73rd minute and Bruno Fernandes

came in as a substitute. The United manager also praised the performance of Dean Henderson and Mason Greenwood in the FA Cup clash against West Ham. "Mason did really well. He played well managing his minutes, played the last three [games]. An-

thony [Martial] played a game the other week and we wanted him to complete the game," said Solskjaer. United is currently at the second place in Premier League standings with 45 points from 23 matches. The side will next take on West Brom on Sunday. **ANI**

FOOTBALL



Mourinho confident of ending Tottenham Hotspur title drought

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho has said that if his side is able to win the Carabao Cup then all the talk of Harry Kane not winning a title will stop. Kane has been a consistent performer for Tottenham, but he does not have a single title to show for his efforts and off late, there have been talks regarding the striker's future at the club. Mourinho has said that if Tottenham is able to defeat Manchester City in the finals of the Carabao Cup, then all the talk about Tottenham not winning a title will end. "To win a trophy, Kane just needs to win one game. I know that it is a big, difficult game. I know

that it is against probably the team that is going to win the Premier League this year, so I think it is a very difficult final that we will have to play," Goal.com quoted Mourinho as saying. "But to win a trophy, we just need to win a match. You have to ask Harry, but I think 'to wait' is not the right way to describe it. Is to fight for it, is to fight for it. But it's something very personal that I think he is the right guy to have a conversation with you about it," he added. Tottenham Hotspur are currently at the eighth spot in the Premier League 2020-21 standings with 36 points from 23 games. The side will next take on Manchester City on Saturday. **ANI**

COPPA ITALIA

Pirlo delighted as Juventus advance to Coppa Italia final

TURIN: After Juventus progressed to the Coppa Italia final, manager Andrea Pirlo said he is pleased with the performance of his players and wants them to "stay focused". The second leg of the semi-final between Juventus and Inter Milan ended in a 0-0 draw, but that was enough for Pirlo's side to advance as they had won the first leg 2-1. "I hoped to get to this stage of my debut campaign and be in the last 16 of the Champions League, have won the Super Cup and reached the final of the Coppa Italia, but we haven't done anything yet so we have to keep working away and stay focused," the club's official website quoted Pirlo as saying. "I'm lucky to have four excellent centre-backs and they're all doing well. We played well today because Inter hardly had any shots on goal. We had the best chances and [Samir] Handanovic was the



best player on the pitch. We defend in a 4-4-2 but mix it up when we're building moves depending on the opponents," he added. In the final, Juventus will either face Atalanta or Napoli. The second leg of the semi-final between Atalanta and Napoli will be played on Thursday. Juventus will next play against Napoli in the Serie A on Saturday. **ANI**

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Novak Djokovic progresses to third round of Australian Open

MELBOURNE: Serbian tennis star and world number one, Novak Djokovic on Wednesday progressed to the third round of the ongoing Australian Open. Djokovic outclassed America's Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-7, 7-6(2), 6-3 to win the second-round match at the Rod Laver Arena. The world number one got off to a good start and went on to take an early 4-1 lead in the first set, but Tiafoe made a comeback of sorts and brought the scoreline to 4-3. However, the Serbian maintained his composure and took the first set 6-3. The second set was a close affair and both Djokovic and Tiafoe went back and forth to bring the scoreline to 5-5. Tiafoe then managed to pile on the pressure and won 7-6. Tiafoe also gave Djokovic a tough fight in the third set which also went down to the tie-breaker, but Djokovic managed to win it in the end. The Serbian was now just one set away from progressing to the third round.



Djokovic went for the kill in the final set and his efforts were rewarded as he ended up winning the match. Earlier in the day, Stan Wawrinka bowed out of the Australian Open in the second round as he lost a five-set marathon against Marton Fucsovics. Fucsovics pulled off a second-round stunner as he saved three match points before sending 2014

champion Stan Wawrinka out 7-5, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 7-6(11). Fucsovics claimed the first two sets before Wawrinka came from behind and won the next two sets. With his two-set lead erased, Fucsovics approached the fifth set swinging freely and once again met Wawrinka blow for blow. The set went the tie-breaker and it was Fucsovics, who emerged victorious. Dominic Thiem also progressed

to the third round of the Australian Open with an easy win over Germany's Dominik Koepfer in the second-round. The Austrian outclassed his opponent in three straight sets 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 in one hour and 39 minutes. Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka sailed into the third round of the ongoing Australian Open after registering a comfortable win over France's Caroline Garcia on Wednesday. The third-seeded Osaka set the tone in the first game by belting three aces, one on a second serve down the tee. Osaka defeated Garcia in two straight sets (6-2, 6-3) in the match that lasted for 61 minutes. Osaka had clinched her first-round match on Monday after defeating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in straight sets 6-1, 6-2. Earlier in the day, American tennis star Serena Williams stormed into the third round of the tournament as she emerged triumphant in her second-round fixture. **ANI**

CRICKET ROUND-UP

OHI, Ideal International, Vanderlande notch victories

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abhishek Rai struck a superb 69 off 39 to help Douglas OHI to a thrilling 4-wicket victory against Design Group Engineering Consultants in a C Division T20 League game at Muscat Municipality ground 2 in Amerat on Friday. Design Group posted a robust 167 for 4 on the board thanks to brilliant batting by Parvez Beg who slammed unbeaten 98 off 59. OHI's chase was led by Abhishek's to knock that included 4 sixes and Waman Jagannath's solid 28-ball 39 as it scored 168 for 6 in 19.5 overs for a sensational win. **Brief Scores** (C Division): Design Group Engineering Consultants 167 for 4 in 20 overs (Parvez Beg 98 - 8x4, 3x6, Hemendrasinh Chatrapal 37 - 3x4) lost to Douglas OHI 168 for 6 in 19.5 overs (Abhishek Rai 69 - 6x4, 4x6, Waman Jagannath 39 - 4x4, 1x6, Muhammed Althaf 3-30, Nishan Padma 2-31) by 4 wickets.

Deepak shines in Ideal win In another C Division match, Deepak Bhandari's excellent all-round show steered Ideal International to a comfortable 7-wicket win over Jumbo Electronics at Muscat Municipality ground 1. Ideal did well to restrict Jumbo



Syed Arfan and Younus Murad of Al Jaddidi Engineering. - Supplied picture

Electronics to 115 for 7 thanks to Deepak's splendid 2 for 10 in four overs and then chased it down in only 8.1 overs, scoring 117 for 3 thanks to major contributions from Salman Khan (43) and Deep-

ak Bhandari (37). **Brief Scores** (C Division): Jumbo Electronics 115 for 7 in 20 overs (Gireesh Nair 29 - 2x4, Deepak Bhandari 2-10) lost to Ideal International 117 for 3 in 8.1



Wajid Ali of Pitspot. - Supplied picture

overs (Salman Khan 43 - 5x4, 2x6, Deepak Bhandari 37 - 6x4, Chandra Mouli 2-30) by 7 wickets.

Rahul leads Vanderlande to victory Rahul Chadha's top class 83 and 3 for 23 were the highlights of

Vanderlande's exciting 19-run victory against Ideal Technology in a D Division T20 League game at Muscat Municipality ground 3. Vanderlande's impressive 205 for 5 was led by Rahul's 52-ball 83 and Barathwaj Vinayagam's 54 off 41. Ideal Tech fought well but fell short by 19 runs, getting dismissed for 186 in 19.4 overs due largely to Rahul's 3 for 23. Harish Mohan and Amir topscored with 44 each. **Brief Scores** (D Division): Vanderlande 205 for 5 in 20 overs (Rahul Chadha 83 - 10x4, 1x6, Barathwaj Vinayagam 54 - 4x4, Deepesh Unnikoru 2-44) beat Ideal Technology 186 all out in 19.4 overs (Harish Mohan 44 - 6x4, Amir 44 - 7x4, Rahul Chadha 3-23, Aasim Mohammed 2-21, Irtaza 2-30) by 19 runs. **Brief Scores** (D Division): Spanio & Vdd 159 for 7 in 20 overs (Jeason Jacob 56 - 9x4, Ranjith Kumar 45 - 4x4, Younis Murad 4-26, Gokul Gopinath 2-36) lost to Al Jaddidi Engineering and Contracting 160 for 4 in 19.2 overs (Syed Arfan 55 - 7x4, Sadhik Mohammed 33 - 5x4, Jeason Jacob 3-19) by 6 wickets. **Brief Scores** (D Division): Jotun Cricket Team 128 for 7 in 20 overs (Renju Radhakrishna 44 - 6x4, Fahad T Hamsa 2-25, Aneesh Chaziyottill 2-28) lost to Pitspot 132 for 3 in 17.4 overs (Wajid Ali 65

- 9x4, Rajesh Periyannan 30 - 5x4) by 7 wickets. **Brief Scores** (E Division): Ghantoot Group 166 all out in 19.5 overs (Vishal Parshottambhai 48 - 4xx4, 1x6, Huzefa Sodawala 2-20, Muhammad Ghafoor 2-25, Yusuf Patanwala 2-28, Issam Othman 2-37) beat Sketch International 155 for 8 in 20 overs (Yusuf Patanwala 43 - 2x4, 1x6, Saravanan Manickam 3-27, Kirit Tandel 2-24) by 11 runs. **Brief Scores** (E Division): Mazon Up 190 for 8 in 20 overs (Feisal Babu 73 - 5x4, 1x6, Muhammed Ali 32 - 5x4, Samir Faizu 2-11, Khalid Rahim 2-28) routed Oct Al Hail 'B' 114 all out in 18 overs (Ahmed Ghulam 30 - 3x4, Fahad Mohamed 4-12, Ashfakh Chaikinakath 3-17, Sheriff Muhammed 2-16) by 76 runs. **Brief Scores** (F Division): KCA Deutag 121 for 6 in 20 overs (Khalid Balushi 31 - 2x4, Sifiyan Muhammed 3-16, Yasir Jamal 2-21) lost to Israr Ghala 122 for 3 in 13.4 overs (Ahmed Tahir 44 - 5x4, Haneef Mohammed 2-22) by 7 wickets. **Brief Scores** (F Division): BSI CT 136 for 7 in 20 overs (Usman Siddique 32 - 5x4, Mohammed Ali 2-21) lost to ACT Cricworld 137 for 9 in 19.5 overs (Mohammed Ali 86 - 11x4, 2x6, Saud Haroon 4-13, Druvin Shetty 3-15) by 1 wicket.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by April 2021 reaching \$60.45, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil declined by 5 cents. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM index closed at 3,559.73 points, down 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.24 per cent at 534.48 points. Galifar Engineering, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 7.89 per cent, was the top loser.

Total deposits in Oman’s banking sector grow 2.9% to OMR24.3bn

Islamic banking entities provided financing of OMR4.3 billion at the end of December 2020, recording a growth of 9.5 per cent over that a year ago

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Data issued by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) indicated that the total deposits held with ODCs (other depository corporations) reached OMR24.3 billion at the end of December 2020, increasing by 2.9 per cent from December 2019. Meanwhile, total private sector deposits increased by 10.5 per cent to OMR16.8 billion.

As per the preliminary data released by National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Oman's nominal GDP showed a decline of 16.5 per cent during the third quarter of 2020 over the same period of the year 2019.

The contraction was driven by a 24.4 per cent decline in the hydrocarbon sector coupled with the decline in the non-hydrocarbon sector by 12.4 per cent during the third quarter of 2020.

The Omani oil price averaged \$46.0 per barrel during January- December 2020, was lower by 27.6 per cent over the cor-



NCSI DATA: The total outstanding credit extended by other depository corporations grew by 3.3 per cent to OMR26.7 billion at the end of December 2020, while credit to the private sector showed relatively moderate growth of 1.1 per cent (Y-o-Y) to reach OMR22.9 billion. - **File picture**

responding period of last year. Moreover, the average daily oil production decreased by 2.1 per cent to 950,700 barrels during this period. The Sultanate Consumer Price Index (CPI) witnessed a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) negative growth of -0.9 per cent during Jan-December 2020.

The ODCs represent the combined activities of conventional and Islamic banks in Oman. The total outstanding credit extended by ODCs grew by 3.3 per cent to OMR26.7 billion at the end of December 2020, while credit to the private sector showed relatively moderate growth of 1.1 per cent (Y-o-Y) to reach OMR22.9 billion.

The shares of the non-financial corporate sector and the household sector (mainly under personal loans) in the total private sector credit stood at 46.5 per cent and 45.0 per cent, respectively, at end-December 2020.

The share of financial corporations was 5.1 per cent and other sectors received the remaining 3.4 per cent of the total private sector credit as at end-December 2020.

In terms of the sector-wise composition of private sector deposits, the households deposits represented the share at 51.0 per cent, followed by non-financial corporations at 32.3 per cent, financial corporations at 14.3 per

cent and the other sectors at 2.4 per cent.

The combined balance sheet of conventional banks showed a Y-o-Y growth of 2.2 per cent in total outstanding credit as of end-December 2020. On the assets side, conventional banks' credit to the private sector decreased marginally by 0.6 per cent Y-o-Y to OMR18.8 billion while their overall investments in securities increased by 20.2 per cent to OMR4.3 billion at end-December 2020.

Investment in Government Development Bonds increased by 10.6 per cent over the year to OMR1.8 billion while their investments in foreign securities stood

at OMR1.1 billion at the end of December 2020, higher by 1.9 per cent over the position a year ago. Aggregate deposits held with conventional banks increased by 2.4 per cent Y-o-Y to OMR20.5 billion at end-December 2020. G

overnment deposits with conventional banks decreased by 18.7 per cent to OMR4.4 billion, while deposits of public enterprises decreased by 14.9 per cent to OMR1.1 billion. Private sector deposits, which accounted for 70.3 per cent of total deposits with conventional banks, increased by 10.8 per cent during January-December 2020 to reach OMR14.4 billion.

Islamic banking entities pro-

vided financing of OMR4.3 billion at the end of December 2020, recording a growth of 9.5 per cent over that a year ago. Total deposits held with Islamic banks and windows increased by 5.4 per cent to OMR3.8 billion. The total assets of Islamic Banks and Windows increased by 6.3 per cent on a Y-o-Y basis to OMR5.2 billion and constituted about 14.5 per cent of the banking system's assets as at end-December 2020.

Among the indicators of monetary aggregates, narrow money (M1) at the end of December 2020 increased by 4.1 per cent Y-o-Y to OMR5.6 billion. Likewise, quasi-money (Rial Omani saving and time deposits, certificates of deposit issued by banks, margin deposits and foreign currency denominated deposits) registered a significant increase of 10.9 per cent during this period. Broad money supply M2 (M1 plus quasi-money) grew by 8.9 per cent to reach OMR19.3 billion at the end of December 2020.

The weighted average interest rate on RO deposits increased marginally from 2.006 per cent at end December 2019 to 2.013 per cent at end December 2020, while the weighted average RO lending rate increased from 5.461 per cent to 5.510 per cent over the same period. Meanwhile, the overnight Rial Omani domestic inter-bank lending rate fell significantly to 0.700 per cent in December 2020 from 2.139 per cent a year ago, reflecting transmission of policy rate cuts by the Federal Reserve and by the CBO.

The average Repo rate for liquidity injection by the CBO at end-December 2020 stood lower at 0.5 per cent compared with 2.236 per cent a year ago.

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC issues \$600mn, 10-year bond

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), a member of Nama Group, floated a \$600 million bonds in the international bonds market maturing in 10 years, in February 2021 at an interest rate of 5.800 per cent.

This is the first Government Related Entity (GRE) issuance out of Oman since 2018 and it marks OETC's return to the capital markets after a brief hiatus of about 4 years, said the company in a statement issued.

Strategic importance

The offering benefitted from improving investor sentiments towards Oman, further highlighting the strategic importance of NAMA Holding, its affiliate firms, partners in international money markets and investors.

Building on the stellar marketing effort and, thanks to strategic diversification operations to woo investors, NAMA successfully engaged investors on the OETC Bond transaction, paving the way for the State Grid International Development (SGID) to become a 49 per

This is the first Government Related Entity issuance out of Oman since 2018 and it marks Oman Electricity Transmission Company's return to the capital markets after a brief hiatus of about 4 years, said the company in a statement issued

cent stakeholder in OETC.

Overall, investors from across Asia, Europe and the Americas showed keenness to participate in the OETC offering making up over 83 per cent of the allocable order book. The well-diversified allocation of orders across these regions is testimony to the strength of the OETC's credit profile, as well as the excellent teamwork that the DMO at Ministry of Finance and the NAMA, OETC and SGID Team put together.

Proceeds from this successful \$600 million international place-

ment will be used to refinance some of the existing loans, including the shareholders loan extended to OETC by NAMA and SGID, and to fund OETC's capital expenditure programme thereby allowing the Company to deliver on its infrastructure development plans for the Sultanate of Oman.

OETC is authorised to undertake all regulated activities of electricity transmission and dispatch in northern Oman and Dhofar at voltages of 400kV, 220kV and 132kV. One of the major OETC capital expenditure programmes

is the execution of the first phase of the 400kV North-South Interconnector project.

The extension of the Main Interconnected System will significantly boost the supply of fuel and electricity in the Sultanate and bring about improvement to loads across various power systems, enabling them to deliver renewable energy to new project areas, share spinning reserves and achieve a reduction in the cost of operation.

Further, the bond proceeds will support OETC to execute a 400kV project for the connection of a Solar Power Plant (PV) of 1000MW at the Wilayat of Manah, Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah by 2024 and 2025. Such major investments will enable OETC to meet the growth in demand and connect committed and future resources.

The OETC transaction was anchored by global EM bond funds, which continue to look for high-quality assets. The ability to generate a book that peaked at over \$4.5 billion on a day where equities were notably softer. It is yet another evidence of the strength

MANUFACTURING SUMMIT

OER summit to focus on opportunities in Oman's manufacturing sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OER's Manufacturing Summit to be held on March 24 will train the spotlight on the opportunities and challenges facing the manufacturing sector in Oman.

It will do a deep dive into unlocking the potential of the sector, creating job opportunities and negotiating new found challenges i.e. logistical disruption, shrinking international export markets and enhanced global and regional protectionist policies. OER's first of its kind manufacturing summit will bring in government officials, C-suite executives, consultants and analysts to discuss a cross-section of issues impacting the manufacturing sector in Oman, possible solutions and the way ahead.

Sohar Aluminium and Moon Iron and Steel Co (MISCO) have signed up as partners for OER's Manufacturing Summit and Awards 2021, a flagship event by the Sultanate's premium business magazine, which will take place in Muscat.

Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Deeb, Deputy Chairman, Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) will be the guest of honour at the summit.

Oman Manufacturers Association (OMFA) and Credit Oman are the endorsement partners of the summit, which is organised by UMS Events. Sohar Aluminium and MISCO have signed up as the associate partners. *Times of Oman* and *Al Shabiba* are the media partners and Businesslive.me.com, the online media partner.

Priority sector

The manufacturing sector is one of the priority sectors identified by Tanfeedh or The National Programme for Enhancing Economic Diversification. The sector is also a key sector for the creation of job opportunities within the country. Oman offers a strong value proposition for

manufacturing with a wide range of industrial estates and special economic zones (SEZs) adding to the attraction.

Madayan, the nodal agency for industrial estates which manages and operates eight industrial cities in Sur, Sohar, Raysut, Nizwa, Buraimi, Rusayl, Samail, Ibri in addition to Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM) and Al Mazunah Free Zone attracted OMR6.6 billion worth of investments in 2019. Oman's geostrategic location is also a considerable advantage with the country's three principal sea gateways in Sohar, Duqm and Salalah connecting it to some of the world's busiest trading routes and most dynamic markets.

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic and a challenging economic situation owing to low global oil prices have led to a host of challenges for manufacturing companies such as - supply chain disruption, vanishing export markets, increased downtime, sustaining business and the need for a skilled workforce.

A number of manufacturing companies have undertaken Industry 4.0 initiatives such as digital transformation, smart manufacturing and flexible production. These changes have led to process improvement, increase quality management and enhanced safety.

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to hasten the pace of adoption of the Fourth Industrial Revolution practices. Negotiating the impact of the economic downturn, strengthening supply chains for minimal disruption, mitigating shrinking export markets and protectionist tendencies, the necessity of adopting 4.0 industrial processes and attracting skilled manpower and Organisation will be the key topics of discussion.

Manufacturing sector Excellence Awards 2021 will also be presented at the summit. The awards will recognise exceptional organisations and individuals in the sector.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Leveraging digital technologies key to Asia's COVID-19 recovery: ADB

MANILA: Digital platforms and other technology-based tools are providing new growth opportunities for businesses of all sizes and across all industries in Asia and the Pacific, a trend which can contribute significantly to the region's sustainable recovery from COVID -19 pandemic, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Asian Economic Integration Report 2021 looks at Asia and the Pacific's progress in regional cooperation and integration and examines the initial impact of the pandemic on trade, cross-border investment, financial integration and movement of people.

The latest edition features a special theme chapter on the role and potential of digital technologies in contributing to inclusive and sustainable development, how digital technology can spur post-pandemic recovery in the region and ways to accelerate digital transformation while managing the risks effectively.

Global linkages

"Countries in Asia and the Pacific have leveraged rapid technological progress and digitalisation to recover and reconnect to the global economy during the pandemic. Technology is helping to forge new global linkages which offer enor-

mous economic opportunities, but also present new risks and challenges," said ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada on Wednesday.

"It is imperative to implement policies and regulations that manage disruptions and maximise gains from the burgeoning digital economy, and to lock in these gains through enhanced regional cooperation," he said in a statement.

Business-to-consumer revenues of digital platforms reached 3.8 trillion dollars in 2019 globally with Asia and the Pacific accounting for about 48 per cent of the total or 1.8 trillion dollars, equivalent to 6 per cent of the region's gross

domestic product.

These figures are expected to have significantly increased in 2020 as more business transactions - like ride-hailing, food delivery, and e-commerce - migrate to the digital space amid restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Accelerated digital transformation can potentially boost global output, trade and commerce, and employment. According to the report, a 20 per cent increase in the size of the global digital sector can increase global output by an average of 4.3 trillion dollars yearly from 2021 to 2025. - **ANI**

MARKET

MSM index ends lower

Galfar Engineering, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 7.89 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,559.74 points, down 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.24 per cent at 534.48 points. Galfar Engineering, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 7.89 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 612 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR153 million, with more than 11.72 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded stocks, 6 advanced, 15 declined and 30 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR59,000 while Local investors were net sellers for OMR46,000 followed by foreign

investors for OMR12,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,248.62 points, down by 0.33 per cent. National Finance, Oman Emirates Holding, Ahli Bank and National Life Insurance were up by 4.00 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 1.96 per cent, and 1.12 per cent respectively. Muscat Finance, United Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, Vision Insurance, and Sohar International Bank were down by 7.89 per cent, 5.00 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 2.50 per cent and 1.30 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 4,676.33 points, up 0.22 per cent. Galfar Engineering and Al Anwar Ceramic were up by 8.00 per cent and 0.67 per cent respectively. Jazeera Steel was down by 0.9 per cent respectively.

Services index was down by 0.21 per cent before closing at 1,583.54 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,568.12	3,557.78	3,559.74	3,566.13	-6.39	-0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,261.28	5,243.53	5,248.63	5,265.79	-17.17	-0.33
Services Index	1,587.31	1,583.54	1,583.54	1,586.85	-3.30	-0.21
Industry Index	4,690.13	4,676.33	4,676.33	4,666.19	10.14	0.22
MSM Shariah Index	535.76	534.49	534.49	535.76	-1.28	-0.24
MSM TR INDEX	4,072.02	4,060.23	4,062.47	4,069.75	-7.29	-0.18

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
11,724,569	1,536,528	612	20,239,029,976	6	15	30	51

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	5,000	700	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.154	0.100	11,900,000
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	4,130	1,289	2	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.312	0.300	0.318	0.100	63,200,000
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN	62,000	5,208	5	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.092	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000001533 OMAFINA FIN	152,504	49,313	11	0.324	0.324	0.322	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.322	0.322	0.328	0.100	261,714,235
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	5,485	1,508	4	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.280	0.100	90,989,995
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	278,543	18,662	13	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.070	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000002077 AL OMANIYA FIN	3,000	198	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.071	0.100	19,267,721
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	272,827	212,806	12	0.792	0.792	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.000	0.000	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.100	585,000,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER	90,392	31,933	25	0.358	0.358	0.350	0.354	0.354	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.350	0.354	0.100	83,689,140
OM0000003988 OOREDOO	18,705	7,853	9	0.418	0.420	0.418	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	273,368,577
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	10,000	2,620	1	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.100	14,410,000
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	681,992	272,795	49	0.400	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.402	-0.002	-0.498	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.100	1,299,809,016
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD	307,790	67,535	27	0.222	0.222	0.218	0.219	0.222	-0.003	-1.351	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.100	17,353,653
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT. BANK	1,776,545	134,094	83	0.076	0.078	0.074	0.075	0.077	-0.002	-2.597	0.075	0.074	0.079	0.100	182,588,005
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV	50,287	3,671	2	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.667	0.073	0.072	0.075	0.100	6,570,000
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	108,000	3,808	6	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	0.038	-0.003	-7.895	0.036	0.036	0.038	0.100	10,750,121
Total	16	3,827,220	613,983	251											

Parallel Market

OM0000003321 Galfar Engineer	3,949,811	211,224	159	0.055	0.055	0.051	0.053	0.050	0.003	6.000	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	15,368,974
OM0000002948 NATIONAL FINANCE	297,000	33,410	6	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.125	0.005	4.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	70,359,959
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	73,393	3,172	10	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.042	0.044	0.100	5,240,625
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	14,974	1,562	5	0.105	0.105	0.103	0.104	0.102	0.002	1.961	0.103	0.103	0.112	0.100	171,564,376
OM0000007043 NATIONAL LIFE INS	29,000	90,500	9	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.368	0.364	0.004	1.117	0.362	0.362	0.370	0.100	85,930,000
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	86,166	25,956	7	0.302	0.302	0.300	0.302	0.300	0.002	0.667	0.300	0.302	0.304	0.100	89,456,532
OM0000001020 OMAN CHROMITE	234	768	1	3.280	3.280	3.280	3.640	0.000	0.000	3.280	0.000	0.000	3.280	1.000	10,920,000
OM0000001485 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	134,589	16,960	9	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.100	904,869,241
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	155,398	12,123	5	0.078	0.080	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.079	0.080	0.100	156,024,398
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR	48,135	20,987	7	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.000	0.000	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.100	99,105,200
OM0000001822 UNITED POWER	68	61	1	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.896	0.900	0.880	1.000	720,000
OM0000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	1,874	262	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.148	0.100	13,320,000
OM0000001982 AL MADINA INV	20,000	140	1	0.060	0.100	0.100	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	298,267,144
OM0000003028 GULF INT-CHEMI	4,650	498	1	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.095	0.109	0.100	2,205,000
OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MRK	894	776	4	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.868	0.000	0.000	0.868	0.820	0.868	0.100	82,460,000
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	520,088	52,088	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	8,628,699
OM0000002572 OMAN OIL MARKETING	100,000	70,800	1	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.708	0.000	0.000	0.708	0.704	0.700	0.100	43,382,700
OM0000003000 AI MAHA MARKTING	1,000	586	1	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.000	0.000	0.586	0.586	0.586	0.100	40,434,000
OM0000003961 VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,704	779	1	0.455	0.455	0.455	0.455	0.455	0.000	0.000	0.455	0.455	0.455	0.100	8,628,699
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	343,255	32,469	20	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	142,500,000
OM0000004735 SEMBOCORP SALAH	3,120	303	2	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.092	0.097	0.100	93,548,051
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	362,389	18,119	10	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.054	0.100	72,130,073
OM0000006979 OMAN QATAR INSUR	29,900	2,995	5	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.100	0.110	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000007084 MCT DESALINATE	4,106	390	2	0.097	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000007811 MUSANDAM POWER	31,196	9,545	3	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.000	0.000	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.100	21,539,340
OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	28,729	17,641	7	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.664	0.664	-0.004	-0.602	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.100	103,950,000
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	82,000	18,170	7	0.290	0.290	0.288	0.288	0.289	-0.002	-0.690	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.100	17,626,831
OM0000004788 MADINA TAKAFUL	137,000	12,056	7	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	55,000	4,755	4	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.100	2,887,145
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	23,240	3,660	6	0.160	0.160	0.155	0.157	0.160	-0.005	-1.875	0.155	0.160	0.160	0.100	34,891,680
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	107,187	5,217	10	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.049	0.050	-0.001	-2.000	0.048	0.048	0.050	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000004825 ALBATINAH POWER	19,859	363	3	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004920 VISION INSURANCE	319,794	24,831	10	0.080	0.080	0.075	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.075	0.078	0.078	0.100	7,800,000
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	74,000	28,050	28	0.039	0.039	0.037	0.038	0.040	-0.002	-5.000	0.038	0.037	0.038	0.100	13,267,488
OM0000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,550	1,002	3	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.102	-0.007	-6.865	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
Total	35	7,897,349	722,545	361											

FITCH RATINGS

Budget proposals positive for India's insurance industry

MUMBAI: India's 2021-2022 Budget has proposed relaxing foreign-ownership caps on insurers and listing the country's largest state-owned insurer, measures that Fitch Ratings says will help the industry attract foreign capital, strengthen solvency and promote competition.

The proposals can encourage global insurers to enter the fast-expanding Indian market while international insurers already holding minority stakes in domestic companies may try to increase their ownership over the medium term.

Fitch said it expects a relaxa-

tion of foreign-ownership rules to attract international insurers and promote competition within the sector. This will in turn increase insurers' access to capital and improve the industry's solvency position. India's insurance penetration rate stood at 3.8 per cent in 2019. — **ANI**

SUCCESSFUL ISSUANCE

Apicorp issues \$750mn dollar-denominated 5-year bond

DAMMAM: The Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicorp), a multilateral development financial institution, announced the successful issuance of a benchmark \$750 million dollar-denominated five-year bond aimed at further bolstering the corporation's business operations and capital and liquidity positions.

The latest and final transaction of Apicorp's \$3 billion Global Medium-Term Note programme launched in 2020, the issuance was more than 2.5 times oversubscribed, with around 57 per cent of the more than \$2 billion in orders coming from central banks, multilateral development banks, and other sovereign, supranational and agency investors.

Dr Ahmed Ali Attiga, Apicorp's CEO said, "We are immensely pleased with the success of our latest US dollar bond issuance. The ability for Apicorp to issue in benchmark size and at historically low pricing, especially amid these challenging times in the global markets, speaks volumes of the stature of Apicorp in the global debt capital markets. In further bolstering our already strong capital and liquidity positions, we can continue to forge ahead with our development mandate."



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Furnished Bedroom with attached bathroom & kitchen, separate entrance for executive bachelor in a villa, opposite star cinema. Contact 99314807

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Showroom-Shop in Ghala near Berger Paint Factory Area 260 SQM Contact 99711949

1BHK near Oman house & CBD. Contact 99233116

Warehouse & flats 2BHK, 1BHK for rent in Ghala near bridgestone tyres. Contact 99349311, 98014921

Trailer for rent. Contact 95292064

For rent flats in Darsait. Contact 93639986, 99885957

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JOB VACANCIES

A leading construction and design company is looking for candidates for following position for immediate recruitment

Senior Accountant (1no.) – 7+ years’ experience with minimum of 4years construction back-ground in Oman with strong fund management, Budgeting, Cost Management, Project Costing, Banking, Cashflow forecasting, MIS, P&L, Profitability monitoring, taxation, Legal compliance etc. Experience in Procurement will be an added advantage.

Project Manager - Civil (1no.) – Must be B.E/B.Tech in Civil Engineer, with 15+ years’ experience in Civil construction & minimum 5years in Oman only, specialized in Construction projects, to manage the project independently, cost forecasting, pricing & ensure expenses are line with quotation, control and monitor labour, material and equipment’s expenses, deal with subcontractors. Very good knowledge of construction contracts, conditions, claims, scheduling and construction management skills. Speaking Arabic will be an added advantage.

Eligible candidates may forward their resume to: vacanciespec@gmail.com

A leading contracting company is looking for candidates for following position for immediate recruitment

Finance Manager – 1 no. – CA with 15 years’ experience in Oman, UAE from contracting background with strong commercial acumen, hands on in Group Finance & Fund Management, Banking, Budgeting, Cash Flow Forecasting, MIS, P&L, Cost Management, Profitability Monitoring, Taxation, Legal compliance etc.

Accounts Executive – 2 nos. – CA Inter with 8-10 years’ experience adept in Accounting of JVs, BRS, banking transactions, MIS, VAT, LC, vendor management well versed in ERP, Tally, MS excel etc. with prior contracting experience.

Eligible candidates may forward their resume to: omanjobs21@gmail.com

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The candidate should be:

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Contact: 90608097

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Looking for Senior accounts professional. Contact 92878705
Email CV to d-des.hr@gmail.com.

Urgently required Accountant who can handle up to finalization. Send your CV's to: unhjob@gmail.com

Urgent Requirement Office Assistants in Sohar (single status basis) commerce background preferred. Age limit 35years visa available. Email: career.hrdinfo@gmail.com

DOMESTIC HELP

Looking for experienced house-keeper for a European family.Full time or part time. Contact 99888143

ENGINEER

Electrical Company looking for Male Electrical Engineer (diploma/degree), 4- 10 yr Oman Experience , independently handle projects, Oman D/L. must. Send CV on e mail id: alsahil22@yahoo.com

MANAGER

Property Leasing Manager, send CV-vepsupervisor@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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

MEDICAL

Urgently required a Pharmacist & staff Nurse with MOH License to work in a well reputed clinic. Contact 79947844.
Email drsubualath@yahoo.co.in

Urgently required pathologist/ microbiologist with PHD, GP doctors, nurses, x-ray technicians, Arab speaking gynecologist, pediatrician, dentist & orthodontist for Salalah Oman. MOH license holders are preferred.
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Email hrrsalalah2021@gmail.com

A Staff nurse with MOH licence or with prometric 60% is required for a Clinic in Muscat Area Contact 91465358. Send your CV: ranjitbarua63@yahoo.com

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Indian Female with 15 years experience in Finance and Accounts looking for a Suitable position. Contact 94953826 /92824146

Looking for part time accountant job. Contact 91019796

Sr.Accountant, 18 yrs oman accounting experience on tally excel SAP upto finalisation.NOC & DL available. Contact 97887472, 92049205

Accountant, 15 yrs of professional experience including 8 yrs in Oman looking for suitable placement. Contact 79898089

Accountant, 5 yrs experience in Oman & India,looking for full time/parttime job. NOC available. Contact 98304173
email alexkkadoor@gmail.com

Indian male with 7+ yrs experience in General accounting, Reconciliations, MIS reporting & audit. Immediate joining. Contact 71752831.
email anish.cima@gmail.com

Indian Female 21 years, BA (Hons) Finance, 2 yrs exp in Accounts/Admin. Looking for suitable opportunities. Oman D/L Available.# 99862550
najlanishad1999@gmail.com

Young Indian Male with D/L, having 18 years Oman experience in Accounts/ Sales / Marketing, ready to join immediately - release letter available. Contact 95167629 / 99073704

Indian with 5 yrs experience in Acc & sale with valid DL,looking for suitable job. Contact 92531339

Indian male 30, B.Com,6 yrs experience in Accounts,sales & medical insurance sector in Oman.NOC available. Contact 98908761. Email ajmalhamza90@gmail.com

Indian male 26 yrs old,5 yrs experience in Accounts,looking for job.NOC available. Contact 79081319. email remeshmattakkara@gmail.com

Sudanese Accountant 3 years experience MBA holder 94706138

Indian male, MPA with +15 years of experience in accounts and finance (Oman, UAE & India) as Accounts Manager / chief & senior accountant on visit with NOC. Contact 79007124 / 78039524
Email: kadercock@outlook.com

Looking for Senior Accountant Position. Having 10 Years Experience and driving license . # 79202007

Indian Male Bcom MBA. 20 years experience in Finance, Tax, Budget, MIS, ERP. Contact 91190552/92243552

Well experienced Accounts Manager looking for suitable placement. Contact 99044724

Indian male with 12 yrs experience in construction companiesaccounts upto finalization.looking for suitable position.NOC & D/L available. Contact 96454187.
email srinath.kollam@gmail.com

Accountant having 3 yrs experience trained under CA,knowledge on tally ,peachtree,QB,tax,payroll,arabic typing on visit. Contact 78210435

Accountant M.Com with 13 years experience in Oman seeks suitable placement contact 79506513

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

B.Sc Indian lady fashion designer, 8 yrs experience looking for related job. Contact 96919159, 94004019. Email fashionpassion.trupti@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Hr & admin seek placement for Hr/admin executive/assistant. Contact 95425764

Indian female BE MBA has DL, looking for job in Muscat. Contact 968-97613235

Indian female looking for office assistant or accountant job. Contact 79826286

CMA-Inter, B.Com, 2 yrs experience in administration & accounts. Valid Oman DL. Contact 79775861, 93204471

MBA Graduate (25), 4 years GCC experience, DL, experience in hospitality, and eatery industry looking for a role in Administration, Business Development, Marketing or anything that involves management of a business. Major Plus: Quick Learning. Contact +968-91400234.
Email: shaheemraf@gmail.com

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience, Admin/Purchase/Stores/Operations. NOC,D/L. Contact 78363835

Indian Male - MBA (HR) & Engineering graduate, 12 yrs experience in HR Admin (incl. 3 yrs of Oman exp.) on visit visa. Contact 79857135

Filipino, female with 7 years experience in airline industry as cabin crew.looking for admin, office, Hr job. with Oman DL. Contact 79470206

Bangladeshi male (29 yrs), 8 yrs experience in filling,office assistant & entry level jobs in oman. NOC available. Contact 99891971
email: mnrajiboffice@gmail.com

Indian female 32, MBA(HR),exp Oman 4 yrs,India 4yrs in HR & admin, looking suitable placement. Contact 95619537

ARCHITECT

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

COOK

Indian cook with 8 yrs experience, looking for job. Now on visit visa. Contact 79850765

North indian & south Indian cook seeks job. Contact 90910705 Email sureshmenon579@gmail.com

Cook seeks job. Contact 79508817

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Driver job wanted. Contact 99797810, 97612115

MISCELLANEOUS

Driver plumber Electrician, looking for job. Contact 96750080

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian Female, Msc Biotechnology graduate currently in Muscat looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 94687398
Email gayathrisprem21@gmail.com

IT

Female, B.Tech (CS) digital marketing,5 yrs of project development exp & managing end to end project development activities. Contact 94403029
Email anna.shajua3@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Indian Male, Logistics Executive- 2+ years' Experience(MCT), MBA(UK), Valid Oman D/L, Seeks suitable opportunities, Contact 79221551 / shamfza3@gmail.com

MANAGER

Accounts/Finance Manager well experienced (29 Years), expert in cashflow & Credit management ,arranging loans, monthly MIS, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact 98803439

Project manager searching for job of managing projects for client company for construction.Presently working with high profile client,handling all the projects. Contact 99116074

Male having 10 years Experience (Oman), working as a "Fleet Manager" looking for a suitable position. Contact 93363316

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CONNECT

JOB WANTED

Indian male chief accountant 21yrs experience in financial accounting, budgeting and finalisation. Oman D/L familiar with Sap, customised ERP and Tally. On visit

Contact 78073734
Email sajeevsmi2005@gmail.com

Sales Manager

With BA Degree and above 5 years of experience in Oman Market looking for suitable opportunity.

GSM: 71744819
Email: mehdikassen@yahoo.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

FINANCE

Indian Male 32yrs (CMA, MBA-Fin.) with 10 Yrs (8yrs in GCC Manufacturing & SAOG) experience currently working as Asst. Finance Manager expertise in MIS reporting, Accounting upto finalization, Budgeting, Financial modeling, Business Analysis, IFRS, ERP & Advance Excel, seeking similar position in the Finance department.

Contact 99250104, Email: hyder065@gmail.com

Indian male B Com. ICWA intermediate with 20 years of Oman middle management experience in handling MIS, project finance management, managing banks, budgeting, forecasting, finalization of accounts and year end audits, seeks proper placement. NOC / DL available.

Please contact 94839479, sureshswaminathan2311@gmail.com

PROJECT ADMIN/CEO OFFICE MNGMT/HR/OPS CORPORATE & MKTG. COMMUNICATIONS/ADMIN

Indian, Masters, excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman exp in Airports Project, Hospital, Media in Project Coordination, Corporate & Mktg. Communication, CEO & Chairman Office Mngmt, Operations, Admin, HR. Immediate. NOC.

CONTACT 99283938

Indian female (M.Sc. chemistry), 2 years experience as a quality control officer seeking a suitable opportunity in any chemical industry/food industry /lab assistant.

Contact +968 71548622 cleetadsu7259@gmail.com

Senior Civil Engineer

Indian Post graduate civil engineer with 37 years of professional experience in Oman in property development and construction management seeks senior management opportunities in similar field.

Contact 96504377 jobsearchzac@gmail.com

FINANCE / ADMIN

Female with 8 years experience in Admin & Accounts looking for a suitable post.

Telephone: 96303874

FINANCE

Male with 7 years experience in accounts & admin looking for a suitable post.

Telephone: 97711584

Architect/ Interior Designer

36 yrs old, 12 yrs working in Design, Consultancy & project execution. Experience working in commercial, Institutional/Educational, residential construction, Hospitality, Interior design/ fit-out work. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/Tendering/ Estimation & execution. Ready to join immediately with D/L and NOC available

Contact: 78371040

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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: sakhthiveljothi@gmail.com

Senior MEP Manager

Indian Male: Btech, having 23 years GCC experience with valid Oman driving licence seeks suitable placement.

Contact GSM: 79880377
Email: jaksona8081@gmail.com

MBA, seeking job, 27 yrs experience in capable managerial candidature with rich experience in Business operations, Vendor development, Procurement and HR generalist. Can join immediately.

Whatsapp: 7730012111
Mobile: 94268870
Email: mvssmgbr@gmail.com

Facility Manager / Operation (Project-Civil) Manager

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Construction Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Security & Surveillance, Contacts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

Omani Mechanical Engineer

Omani, looking for a job, Bachelor in Mechanical Engg from the United States of America, +2 yrs of experience in Oil & Gas. + NEBOSH certification Holder.

Contact: 95070748
Email: siyabi430@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer

Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.

Please contact me on 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

Accountant Indian Male MBA Finance 2 years experience in india with good knowledge in tally seeks placement.

9539 1786

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Srilankan Senior Accountant looking for a suitable opportunity. 7 years experience in Oman & capable of handling accounts up to finalization. On hand experience in Tally, Spur, QB etc. Having D/L.

CONTACT: 92821932

PLANNING ENGINEER/MANAGER

Planning Engineer/manager 20 yrs experience in Mechanical, civil, pipeline 7 MEP projects using Primavera with NOC & D/L seeks suitable position.

Contact 92651105
Email reji_mathai@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

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

Contact 96324484

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

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

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

11+ Yrs of experience (10 Yrs Oman experience)

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- Experience in Building and Factory projects with Ministry & Private Clients.

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GSM: 94125368 ; premjithpremanathan@gmail.com

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.

Contact +968 78359939
Mail id: vargheseroy98@gmail.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)

MBA, B.Sc and CA (Intermediate) with 18 years of experience (12th year in Oman) in Retail, FMCG, Leasing and Property management sectors. Immediate joining. DL. NOC is available.

M: 9641 6394 / Mail: soms.acc133@gmail.com

HR Manager

17 years' experience in Finance & HR (10 Yrs), Indian Male, MBA & M.Com. NOC Available.

Contact: 96332608

Indian female B Com graduate having 7 years' experience as Accountant in Oman (Tally ERP 9). Seeking suitable placement in Accounts/ Admin.

Contact: 92999419
d.kaiyarla1986@gmail.com

Junior Architect with 3-years Oman experience in designing, proficiency in AutoCAD, Sketchup, Lumion Vray & Photoshop. Has worked in quantity estimations. Looking for suitable placement in Muscat.

Contact 95972625

OMANI HR/PRO

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

Contact 97264447

Finance/Accounts Manager

Indian male (MBA Fin) with 20 yrs working exp as Accounts & Finance Manager (Strategic planning, Procurement, Finance, Accounting, HR Admin, Audit, Tax, VAT) seeking suitable post. Valid Oman DL. NOC available.

Contact No.99705790
email: thoms_mat@yahoo.com

ADMINISTRATION

More than 22 years of experience, Indian, Male, having bachelor's degree seeking suitable placement, having experience in Administration/ Document Control/IT, HR, and Finance Support, with valid Oman Driving Licence. NOC available.

Contact No. 99757759
Email: bijucacko85@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male, 41 Years, B.Com + CA intermediate, having more than 15 Years of experience (13 years in Oman) in the different positions as Accounts Manager, Internal Auditor and statutory auditor. currently working as Accounts Manager, seeking similar Managerial position in finance.

Contact: 99169501

Senior Software Test Engineer

Indian Female 25yrs, BCA, M.tech, 5+ years experience in Wipro technologies. Key Skills – Web Application testing, Anti money laundering, Agile methodology, Manual Testing, Automation testing, selenium, Java, SQL, Appium and API testing.

Contact: 71792368 / 99295161 / nibesh.cmn@gmail.com



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GSM: 78259755

Experience more than 20 years of experience working in: Public Administration, Human Resource, Public Relations, Preparation and Writing of Reports, Coordination and Preparation of Meetings, Business Development, Marketing, Management and Retail Real Estate.

Contact whatsapp: 99477009
Email: abualmutsum@gmail.com

Finance Manager / CFO

Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years experience in Finance, MIS, Budget, Strategy, Projects, VAT seeks suitable placement.

Contact: 99884291 / 99741875
VIPUL70@GMAIL.COM

INDIAN, female, MBA, 4 years experience in Office administration and customer service (Banking & Construction field), knowledge of MS packages, currently on family visa, residing in Ruwi.

Mob: 95073054
Email: bfaqua88@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Electrical Engineer having 6 years of experience in construction sector in Oman in MEP, Data cabling, BMS System & Substation cabling works. **Contact 968-96335725**

B.Tech Mechanical, Indian Male, 1 yr exp in HVAC, now in visit visa, looking for job. **Contact: 79813372**

Safety officer (engineer), 5 years experience in GCC, two years in Oil field in Oman, nebosh IGC, valid D.L. **Contact 79318246**

M.Tech Civil engineer 24 yrs GCC experience in all types of building in consultant office seeks suitable position. **Contact 96750674**

Civil and Structural engineer with 8years experience in construction projects, Gulf experience and D/L, looking for suitable placement. **Contact 97906770**

B.E civil engineer having 10 years Oman exp looking for false ceiling works. **Contact 79882467**

B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 13 years of experience in Oman. Hand on experience in MOTC, MOD and RCA prestigious projects. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. **Contact 97118102**
Email: probir1982@gmail.com

BE civil Engineer with 15 years of experience in Oman. Construction of Residential Commercial buildings, Hotels, Resorts, and industrial buildings. With valid visa & D/L. **Contact 92779334, 95056144.**
Email anisubash12@gmail.com

Bachelor in Civil Engineering 11+ years of experience in Oman. Experience in Commercial Building Projects Management & Engineering consultancy. Looking for full time suitable position. **Having Oman DL. Contact 98611382**

Electrical engineer, having 4 years experience in motors maintains, electrical control, distribution panel and VFD, fluency in English and Arabic mother tongue, have resident in Oman. **Contact 96434550**

Civil Engineer with 10 years experience in construction and water pipeline works GRB water tanks. **Contact 94334788**

Scada Engineer with 06 yrs experience in Substation Control centre in oman with DL & NOC. # 94924976. **Email: zeezee45ec@gmail.com**

Civil engineer with 9years exp in Oman. **Contact 97646908**

B.Tech Mechanical, engineer with 3+yrs experience looking for job. Currently in Oman. # 94575752

Civil engineer, 18 yrs experience in Oman & Saudi Arabia, construction building & consultant, hotel, resort & infrastructure. # 97401992. **Email: hamadamans2007@yahoo.com**

B.E Mechanical Engineer 27 years old indian male 5 years experience Including 2 years in Oman looking for suitable opportunity.currently working in Oman. **Contact 79332156**

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M/48/Indian Civil engineer, 28 yrs exp, 18 yrs Oman exp with Consultants & Clients seeks opportunities. **Contact 92370274**

Mechanical Engineer, Indian, having 5+ years Oman experience in procurement and Production field. Have worked with reputed Companies and Government firms . Also have Oman D/License and good knowledge in Autocad, CATIA. Seeking suitable job.Can join immediately. NOC available. **Contact 92138450**
Whatsapp +919544074049

15 yrs exp Dip.civil with DL seeking suitable placement as project maintenance coordinator. # 96534073

Electrical Engineer with 4 years experience in Africa and Oman , LV system , TX maintenance , water transmission line , motors control , with valid visa and driving license, **Contact 91936392**

Indian BE Civil engineer 10 yrs experience in building Construction, Oil & gas field in Oman having valid D/L. Immediatly join. # 96455880

QA/QC Civil Engineer, Total 9.7 year experience/Oman & Gcc, on site, O&M, NOC available. # 96421733

BE Civil Engineer 8 to 9yrs experience. **Contact 93850875.** **Email abdulcivico2015@gmail.com**

8 Years experienced Electrical Sales and Estimation Engineer with valid driving license available to join immediately. **Contact: 79696089.**
Email xjnirmal@gmail.com

Omani is looking for job. UK graduate since 1991. B.Engg+MBA, experience PDO, Diwan, AbuDhabi, group of companies as GM. **Contact/Whatsapp 94174443**

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

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

22 years experience in modular kitchen. Working as a project co-ordinator/Designer/Sales co-ordinator **Contact 99757846**
email: baiju.zukait@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

A 35 years experienced person with exposure in purchase and other day to day activities office activities seeking a suitable job. **Contact 98528907**

Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience, Admin/Operations/Purchase/ Stores, etc. NOC, D/L. **Contact 78363835**

Procurement & Logistics Head with 17+ yrs exp, Indian # 99224623

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

Indian purchase assistant, store keeper, 10 yrs experience in Oman valid DL, looking for suitable job. **Contact 98615731.**
Email sanalk73@gmail.com

Supply chain, procurement office, Oil & gas, fabrication sectors. Having 13 yrs experience in oman. Looking for good opportunities. Indian male. **Contact 79868872**

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

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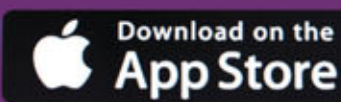
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ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat signs agreement with PDO



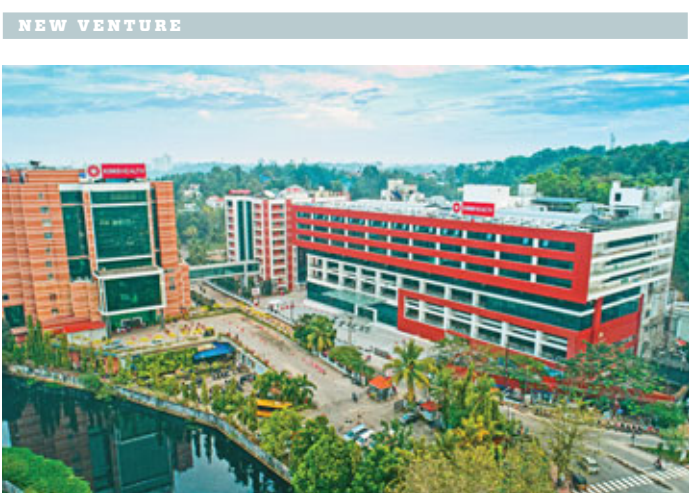
The bank has signed sub-participation facility agreement with PDO to refinance its employee housing loan portfolio

MUSCAT: In line with its pioneering role in providing banking services and facilities, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has signed a Sub-Participation Facility

Agreement with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to refinance or monetise the existing and future portfolio of home loans that PDO provides to its employees under a housing loan scheme. The unique financing structure provides an efficient option for PDO to monetise the receivables of this portfolio to generate cash flow for operations and investments. Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, said, "We are happy to strengthen the cooperation between the Bank and Petroleum Development Oman, the leading oil and gas producer in the Sultanate. Under this agreement, while PDO continues to provide its employees' housing loans as part of its employee value proposition, it will monetise or re-

finance the portfolio through the sub-participation facility provided by Bank Muscat. While PDO will continue to operationally administer the loans and cater to the needs of its employees under its relevant staff policies, the participation facility will enable it to release working capital tied up in staff loans." **Innovative solution** He added that Bank Muscat collaborated with PDO to create an innovative structured solution to meet the objectives of this financing. This shows Bank Muscat's commitment to satisfy the needs of its clients and comes as a translation of the bank's vision of "To serve you better, every day". He thanked the executive management of Petroleum Development Oman for their confidence

in the services and facilities of Bank Muscat that led to the successful closure of this landmark and bespoke transaction. He also thanked the Central Bank of Oman for their constant support to the bank and the regulatory guidance provided for the transaction. Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, offers Baituna home finance that makes the dream of owning a home come true. The attractive features of Baituna home finance include tenure for up to 25 years. Customers can obtain easy and convenient credit approval across the Sultanate at any of the dedicated Baituna Sales Centres at Qurum, Mabelah, Nizwa, Salalah, Barka, Sur, Saham, Sohar, Ibri, Buraimi and Ibra or at the bank's retail banking branches.



New tower Kimshealth East launched in India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A new tower of sprawling nearly 4.6 lakh sq. ft. area in 10 floors is being presented to the healthcare ecosystem of Kerala. This new venture, set up at Rs 300 crore, will consist of ultramodern operation theatres, 75 bed ICU with all separate cubicles with central monitoring, robotic surgery unit, hyperbaric oxygen, spacious birthing suites, labour and delivery rooms, 170 fully air-conditioned rooms, modern wellness centres, pharmacy, cafeteria etc. The new building will be the centre for all transplant programmes (consisting of kidney, liver, heart and lungs), a centre of excellence for normal and high-risk delivery, fetal medicine and perinatology, advanced cardiac and neurosurgery, pediatric cardiac surgery, most modern 30 bedded neonatology department, neonatal ICU and related services, highly specialised dermatology cosmetology and plastic surgery centre with separate entrance and offering good privacy, second radiology unit consisting of MRI, SPECT Scan and advanced ultrasound machines, wellness centre with fast-track consultation, executive physicals, immunisation service for all age groups and provision of premium waiting lounges maintaining social distancing and other new hygiene systems, executive

dining, pharmacy and health stores and retail outlets. This centre will provide 800 direct jobs and indirect jobs. "This pandemic has taught us many lessons and we should give a new approach to healthcare delivery combining prevention, wellness, diagnostics, curative and hospitality. This tower will stand as a monument for a new healthcare delivery system upholding the values Kimshealth stands for in India & GCC. The new facility is environment-friendly and it has been built in accordance with the LEED Platinum standards," Dr M.I. Sahadulla, Group Chairman & Managing Director said. Dr Sahadulla also added that Public-Private-Participation and Private-Private-Participation are the means of effective utilisation of resources and this is a time to leverage such ideas which will redefine our future. Dr G. Vijayaraghavan, Vice Chairman - Kimshealth stated that Kimshealth was a trendsetter of modern medical care for two decades and the new east block of Kimshealth will add latest developments in medical care in 2021 for people of Kerala. I am sure the public will appreciate this gesture with open arms as they did 2 decades ago. We know that the public has appreciated our contributions to medical care at affordable rates.



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Bring each moment alive with Lexus IS

The new IS evokes lower, wider proportions with muscular fenders, reflecting the vehicle's high performance



MUSCAT: Powerful, attractive and designed to get all eyes on every arrival. The Lexus IS, makes a bold statement, taking expectations of what a luxury sedan should be and feel like, to all-new levels.

The new bold exterior styling and athletic silhouette of 2021 IS signifies the agile changes that have taken place below the surface. The new IS evokes lower, wider proportions with muscular fenders, reflecting the vehicle's high performance. The sleek lines are also complemented with aggressive sharpness carved into the side and shoulder character lines.

The 2021 IS's newly designed spindle grille features an intricate pattern that emphasises a sense of presence, while the slender headlamps and daytime running lights with a sharp L-shape signature have been redesigned to complement the low-profile hood. New rocker panels accent a side profile that features a sharper contour and carries into the muscular shoulders over the rear wheel wells. At the back of the vehicle, the rear fenders blend into the extended, lowered rear deck, creating a low stance and emphasising the L-shaped full-width rear light. The new model's distinct per-

sonality is completed by its exquisite interior, which invites drivers and passengers to enjoy a range of advanced features for a refined cabin experience. These include a new 10.3-inch touchscreen multimedia system featuring Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, a 4.2-inch colour multi-information display (MID), and a dual-zone automatic climate control system with touch-sensitive controls. The vehicle also offers SmartAccess with push-button start, a 17-speaker Mark Levinson sound system, a power moonroof, power-adjustable and ventilated front seats, as well as ample luggage space thanks to the 60:40 split-folding rear seats.

The Lexus IS has attractive looks, which are complemented by its balanced, linear and confident driving signature. Owners can choose from two engine options; a 2.0-litre, turbocharged and inter-cooled inline four-cylinder engine delivering 241 hp and 35.7 kg.M of torque, and a sophisticated 3.5-litre V6 engine that produces 312 hp and 38.5 kg.M of torque. The two engines paired with an eight-speed sport direct-shift automatic transmission that offers superb drivability, together with outstanding

fuel efficiency and quietness even at high speed.

As with any Lexus vehicle, safety is a top priority for the new Lexus IS. Drivers can enjoy complete peace of mind thanks to the Lexus Safety System+, an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS) which include Emergency Steering Assist (ESA), Daytime Pedestrian Detection (DPD), all-speed range Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), Lane Tracing Alert (LTA), and Automatic High-beam System (AHB). The vehicle also includes comprehensive safety features designed to protect its occupants, such as All round SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Parking Support Alert (PKSA), Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (RCTA) and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), among many others.

Further adding to its stylish visual appeal, the 2021 Lexus IS comes in a refined range of colour options that allow discerning owners to choose their vehicles ac-

cording to their tastes.

Customers have an option of seven distinctive exterior colours, including the newly developed Sonic Chrome and Sonic Iridium options. Meanwhile, the interior also has three elegant colours; Ochre, Dark Rose, and the universal Black, which evokes a sense of calm within a gorgeous atmosphere. Two newly developed wheel designs have been introduced in 18-inch and 19-inch sizes to further express the driving feel pursued by the Lexus brand.

For those seeking to experience the ultimate in thrilling responsiveness, the all-new IS, is also available in an F Sport version. Engineered for exhilaration, the F brand DNA has trickled down from the legendary LFA, which represents the pinnacle of refined performance. The IS F Sport model boasts exclusive interior and exterior features, including a distinctive 'F' mesh pattern, a grille-bottom air intake, rear spoiler, and 19-inch alloy wheels.

It comes equipped with Active Sound Control to enhance the performance notes of the V6 engine. Inside the cabin, the 8-inch colour TFT LCD meter features a movable meter ring that enables a dual display using a single meter. Owners can choose from a range of eight exterior colours that emphasise the vehicle's sportiness, including three colours exclusive for the IS F Sport model; Radiant Red contrast layering, Heat Blue contrast layering or White Nova GF, while the interior is available in White, Black and Flare Red.

The Lexus IS with its attractive design, advanced features and technology is inspired to thrill.

In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

Discover how to achieve your fitness goals with Huawei



MUSCAT: A combination of the right smartwatch, smartphone and health/fitness tracking app will seamlessly help you stay fit and achieve your fitness goals. Here are cool ways on how using Huawei's premium smartwatch, the Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase Collection together with its latest flagship smartphone the Huawei Mate 40 Pro and the right health management app like Huawei Health can help you achieve your fitness goals.

The 88° Huawei Horizon Display of the Huawei Mate 40 Pro provides a wider viewing area and a more immersive visual experience. Do not forget to pair your Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase Collection with your Huawei Mate 40 Pro to track and monitor your health and fitness levels, which can be viewed via the Huawei Health app installed on both the smartwatch and smartphone. Besides, if you prefer working out at home, you can simply tap your phone on to the Huawei Sound X, which will initiate streaming, and audio will be played via the loudspeaker for an intensive and immersive workout session.

Most smartwatches come with a host of health and fitness tracking features and the Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase is not an exception you might regard it as in improvement on this front. The new and improved ver-

sion of Huawei's latest TruSeen 4.0+ technology and SpO2 monitoring for 24/7 health management features will both provide you with intelligent reminders if your heart rate goes above or below normal levels. All these data are stored and can be viewed via the Huawei Health app installed on your phone and smartwatch.

The Huawei TruSleep™ 2.0 technology which comes pre-installed on the Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase Collection helps in measuring sleep quality as well which includes real-time heart rate tracking, breathing during sleep and big data analytics. You can also keep track of your relaxation data, thanks to the Huawei TruRelax™ technology that provides 24/7 pressure monitoring, which allows maintaining a relaxed state of mind at all times.

Huawei ID helps you access all kinds of Huawei Mobile Services, like Huawei Music, Huawei Video, AppGallery, etc. at all times. With Huawei ID, you can enjoy all Huawei Mobile Services on any Huawei devices. The Huawei Watch GT 2 Pro Moon Phase Collection and Huawei Mate 40 Pro can be connected under one Huawei ID, which provides you access to enjoy cloud services such as Huawei Music, an online streaming platform that contains a huge library of audio.

PROMOTION

Affordable EMIs on new Mitsubishi L200

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, is offering customers low EMIs, together with several value-added benefits, on the Mitsubishi L200 as part of its ongoing promotion. These benefits include free service, free registration, cashback of up to OMR 2,700 and more.

Commenting on the L200's capabilities and features, Manoj Ranad, General Manager of GAC, said, "The Mitsubishi L200 has always been renowned for its versatility, dependability, reliability, and performance. The current generation added new levels of comfort, refinement, efficiency and safety into the mix, ensuring the L200 will always exceed our customers' expectations of what a pickup truck is capable of."

For the duration of the two-month promotion, which ends on March 31, the Mitsubishi L200 will be available with EMIs starting from as low as OMR 79. Customers purchasing one will also receive cash gifts ranging from OMR 1,700 to OMR 2,700, together with one-year free registration, six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance, and a 2-year/20,000km free service package.

The current generation L200 has been developed to embody the 'Engineered Beyond Tough' key phrase which underlined its creation. It features more powerful styling than its predecessor,



incorporating the latest iteration of the Dynamic Shield front design concept together with a high engine hood line and beefier-looking lamps located higher up. Newly sculpted body curves with contrasting sharp lines, extended wheel flares, and bright accents, further embody the strength of a Mitsubishi Motors pickup truck and add modernity.

The Mitsubishi L200 also makes significant advances in terms of its pickup capability. It remains a tough, dependable, and capable workhorse, thanks in part to the 2.4l powerplant under the

hood. Customers have a choice of petrol or diesel engines, both of the same aforementioned capacity, and each delivering lower emissions and improved fuel efficiency resulting in significant fuel savings in the real world.

The petrol variants are available in a choice of 2WD or 4WD models, while the diesel variants are available in 4WD only. Diesel 4WD models feature Mitsubishi's new Easy-Select 4WD, which simplifies switching between drive modes for different road surfaces, delivering improved off-road performance.

"The L200 is a commercial pickup that is the perfect solution for motorists looking for the practicality and versatility without compromising on comfort, driving pleasure or running costs. And that is before you consider that the current generation L200 is also the best looking and most capable pickup Mitsubishi Motors has ever produced," added Manoj.

In addition to the L200, the ongoing promotion also includes the Pajero, Montero Sport, ASX, Eclipse Cross, Outlander, Mirage and the Attrage, with low EMIs and attractive benefits on each.

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