

TREAT YOURSELF TO DOLPHIN WATCHING IN MUSANDAM

Musandam is known for its rich marine life and is also known for dolphins that can be seen from the shores and is considered an ideal location for dolphin watching. **>A4**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES KING OF CAMBODIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Norodom Sihamoni of the Kingdom of Cambodia on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to King Sihamoni. His Majesty also wished the friendly people of Cambodia further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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AT AL ALAM PALACE

His Majesty receives credentials of ambassadors



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received separately at Al Alam Palace on Monday credentials of a number of ambassadors of the Arab and friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate.

His Majesty received credentials of the following ambassadors:

Stella Kluth, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Shaiful Anuar Mohammad, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, King of Ma-

laysia, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Veronique Aulagnon, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

William Murray, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassa-

dor of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Khalid Mohammed Abdulhal-eem, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab

Republic of Egypt, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Qais Saad Al Amiri, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr.Barham Salih of the Republic of Iraq, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Ligia Maria Scherer, Extraordi-nary and Plenipotentiary Amba-

sador of President Jair Bolsonaro of the Federative Republic of Brazil, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Amit Narang, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Ram Nath Kovind of the Republic of India, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A4**

OMAN ASYAD Global Start-up Challenge winners

1 ASYAD Group announced the three finalists that have won a total prize of \$50,000 in the ASYAD Global Start-Up Challenge organised in partnership with Hypermotion Dubai and Omantel, the Sultanate's telecom arm. **>A3**

WORLD Millions more on the 'edge of famine': UN

2 The UN's food agency on Monday warned that 45 million people across 43 countries were "teetering on the edge of famine". That represents an increase of nearly 3 million this year alone. **>A6**

MARKET Omani, Saudi firms ink waste treatment pact

3 Two firms, one from the Sultanate of Oman and the other from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed an agreement for joint action in the field of waste recycling and management. **>B1**

RESEARCH CHARTS IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON PEOPLE'S LIVES



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**30°
MUSCAT**



Thought e-Commerce acquires majority of Rafeeq shares

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Thought e-Commerce, an Omani e-commerce company, has acquired the majority of the shares of Rafeeq, the country's largest online supermarket.

The move comes after the departure of Payam Ashori, founder of Rafeeq. Owned by Muscat Media Group, Thought e-Commerce aims to tap into Oman's fast-growing e-commerce sector, which is particularly patronised by the younger section of Omanis and expatriates in the country.

"We thank Payam Ashori for his invaluable contributions to the setting up of Rafeeq, and wish him all the best for his future endeavours," said Fadi Kattar, chief operating officer for Muscat Media Group. "We have had an excellent, fruitful partnership with him, and are sure his skills will find much demand among tech developers today. "At the same time, we are



excited for what the future holds," he added. "The peak of the COVID-19 pandemic showed us that there is a need for online services, and they will continue to have a foothold in many sectors in the years to come. Be it retail, food delivery, or home services such as spa treatments, there is untapped potential in this market."

"During the pandemic, for example, we saw that in addition to a reliance on online platforms, there was also the initiation of services such as telemedicine and online counselling," said Kattar. **>A5**

This study revealed the most important positive practices that the Omani society followed in dealing with the effects of COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new study has measured the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's psychological wellbeing and their ability to properly pursue education.

Conducted by a research team spearheaded by Dr Mohsin bin Nasser Al Salmi from the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University, the study aimed to identify the educational, psychological, and social effects caused by COVID-19 on the Omani society.

It also studied the positive aspects of people's behaviour, showing the best practices followed by the Omani society in dealing with



Dr Mohsin bin Nasser Al Salmi from the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University

the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be utilised for dealing with similar situations in the future. Funded within the COVID-19 Research Programme, one of the initiatives of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation (MoHERI), the study sought to provide suggestions to those in charge of the various sectors included in this research project on how to deal with such pandemics in the future.

The study also aimed at training researchers in the humanities field on studying phenomena, such as COVID-19 that have huge impact on societies.

Speaking about the prominent effects, Dr. Mohsin Al Salmi, said, "This research study revealed the most important positive practices that the Omani society followed in dealing with the effects of COVID-19, which acted as a motivator for educational institutions to increase their attention to the quality of education, in terms of forming committees to deal with its effects benefiting from local media and social media."

"Taking the quality of education into consideration, educational challenges and emergency conditions will be addressed so that institutions and students are kept up to date with modern trends and developments in the education system, as they benefit from international and regional experiences," he added.

Main findings

One of the main findings of the study in terms of psychological impact revealed that students in general education do have high levels of conforming to study, self-regulation strategies of learning, and psychological flexibility. On the other hand, they have low levels of academic burnout, procrastination, and academic anxiety that indicate the student's ability to adapt to distance learning. **>A5**



OMAN



PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr	11:56pm
Asr	3:06pm
Maghrib	5:29pm
Isha	6:42pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5:00am

TIMES



OMAN

Chief Editor RANA N. PARVEZE

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PRICE BAIZAS 200

350,000 MOROCCAN PEACE MARCHERS ON WAY TO SPANISH SAHARA

OMANI AMBASSADOR ALSO AMONG THE MARCHERS

Agadir, Morocco : (Reuter)

King Hassan has sent his Prime Minister and seven cabinet ministers to lead Morocco's 350,000 civilian marchers into Western Sahara thursday morning.

The King told his men and women marchers "my heart and my feelings will be with you." The marchers were due to cross the frontier in 50 groups of 7,000.

The desert trek was led by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman, Foreign Minister Ahmed Laraki and six other government ministers. The government group, which included the King's cousin, Prince Moulay Ali, who is also pinning the march, left here during the night to fly to the border base camp of Tarfaya.

The King said the marchers should not resist any Spanish attack, but added: "if anyone fires on you, know that the army is ready to defend you against all those who wish you harm."

Morocco is holding 20,000 troops in readiness in case the marchers are attacked by what officials described as foreign elements.

King Hassan said he did not want to fight Spain, against whom he had no rancour nor dispute. But among Morocco's enemies were some who knew little about the Western Sahara and others 'who know it very well, and these are acting out of rancour and jealousy,' he said.

This was clearly a reference to those countries which oppose the march on the grounds that it violates the U.N. principle of allowing decolonised peoples to decide their own future.

Morocco maintains that the territory's 74,000 people consider themselves to be Moroccans and have already demonstrated their wish to be incorporated into Morocco.

Officials here point out that Mr. Khatri Joumani President of the Jemaa (tribal assembly) in

Western Sahara, formally pledged his allegiance to King Hassan on monday. They describe his gesture as spontaneous self-determination by the territory's people.

The 350,000 marchers have been gathering at Tarfaya, 35 kilometres (22 miles) from the border. They include official delegations from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Gabon, the ambassadors of Qatar, Oman and the Sudan, and the charge d'affaires of Kuwait.

The King's announcement that the march was to start was greeted at Tarfaya with 'an explosion of joy and thunderous applause,' the Moroccan New Agency said.

On the basis of Spanish military intelligence reports here, it might take the marchers up to a week to reach the Spanish forward positions and the minefields.

Spanish military planners have created a buffer zone inside the border so that the marchers could stage a 'token occupation' of the land they claim, informed sources said. The Spanish troops, including the foreign legion in which General Francisco Franco once served, have withdrawn to a 'military frontier' on high ground commanding a wide valley through which the marchers would enter Spanish Sahara, the sources said.

The King said he would have liked to lead the march "but my responsibilities as leader oblige me to be at the command post."

Shortly before the King's announcement, the Spanish governor

of the Sahara territory told a press conference in El Aaiun, the capital, that if the marchers tried to cross the Spanish army lines "the consequences would be terrible."

But as the multitude massed near the border to pack up and move there was no indication here how far they would go. There main objective was originally El Aaiun, about 55 miles (88 km) south of the border along a paved road.

King Hassan did not specify the destination nor mention El Aaiun. But he has previously said he intended "to have my tea in El Aaiun before the end of this year."

He told his marchers: "there must be order. You must be disciplined and you must obey the orders of your escorts so that we may arrive at the desired destination."

Meanwhile, the evacuation of European civilians continued from the capital of El Aaiun, 70 kilometres (45 miles) from the frontier.

The town was almost deserted under a curfew as paramilitary territorial police patrolled the streets with regular troops manning their positions near the frontier.

About 500 Europeans left for the Canary Islands wednesday aboard a special evacuation ship. Of a colony of 13,000 Europeans, only about 2,000 remain and they are due to leave before the end of next week.

King Hassan and his Ministers emphasise that they will not abuse their country's phosphate wealth, and are deeply aware of the responsibility they bear as wardens of a mineral essential to food production.

Moroccan officials recall that the state phosphates agency, the Office Cherifien des Phosphates, is operating a special credits scheme

Brisk arrangements under finalisation for National Day

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

The National Day of Oman—fifth anniversary of the emancipation of modern Oman after the assumption of power by His Majesty The Sultan will be celebrated on November 18 with the greatest enthusiasm and fervour.

A real festive look is being given to all places in the capital area and unprecedented type of decorations are receiving finishing touches. Government and private building are being fitted with bracelets of multicoloured lights while hundreds of hoardings are being fixed all along the roads and foot-path walls wishing His Majesty The Sultan and the people a very happy national day with thousand returns.

Members of the general public are equally absorbed in finalising decoration of their shops and houses besides illumination arrangements being carried out to mark the occasion.

The national day will dawn with the special thanks giving prayers by the people, for the health and longlife of the saviour of the nation H.M. The Sultan and for the prosperity of the nation.

for developing countries that have to import phosphates or phosphates fertilisers.

One Government Minister in Rabat said: "we are not going to make the world go hungry."

UN Security Council has called on Morocco to withdraw its marchers enabling the world-body to find ways means to a just solution of the issue.

Our next issue

Times of Oman will now appear on the National Day, i.e., Tuesday 18th November, 1975.

—Chief Editor



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OHR 343,200
3 WINNERS PER BRANCH
PRIZES FOR KIDS, STANDARD & PRIORITY CUSTOMERS

TOTAL MID-YEAR PRIZES
OHR 16,000
PRIZES FOR KIDS, STANDARD & PRIORITY CUSTOMERS

TOTAL NATIONAL DAY PRIZES
OHR 55,000
1 WINNER PER BRANCH

TOTAL PRIZES FOR LADIES
OHR 11,000
1 WINNER PER BRANCH

TOTAL MEGA PRIZES
OHR 112,000
PRIZES FOR KIDS, STANDARD & PRIORITY CUSTOMERS



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Names of Asyad Global Start-up Challenge winners announced

The intense competition saw 12 semi-finalists pitch to a panel of international judges and investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group announced the three finalists that have won a total prize of \$50,000 in the Asyad Global Start-Up Challenge organised in partnership with Hypermotion Dubai and Omantel, the Sultanate's telecom arm.

Showcasing how to harness emerging technologies to advance the transport and logistics sectors,

THE WINNERS: Cubex Global from the UAE took home the first place with a prize of \$25,000, while UVL Robotics and PalletPal from the USA were awarded second and third place respectively.

Cubex Global from the UAE took home the first place with a prize of \$25,000, while UVL Robotics and PalletPal from the USA were awarded second and third place respectively. The intense competi-

tion saw 12 semi-finalists pitch to a panel of international judges and investors. A launch-pad for budding entrepreneurs, Asyad Global Start-up Challenge provided participants with an opportunity to engage

with peers from around the world and share sustainable forward-thinking solutions to increase the competitiveness of the sector both locally and internationally.

In line with its drive to support

local start-ups as a key driver of economic growth, Asyad Group sponsored the participation of three Omani companies in the challenge.

The last day of the challenge in-

cluded several enlightening discussions presented by Asyad Group represented by SOHAR Port and Freezone and Oman Post Asyad Express as well as its strategic partners, Omantel.

The sessions focused on the importance of technology in port management, supply chain efficiencies and last mile delivery in e-commerce as well as 5G as a catalyst for sector growth. The start-up challenge was highly competitive and selective. Having whittled down almost 50 applications to just 12, the final competition included seven regional companies and five internationals.

As part of its efforts to bring Oman's competitiveness in the logistics sector to the forefront, Asyad Global Logistics Start-up Challenge aimed to capitalise on the power of data and attract global talent all the while creating a nurturing environment for creative solutions. The innovation-driven event marked a successful participation of Asyad Group in the Expo 2020 Dubai.

THE VIEW HOTEL

On the crossroads of the Sultanate's many wonders

KHALED ORABI
k.orabi@shabiba.com

MUSCAT: Guests who stay at The View in Ras Al Hamra are in for a memorable experience, both within and beyond the property.

Located close to many key tourist sites in Oman, the hotel offers an unforgettable charm that stays with all those who stay there, long after their visit ends.

UNFORGETTABLE CHARM: Located close to many key tourist sites in Oman, the hotel offers an unforgettable charm that stays with all those who stay there, long after their visit ends.

had guests of many nationalities from around the world, especially from the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Canada, but during the pandemic, the hotel focused on providing many offers for domestic tourists, as well as special offers for people employed by certain companies," explained Abbas.

"This compensated, even in a small way, for the absence of international tourists," he added. "We hope there is a return to normalcy during the coming period, but we can also say that we have benefited from many lessons during this pandemic: we must pay attention to the importance of the local tourist market, as we have found that there is a very high demand from locals to stay in hotels, and they look forward to local hotel experiences full of comfort and relaxation.

"Therefore, we will continue to focus on local tourism, as well as external travellers, and our offers for local tourism will continue," he went on to add. "The government and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism have given and continue to give a lot of support to hotels. Our booking rates before the pandemic ranged between 85 and 95 per cent, but in light of the COVID pandemic, we had trouble crossing even the 40 per cent mark, but we are confident our occupancy rates will continue to grow."

Akbar Abbas added that In the past few years, the Sultanate had witnessed a change in the quality of hotels, since many famous

international hotel chains have set up operations. They bring with them a high understanding of global tourism markets, and therefore will have a great impact on tourism, which is growing at a rapid pace in the country.

"After the return of international travel during the pandemic and the opening of Muscat International Airport, some foreign tourists began to frequent the hotel, and our visitor numbers have steadily grown so our occupancy rate has returned to 70 to 80 per cent on weekends, while on weekdays, rates fluctuate between 40 and 50 per cent," explained Abbas. "This is a rather good percentage, and we are happy with that, and we hope for more success in the future. We now have tourists who come from France, Italy, Switzerland, and New Zealand."

The View is part of Al Zahraa Tourism, one of the major travel companies in the Sultanate. It regularly participates at many global travel markets, whether international or regional. This has a direct impact in boosting occupancy rates for the hotel.

The company has expansion plans in the hotel industry in Oman, which include opening more properties in the future to give tourists unique and special experiences. Another hotel is expected to be opened by next November at Ramal Wahiba near Bidiyah. The facility is almost ready, and will provide visitors an experience of a somewhat different nature to The View.

RETAIL

Al Muna Gardens in Bausher set to get new branch of Spar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new branch of Spar supermarket chain will be opened in the neighbourhood of Al Muna Gardens in Bausher.

The development comes after a partnership was agreed upon between Zain Real Estate and the international supermarket chain.

Zain Real Estate announced the signing of an agreement with Spar, one of the most well-known supermarket chains in Oman, in the heart of Al Muna Gardens located in the wilayat of Bausher. The opening of the Spar supermarket represents the latest among a series of recent achievements witnessed by the Al Muna Gardens project, which is keen to provide an environment of luxury and comfort worthy of the residents of the distinguished real estate project.

Commenting on the agreement, Musa Mohammed Al Raisi, CEO

of Zain Real Estate, said, "In high-end places, residents are distinguished by their own tastes, and they also expect to find an environment that meets their needs."

"Therefore, we are very pleased to welcome the opening of the Spar supermarket in Al Muna Gardens, and we are confident that our luxurious and growing project will contribute to the popularity of the store, owing to the trust and quality we put in their services."

Shirayu Khimji, director of Spar Oman, said, "We are pleased to enter into a partnership with Zain Real Estate Development through its project Al Muna Gardens, and to be part of this unique residential destination."

"Spar stores are spread across a wide region throughout Oman, and today we announce the opening of our 25th branch in Oman, which happens to be in a distinguished project in the capital," he concluded.

INVITATION TO TENDER



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Tender No.	: 2021-ENG-SOW-0059
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Scope	: Specialised Fire Contractors approved by PACDA to design, supply and install Fire Protection system in WTP and Fuel loading area of power plant.

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<FROM A1 HM the Sultan welcomes envoys

During side meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings of leaders of their countries along with their best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty the Sultan. They also wished the Omani people continuous progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty. They also expressed their great honour and utmost delight to present their credentials before His Majesty the Sultan. They affirmed to exert their sincere efforts to promote relations of their countries with the Sultanate of Oman in various domains in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' peoples. His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his thanks for their leaders' greetings and best wishes. His Majesty affirmed to them that they will receive all support from him, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties. The credentials' presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA



TOURISM



Treat yourself to dolphin watching in Musandam



Musandam is known for its rich marine life and is also known for dolphins that can be seen from the shores and is considered an ideal location for dolphin watching.

As the best time to go is between the months of September and April, when the weather is a lot milder, this is the right time to visit the island for an unforgettable experience.

One of the most intelligent animals known to man, dolphins are found off the coast of Oman and regular tours are organised by operators in Oman. Apart from Musandam, Muscat and Dimaniyat are also popular for dolphin watching.

The best way to enjoy Musandam is by sea. On your next trip book a dolphin watching dhow cruise to visit, snorkel on remote beaches, and watch dolphins play.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Dolphin shoals visit the shores of Oman in large



numbers. Muscat and Musandam are famous for dolphin watching, although this pastime is also widespread in A'Sharqiyah South Governorate and Al Wasta Governorate, in addition to Dhofar Governorate.

"The types of dolphins that visit Oman are: Indian Ocean dolphins, the Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphins, Risso's dolphins, Common Bottlenose dolphins, Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphins, Rough-toothed dolphins, Pantropical Spotted dolphins, Striped dolphins, Spinner dolphins, and

Long-Beaked Common dolphins". Apart from watching the dolphins you also have the chance to view the scenic beauty of Oman's coastline and experience the breathtaking views of some of its landmarks.

The Musandam Peninsula is located on the northern border of the Sultanate of Oman. The high mountains in this region rise more than two thousand metres above sea level. The mountains spread out in a naturally geometrical way. This area also contains the most important waterway, The Strait of Hormuz.

The juxtaposition of sea and mountains is considered one of the exclusive features of this area. Excursions in boats and traditional ships give the visitor unforgettable enjoyment, while diving fans at the beautiful coral reefs can plunge to their hearts' content. Archaeological sites also abound in this area.

MEETING

Oman, Iran discuss ways to boost trade ties and economic relations



DISCUSSION: The two sides exchanged views to promote trade relations between the private sector in Oman and Iran. – ONA

TEHRAN: The Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran held here on Monday a session of talks to discuss means of boosting trade and economic relations between the two countries. The session was attended by Eng. Ridha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Gholam Hossein Shafei, President of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, and Mohsen Zarrahi, Chairman of Iran-Oman Joint

Chamber of Commerce. The two sides exchanged views on ways to promote trade relations between the private sector in Oman and Iran as well as cooperation in the field of medical tourism. They also reviewed the preparations to organise the first virtual exhibition between the Sultanate and Iran. The session came on the sidelines of the 5th International Conference on Health in Islamic Countries, hosted by the Iranian capital, Tehran. – ONA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Pact signed to set up nine greenhouses

MUSCAT: An agreement on construction of nine greenhouses in a number of Al Wafa Centres for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities was signed on Monday by the Ministry of Social Development. The agreement was signed between the National Finance Company and Dar Al Atta'a Association in the presence of Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development. The agreement was signed by Tariq bin Sulaiman Al Farsi, CEO of National Finance Company on behalf of the company, while on behalf of Dar Al Atta'a it was signed by Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, Chairperson of Dar Al Atta'a. The agreement came within the partnership and cooperation efforts adopted by the Ministry of Social Development with the various private and civil entities for provision of best services for the persons with disabilities, said

Hamoud bin Mardad Al Shabibi, Director General of the Directorate General for Persons with Disabilities. These efforts included construction of greenhouses which serve this sector in the various wilayats in the agricultural and marketing fields, he added. Dr. Shamsa bint Hamad Al Harthi, Director General of Dar Al Atta'a Association said that the agreement came within the framework of initiation of sustainable projects that serve the persons with disabilities who receive rehabilitation programmes at Al Wafa Centres. Lina bint Mubarak Al Abdulsalam, Head of Marketing Unit at the National Finance Company praised the cooperation efforts between the government sector and the private sector on supporting Al Wafa Centres, which included providing the persons with disabilities with the training opportunities at such greenhouses. – ONA

GASTROENTEROLOGY



Royal Hospital uses new Spy Glass Technology

MUSCAT: Doctors from the Gastroenterology Department at the Royal Hospital, led by Doctor Hisham Abdullah Al Dhahab, have used Spy Glass technology for treatment of stones in the bile ducts using laser, the first-of-its-kind technology used in the Sultanate. The Spy Glass Technology is used for removal of big stones in the bile ducts and for improvement of the ability to diagnose and treat blockage of malignant and benign bile ducts. – ONA

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ONLINE MEETING

Meeting reviews issues of joint Gulf action

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Civil Service Employees Pension Fund (CSEFF) and the Public Authority for Social Insurance, on Monday participated in the 20th meeting of Heads of the GCC Civil Retirement and Social Security Agencies. The online meeting reviewed a number of issues of joint Gulf action, such as following up the progress made on applying the Unified System to Extend Insurance Protection and the initiative to update a comparative study of the civil retirement and social insurance systems. – ONA

HEALTHCARE

Study focuses on social impact of frontline workers

This also reflects the effort put by those in charge of the educational learning process in providing various ways to help learners achieve the educational aims. The study findings also confirmed the long-term role of pandemic in the flourishing of technological life and digital communication (through social media applications) instead of physical communication. The study also focused on the social impact of frontline workers tasked with fighting the pandemic. Members taking part in the study confirmed that working during COVID-19 added new skills for them and helped refine them better over time. Because of the conditions they underwent and had to deal with, it made them understand the value of life, and helped change some of

their perspectives. **Recommendations** Commenting on the most important recommendations this study came out with, Dr Mohsin Al Salmi said, "Recommendations given to those who are in charge at the educational sector can be summarised in the form of developing a partnership strategy with telecommunications companies to strengthen the infrastructure of schools and universities in different governorates and wilayats of Oman." "Furthermore, there needs to be a media plan in partnership with stakeholders in the media sector to address any future challenges faced at educational institutions," he went on to say. "A school should be concerned with improving the academic

skills through self-education, those who are keen on learning, and must teach students the value of psychological flexibility that can help them adapt to new developments positively." Among the recommendations, the research team suggested continuing to implement this research project by carrying out an in-depth qualitative study through focused interviews and analysing documents to explore the views of stakeholders in education. The team also prepared a guidebook titled "The guide for grade 12 to adopt distance learning". It includes a set of instructions such as the strategies and habits of distance learning, how to deal with psychological pressures, and confronting low self-esteem.

DOCUMENTATION



SIGNING CEREMONY: The MoU was signed by Dr. Hamad Mohammed Al Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority and Dr. Bahija Simou, Director of the Moroccan Royal Archives. – ONA

Oman, Morocco sign key pact to manage archives

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Morocco signed here on Monday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the fields of historical documentation and the management of documents and archives. The MoU was signed by Dr. Hamad Mohammed Al Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) and Dr. Bahija Simou, Director of the Moroccan

Royal Archives. As per the MoU, the two sides will cooperate in the fields of copying documents, printing and exchanging manuscripts and books, as well as preserving and repairing documents. The two sides will also promote their cooperation in publishing cultural, literary and historical documents and organising various activities. – ONA

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Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

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SUPPLY OF SUTURES, DRESSINGS & SURGICAL APPLIANCES	31/2021	06/12/2021	13/12/2021	1500/= RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs. on the working days.

2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.



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PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY

Injured Astroworld Festival attendee sues Travis Scott

WASHINGTON: One of the people who got injured at the Astroworld music festival in Texas on Friday is suing Travis Scott and the organisers over their inability to prevent the tragic deaths at the event.

According to a copy of the lawsuit filed in Harris County District Court, quoted by The Hill on Sunday, Manuel Souza calls the festival a “predictable and preventable tragedy,” saying that the crowd surge was a “motivation for profit at the expense of concertgoers’ health and safety” and an “encouragement of violence.” Souza’s attorneys said in a statement to The Hill that Travis Scott encouraged to let more people in after the show sold out.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said on Saturday that a total of eight people died at the Astroworld

festival, including a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old. Over two dozen people were hospitalized, including five people under the age of 18.

Chief of Police Troy Finner told reporters on Saturday that during the Astroworld event a member of security lost consciousness after feeling a prick in his neck. According to Finner, the security officer was revived with Narcan and medical staff noticed a mark

on his neck that could have been from an injection.

Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena said on Friday that there were about 50,000 people in attendance at the Astroworld festival, where a crowd surge started shortly after 9 p.m. During his Friday performance, rapper Travis Scott stopped his show several times to ask security to help the fans get out of the crowd. **ANI**



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Millions more on ‘edge of famine’: UN agency

David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Programme, said in a statement that “tens of millions of people are staring into an abyss”



FAMINE: The increased food insecurity in Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia, Angola, Kenya and Burundi also contributed to the rise.

NEW YORK: The United Nations’ food agency on Monday warned that 45 million people across 43 countries were “teetering on the edge of famine.” That represents an increase of nearly 3 million this year alone.

What is behind the increase?

David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP), said in a statement that “tens of millions of people are staring into an abyss.”

“We’ve got conflict, climate change and COVID-19 driving up the numbers of the acutely hungry, and the latest data show there

are now more than 45 million people marching towards the brink of starvation,” he said.

The latest rise, up from 42 million a year earlier and 27 million in 2019, has been attributed primarily to those facing emergency levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan.

“Manmade conflict is driving instability and powering a destructive new wave of famine that

threatens to sweep the world,” said Beasley. Increased food insecurity in Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia, Angola, Kenya and Burundi also contributed to the rise.

Why Afghanistan has become a hunger hot spot

Beasley’s comments came after a fact-finding trip to Afghanistan. The food agency has increased support to assist nearly 23 million

people in need following the Taliban takeover of the country.

“Fuel costs are up, food prices are soaring, fertilizer is more expensive, and all of this feeds into new crises like the one unfolding now in Afghanistan, as well as long-standing emergencies like Yemen and Syria,” Beasley added.

The country “is becoming the world’s largest humanitarian crisis, with the country’s needs

surpassing those of the other worst-hit countries,” the WFP reported.

Families have been pushed to the edge with multiple droughts exacerbating the economic meltdown that has forced people to make “devastating choices,” like pulling their children from school or marrying them off early.

“Meanwhile media reports from Afghanistan point to families reportedly being forced to sell their children in a desperate attempt to survive,” said the WFP.

What needs to be done to combat hunger

The WFP said the cost of averting famine across the world had risen to \$7 billion (€6.05 billion), up from the \$6.6 billion anticipated earlier this year.

That sum would provide a meal a day for each person for the next year, the WFP calculated.

Humanitarian partners

The agency said it was collaborating with humanitarian partners to increase aid for those facing starvation, but resources have been unable to keep pace with rising demand.

“As the cost of humanitarian assistance rises exponentially, we need more funds to reach families across the globe who have already exhausted their capacity to cope with extreme hunger,” the WFP chief added. **bw**

ALGERIAN NATIONAL

France starts probe into knife attack in Cannes

MOSCOW: French law enforcement agencies have begun an investigation into a stabbing attack perpetrated by an Algerian national against a police officer in Cannes earlier on Monday, media reported.

According to the BFMTV broadcaster, the public prosecutor’s office of the town of Grasse, in the southeast Alpes-Maritimes department, entrusted the probe to the Nice judicial police.

Anti-terrorism

The country’s anti-terrorism prosecution is closely monitoring the investigation, and not excluding a terrorist motive, given statements made by the attacker.

On Monday morning, a 37-year-old Algerian national with an Italian residence permit stabbed an officer seated in a patrol car near the police station in Cannes with his three colleagues.

The attacker reportedly shouted while committing the crime. He was wounded by another police officer and remains in critical condition.

Bulletproof vest

The policeman sustained no injuries due to the bulletproof vest he was wearing. His colleagues were also unharmed.

According to the broadcaster, the attacker was unknown to law enforcement. **ANI/Sputnik**

SANCTIONS IMPOSED

West African bloc issues fresh sanctions over coups in Mali, Guinea



BAMAKO: West African economic bloc ECOWAS imposed sanctions against Mali on Sunday after transitional leaders admitted they would not be able to hold elections by the February 2022 deadline.

Military leaders wrote to the Economic Community of West African States, citing the fight against an Islamist insurgency in the north as one reason for the delay. ECOWAS, made up of 15 countries, also stepped up pressure on Guinea’s military leaders after their coup in September.

What are the sanctions against Mali?

ECOWAS Commission President Jean-Claude Kassi Brou told AFP news agency the bloc “has decided to sanction all those implicated in the delay” of the February 27 elections.

The date had been agreed by Colonel Assimi Goita for an 18-month transition back to democracy after the military over-

threw former President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020.

Instead of progressing towards an election Goita did the opposite.

In May, he staged a second putsch against the transitional government he had appointed after the August 2020 coup. The African Union suspended Mali as a result. ECOWAS learnt of the failure to meet the deadline after Mali had “officially written” to Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo, the bloc’s current rotating leader, Brou said.

He said the sanctions will include travel bans and asset freezes “which will take immediate effect” on all members of the transitional authority.

Brou noted his concern over Mali’s use of Russian mercenaries and reiterated demands for the elections to be held in February.

What about the Guinea situation?

ECOWAS imposed similar sanc-

tions on Guinea after a September 5 coup.

The political and economic grouping, with Nigeria as one of its leading members, has now ordered the “unconditional release” of longtime Guinea President Alpha Conde.

The 83-year-old, now under house arrest, was the first freely elected Guinea president in 2010. He violently repressed mass protests during a referendum bid to extend his term as president in 2020. Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, who led the putsch against Conde, has since adopted a transition charter with a civilian prime minister heading an interim government.

While ECOWAS applauded these efforts, it is demanding Guinea hold elections in six months. To this end, it continued travel bans and asset freezes on the West African country’s leaders until it committed itself to democratic progress. **bw**

HIJACKING

Bus hijacked and set on fire in Northern Ireland

DUBLIN: Four men hijacked and set fire to a bus in a pro-British unionist community in Northern Ireland on Sunday evening, police said.

“It was reported that four men got onto the bus and ordered passengers off before the bus was then set alight,” the Police Service of Northern Ireland said in a statement.

Police said they received a report of a hijacking incident in the Church Road area of Newtownabbey, a settlement north of Belfast, around 7:45 p.m. UTC.

There were no reports of injuries.

“Church Road is currently closed and diversions are in place and police would ask members of the public to avoid the area,” the statement added.

Driver ‘badly shaken’

Bus operator Translink said the driver and a small number of passengers safely disembarked the bus before it was torched.

“Our driver is badly shaken and is currently being supported by colleagues,” the company said in a statement.

“We are very disappointed by this intimidating attack on our



member of staff and public transport services in the area. We utterly condemn this behavior and will be working closely with the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) to investigate this incident,” the statement added.

Post-Brexit threatens peace in Northern Ireland

It’s the second time in recent weeks that a bus has been hijacked and set on fire in Northern Ireland. A similar incident last week appeared to be tied to post-Brexit issues, Reuters news agency reported, citing local media.

Democratic Unionist Party chief Jeffrey Donaldson warned he would withdraw his party from Northern Ireland’s cross-community government unless Britain won important concessions from the European Union over trade protocol at Northern Ireland’s ports. **bw**

MEDICINES

New shipment of WHO’s life-saving medical supplies arrives in Kabul

GENEVA: An aircraft carrying around 7 metric tonnes of life-saving medical supplies arrived in Kabul from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with the operations and logistic teams of Qatar Airways and the Qatar government.

According to an official statement by WHO, the medicines and supplies landed in Kabul on November 4. This is the fourth flight

carrying WHO supplies to arrive in Afghanistan from Doha since August 30, 2021.

According to the statement, the supplies include medicines for the treatment of 5,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, diarrhoea, pneumonia, upper respiratory infections, and other conditions.

“Health needs in Afghanistan are greater than ever before, and

we are moving quickly to address shortages in medical supplies to keep life-saving health services running. Children are the tragic victims of the country’s failing health system.

WHO is grateful for the support of the Government of Qatar to ensure that they have access to the life-saving medicines they need to survive and thrive. **ANI**



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**CRICKET
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India hammer Namibia to bow out of T20 World Cup in style

Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin did much of the damage with the ball after Virat Kohli had won the toss in his final match as T20I captain

DUBAI: India ended their World Cup on a high with a crushing nine-wicket win over Namibia in the final Super 12 game of the tournament.

Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin did much of the damage with the ball after Virat Kohli had won the toss in his final match as T20I captain, with the pair taking three wickets apiece to restrict Namibia to 132/8.

And half-centuries from Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul helped India reach their target with 28 balls to spare to give departing head coach Ravi Shastri a winning send-off.

Both teams knew there was no chance of reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup, with the tournament's final four already confirmed as Pakistan, England, New Zealand and Australia.

But that didn't prevent a high-quality game in Dubai, with India showing their quality against a Namibia side who have im-



pressed throughout the past three weeks. Earlier, openers Stephan Baard and Michael van Lingen had got Namibia off and running with an opening stand of 33, before van Lingen fell in the fifth over to Jasprit Bumrah.

The introduction of Jadeja helped India take back control as the spinner took a wicket in each of his first two overs to remove first

the middle overs, with Erasmus falling for a restrained 12 off 20 to Ashwin.

And the Jadeja-Ashwin double act continued to tie Namibia down, with both picking up further wickets to keep the power-hitting middle order from doing any damage, Jadeja accounting for JJ Smit and Ashwin bowling Zane Green.

The pair finished with combined figures of 6/36 off their eight overs.

Bumrah returned at the death to account for Wiese just as he prepared to unleash, the allrounder falling for 26 off 25. But some big hits from Ruben Trampelmann in the final over helped Namibia to a respectable 132/8 at the interval.

The Rahul and Rohit opening partnership crunched into the Namibia attack through the Powerplay, with Sharma dominating the strike and the scoring, racing to his half-century in just 31 balls.

But Sharma's stunning knock did come to an end in the penultimate ball of the tenth over when he top-edged a catch off Jan Frylinck that was taken by the keeper.

Yet Suryakumar Yadav, promoted to number three, simply kept the scoreboard ticking over with a classy 25* off 19.

And Rahul followed in his opening partner's footsteps by bringing up a 50 of his own, his third of the tournament, reaching the landmark in just 35 balls before hitting the winning runs to finish unbeaten on 54.

India's hammerings of Afghanistan, Scotland and now Namibia weren't enough to make amends for the early losses to Pakistan and New Zealand, as Virat Kohli's tenure as skipper ended at the Super 12 stage.

GROUP A & B



POINTS TABLE

GROUP A				
POS	TEAM	PLD	NRR	PTS
1	ENGLAND	5	+2.464	8
2	AUSTRALIA	5	+1.216	8
3	SOUTH AFRICA	5	+0.739	8
4	SRI LANKA	5	-0.269	4
5	WEST INDIES	5	-1.641	2
6	BANGLADESH	5	-2.383	0

GROUP B				
POS	TEAM	PLD	NRR	PTS
1	PAKISTAN	5	+1.583	10
2	NEW ZEALAND	5	+1.162	8
3	INDIA	5	+1.747	6
4	AFGHANISTAN	5	+1.053	4
5	NAMIBIA	5	-1.890	2
6	SCOTLAND	5	-3.543	0

Idea to split Rohit, Rahul in NZ game was not 'good', says Nasser Hussain

DUBAI: Former England captain Nasser Hussain reckons that India should not have split up KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma in the T20 World Cup game against New Zealand.

In the game against New Zealand, India brought in Ishan Kishan in place of Suryakumar Yadav and the left-hander went out to open with Rahul and Rohit dropped to number three slot. "I see India as a very talented side but sometimes selection wise Hardik Pandya just playing as a batter alters the balance of the side. Against New Zealand, the idea to split Rohit and Rahul was not a good one," said Hussain while speaking to t20worldcup.com.

Hussain also said that India does not play a fearless brand of cricket in ICC events, and this is a big surprise looking at the talent they have.

"You have got to go out and express yourself. India has got so much talent. That may be the only thing that's holding India back in ICC events. They don't quite play the fearless brand of cricket that



they deserve to because they are so talented," said Hussain.

"I had them as favorites. They had been playing IPL here, are a star-studded side. They got a setback in that first game. The way Shaheen Afridi bowled in the powerplay, those two deliveries that Rohit and Rahul got would have got a lot of great cricketers out. That's sometimes the problem with the Indian side. They are so good at the top, some of the middle-order don't get much of a hit and suddenly you need a Plan B and that was found wanting," he added. India was

ECB chief flies to Pakistan to restore relations with PCB

LONDON: England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) CEO Tom Harrison has flown to Pakistan to repair the cricketing relations between the countries.

After New Zealand pulled out at the last minute, ECB had also withdrawn from the Pakistan tour in September this year. According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, Harrison has travelled to Pakistan to meet Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Ramiz Raja and Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Harrison went to Pakistan to convince Ramiz that England will tour Pakistan at the end of 2022, ESPNcricinfo reported.

In September when England cancelled the Pakistan tour, Ramiz was left disappointed with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for pulling out of their commitment.

The ECB had said in September that the mental and physical well-being of England's players and support staff remained the highest priority of ECB.

"We know there are increasing concerns about travelling to



the region and believe that going ahead will add further pressure to a playing group who have already coped with a long period of operating in restricted Covid environments," the statement had read.

Meanwhile, PCB on Monday announced details of Australia's first tour of Pakistan since 1998, which will take place in March and April 2022 and will comprise three Tests, three ODIs and one T20I.

The Tests will take place in Karachi (March 3-7), Rawalpindi (March 12-16) and Lahore (March 21-25), while Lahore will be the venue for the four white-ball matches to be played from March 29 to April 5. **ANI**



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Al-Wahaibi seals 4th place and class win at Oregon Trail Rally

Despite a puncture, Al-Wahaibi conserved the Ford Fiesta R5 through the closing gravel stages to finish in a comfortable fourth overall

Times News Service

DUFUR: Omani rally driver Hamed Al-Wahaibi maintained his composure and managed his pace to perfection to seal a superb fourth overall and confirm the RC2 class win on his first appearance in the Oregon Trail Rally. After setting a string of fourth fastest times behind eventual winner Brandon Semenuk, runner-up Travis Pastrana and third-placed Ken Block through Saturday's stages in the Golendale area of neighbouring Washington State,



OREGON RALLY: Al-Wahaibi's much-vaunted class rival Kyle Tilley suffered electrical failure. He traded some stage times with Al-Wahaibi before crashing out on the 18th stage of the rally.

the 53-year-old and his New Zealand co-driver Tony Sircombe set several fourth fastest times again in Oregon's Dufur region on Sunday. Despite a puncture on Sunday afternoon, he conserved the McKenna Motorsport-run Ford Fiesta R5 through the closing gravel stages to finish in a comfortable fourth overall, over 2min 50sec in front of nearest rival Javier Castro and over five and a half minutes ahead

of sixth-placed Enda McCormack. Al-Wahaibi's much-vaunted class rival Kyle Tilley suffered electrical failure on Saturday. He traded some stage times with Al-Wahaibi before crashing out on the 18th and final stage of the demanding three-day rally.

"I am very happy with the performance on this rally," said Al-Wahaibi. "I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun with a good at-

mosphere. I am pleased with the result. We tried to get a bit closer to the Open cars but there was no chance. The stages were completely flat all the time. I will definitely be coming back to do more rallies in the United States."

Al-Wahaibi ran the Ford in the USA with logistical support from Asyad Express (an Omani delivery and logistics company) and Sandan Development LLC.

AUSTRALIA VS PAKISTAN



Aussies playing in our backyard will be special for Pakistan fans: Ramiz Raja

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja said that Australia playing on Pakistan soil after a gap of 24 years will be special for all fans.

"I am delighted to welcome Australia to Pakistan. From a personal point of view, it pleases me no end that we'll be engaged in a three-Test match series, connoisseurs delight," said Raja in an official PCB release. "Australia is one of the high-performing sides and them playing in our backyard for the first time after a gap of 24 years will be a special treat for the fans. Likewise, it will be a great opportunity for the Australia cricketers to not only play at our iconic venues but also feel and enjoy the respect, love and hospitality that this great country offers, something which most of their previous generation of cricketers missed out by playing offshore," he added.

PCB on Monday announced details of Australia's first tour of Pakistan since 1998, which will take place in March and April 2022, and comprise three Tests, three ODIs and one T20I.

The Tests will take place in Karachi (March 3-7), Rawalpindi (March 12-16) and Lahore (March 21-25), while Lahore will be the venue for the four white-ball matches to be

played from March 29 to April 5.

The Tests will be played as part of the ICC World Test Championship, while the ODIs will be connected to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League - a 13-team event from which the seven highest-placed sides and the hosts, India, will qualify directly for the event proper in 2023.

As part of the reconnoitring process, Cricket Australia's delegation will visit Pakistan to meet with PCB officials as well as provincial and federal authorities to discuss and finalise matters relating to team operations, logistics, security and Covid-19 protocols.

Australia last toured Pakistan in 1998-99 when Mark Taylor led them to a 1-0 series victory - their first since Richie Benaud's side defeated Fazal Mahmood's team by 2-0 in the 1959-60 series. Between the two series, Pakistan hosted Australia in 1964-65 (drew 0-0), 1979-80 (won 1-0), 1982-83 (won 3-0), 1988-89 (won 1-0) and 1994-95 (won 1-0).

Pakistan staged the last four series with Australia offshore - 2002-2003 (Colombo and Sharjah, Pakistan lost 3-0), 2010 (drew 1-1 in England), 2014-15 (won 2-0 in the UAE) and 2018-19 (won 1-0 in the UAE). **ANI**

TENNIS

People are starting to respect Djokovic more: Medvedev

PARIS: Daniil Medvedev was all praise for Novak Djokovic on Sunday, after he lost to the Serbian 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the Paris Masters final.

World No. 1 held his nerve on

Sunday to capture his sixth Paris Masters title by defeating the defending champion. This victory in Paris also marked his record-breaking 37th ATP Masters 1000 crown. "I have the feeling that

people [are] starting more and more to... respect what he has done in tennis more and more, because he continues to beat the records," said Medvedev as per aptptour.com.

"Only this year he beat the records for being No. 1 for most weeks, 310 it was, and now it's much more [345]. He got to 20 [Grand] Slams [and] almost [completed] a calendar Slam." **ANI**



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by January 2022 reaching \$82.30, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.55 from the price of Friday, which was at \$79.75. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,050.07 points, down 0.08 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 552.21 points. Dhofar Generating was the top gainer, up by 8.57 per cent, while Takaful Oman, down 6.25 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman, Saudi firms ink pact for waste management, recycling

Al Khedmah Recycling of Oman and Saudi Arabia's Tadweer will exchange expertise and carry out joint operations to achieve the highest possible levels of environmental sanitation and natural resources protection

MUSCAT: Two firms, one from the Sultanate of Oman and the other from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed an agreement for joint action in the field of waste recycling and management.

Al Khedmah Recycling of Oman and Saudi Arabia's "Tadweer" will exchange expertise and carry out joint operations to achieve the highest possible levels of environmental sanitation and natural resources protection.

sources protection. Natural waste will be recycled to produce reusable raw materials to be launched in local and external markets as recycled products, which will achieve optimum use of natural resources. According to the agreement, Al Khedmah Company will be the venue for the processing of hazardous and non-hazardous waste materials and the recycling of by-products from food industries and 'green waste'. The agreement will be a step forward in the two countries' march of cooperation and commercial exchange. It will help diminish the waste of natural resources and avoid the harms of direct dumping of debris. - OMA



COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE: The agreement will be a step forward in the two countries' march of cooperation and commercial exchange. - OMA

AT EXPO DUBAI 2020

Sohar Port highlights future of drone technology in GCC's logistics sector



DRONE TECHNOLOGY: The panel discussion focused on the GCC's emergence as a drones hub where Eng. Sufyan Al Mamari, Senior Engineer of Asset Management at Sohar Port and Freezone outlined the success of the port so far with drone technology. - Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port represented Oman's shipping and logistics sector at Hypermotion Dubai, a unique platform that connected founders, disruptors and true innovators to discuss cutting-edge technology. Held as part of Expo Dubai 2020, the panel discussion focused on the GCC's emergence as a drones hub where Eng. Sufyan Al Mamari, Senior Engineer of Asset Management at Sohar Port and Freezone outlined the success of the port so far with drone technology. He was joined by Khalifa Al Qama, Director of Dubai Future Labs, Dubai Future Foundation; Rabih Bou Rached, CEO, Falcon Eye Drones (FEDS); and Michael Anger, CTO and Founder, Unisphere, in a discussion moderated by Lucy Hedges, Technology Journalist with Metro UK and BBC. Ali Al Yamani- Executive Tech-

nical Manager at Sohar, said, "We have seen the impact that cutting-edge technology can have on our industry and drive efficiencies throughout the sector. "There are important research and trial studies being undertaken at ports around the world to discover the capabilities of drones and how they can be applied to our operations. Sohar Port hosts more than 3,000 vessel calls each year with a gross registered tonnage of approximately 85 million. "To continue growing, we need to become more digital and maximise our resources, and drone and AI technology can be a seamless solution to our operations." Sohar became the first in the Sultanate of Oman to adopt drone technology as part of the port's essential monitoring system. Allowing real-time observation and analysis of the infrastructure, security and environmental situation across the docks, drones

have proven efficient and capable of reaching areas humans cannot while offering a new perspective of the entire complex. Additionally, the use of remote-controlled drones offers an eagle-eye view that can detect, photograph and record any damages which allow for teams to respond quickly to specific areas. The technology even allows for algorithm-based analysis of changes to the infrastructure which leads to greater preventative maintenance and problem solving to be carried out throughout the complex. Covering deep waters as well, underwater drones are used to inspect and perform maintenance tasks, especially in areas where it is too difficult, dangerous or undesirable to use manned solutions, such as under jetties, bridges and alongside or underneath vessels. Equipped with a camera, the small unmanned vehicles can send images to the quay where prob-

lems can be solved quickly and up-to-the-minute status reports can be compiled. This data-driven approach has helped Sohar Port maximise efficiency and predict future maintenance through life-cycle reports which also allows port engineers to plan upgrades and guard against potential service interruptions. Sohar Port is one of the fastest-growing port and freezone complexes in the world and has invested in cutting-edge technology to maximise efficiency, increase output and lead the expansion and modernisation of the Sultanate's logistics sector. By becoming future-ready, Sohar Port has been able to attract new clients, increase cargo traffic and expand Oman's global trade capacity, which includes welcoming the world's largest container vessels, in support of the national economic priorities within Oman's 2040 Vision.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, organised a workshop titled 'Prevention of Occupational Exposure to Lead Poisoning' in line with the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. The workshop, which targeted employees specialised in health, safety and environmental fields in the industrial units, was moderated by Dr Fatma Al Hakmani, Occupational Health Specialist at the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Ministry of Health. During the workshop, Al Hakmani explained that the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is an initiative of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, co-led by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Environ-

ment Programme. She added that the manufacture and sale of lead paint are still allowed in more than 60 per cent of countries, which represents a source of lead exposure for children and workers. Therefore, there is a priority to minimise and prevent exposure to lead paint through regulatory and legal measures, Al Hakmani emphasised. She elaborated that lead is a well-known toxic substance that has wide-ranging effects on health, especially on the nervous system, heart, blood vessels, and digestive system. Besides, Al Hakmani noted that young children are more vulnerable to lead poisoning compared to adults, which is why children's exposure to lead remains a major subject for healthcare providers and public health officials even though the unsafe effects of lead are widely recognised and key measures are being adopted by many countries.

MADAYN INITIATIVE



INFORMATIVE: The workshop, which targeted employees specialised in health, safety and environmental fields in the industrial units, was moderated by Dr Fatma Al Hakmani, Occupational Health Specialist at the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Ministry of Health. - Supplied picture

Workshop focuses on prevention of occupational exposure to lead poisoning

CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Business leaders optimistic COP26 visions will become reality

BOSTON: A week into the United Nations' high-profile climate conference in Glasgow, executives and financial analysts say they are optimistic the talks will lead to changes needed for business to play a bigger role in tackling climate change. The business observers pointed to several steps by world leaders they said could boost sustainable business and investing efforts to mobilise the vast sums of money needed to wean the world off fossil fuels. These include a pledge by financial firms with a combined \$130 trillion in assets to focus on climate change, the creation of a global standards body to scrutinize corporate climate claims, and pledges to cut methane emissions and to save forests. Jefferies managing director Aniket Shah said although many of the steps lacked specific promises, they showed a global consensus forming

to tackle climate change that will make it easier for private investors and governments to put in money and effort, according to Reuters. "There's a certain power of signalling of intentions that can't be dismissed here," Shah said. He pointed to the goal set by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on November 1 for his country to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. Although two decades later than what scientists say is needed to avert catastrophic climate impacts, the pledge was still more than India had offered in the past and could be accelerated with financial help from developed nations, Shah said. Peter Lacy, Accenture's global sustainability services lead, said that for investors and companies, the most significant step at the conference was the creation on November 3 of the International Sustainability Standards Board, meant to create a baseline for companies to describe their climate impact. Lacy called it a seismic moment for business and in line with the hopes of CEOs Accenture surveyed ahead of the conference. The new board, Lacy said, "will give investors and stakeholders a much better understanding of related risks and opportunities and help guide the allocation of the



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS: The business observers pointed to several steps by world leaders they said could boost sustainable business and investing efforts to mobilise the vast sums of money needed to wean the world off fossil fuels. - BNA

huge amount of capital needed as the world transitions to net zero," he said via email. Critics say many of the conference's key announcements lack specifics and give companies wiggle room. For instance, banks, insurers and investors pledged to work to cut emissions to net-zero by 2050, but each entity has made its own net-zero commitments "with potential overlap across initiatives, institutions and assets," according to the group's press statement. Leslie Samuelrich, media of Green Century Capital Management in Boston, which does not invest in fossil fuel stocks, said she worries bigger investment firms signed on so quickly to carbon-reduction pledges advertised at Glasgow because their terms might be too easy to meet. "The speed with which some have adopted this makes me cau-

tious," Samuelrich said. But other finance executives say it is inevitable businesses will move to cut emissions under pressure from customers and to chase profits. Mark Haefele, chief investment officer for UBS Global Wealth Management, said promising areas include renewable energy, transport and batteries. Diplomats now must hash out rules on areas like constructing markets to help businesses price carbon and how much-developed nations will help poorer ones. On a call with journalists on Friday, David Waskow, a director of the nonprofit World Resources Institute, said he was more optimistic than a week ago that the attendees would strike meaningful agreements. "I think the beginning of the week actually did lay the good groundwork. Not to say everything is all rosy," he said. - BNA

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Generating was the top gainer, up by 8.57 per cent, while Takaful Oman, down 6.25 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,050.07 points, down 0.08 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 552.21 points. Dhofar Generating was the top gainer, up by 8.57 per cent, while Takaful Oman, down 6.25 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 462 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.6 million, with more than 9.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 39 traded securities, 9 advanced, 12 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, Local investors were net buyers for OMR61,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sell-

ers for OMR52,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR9,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,401 points, up 0.12 per cent. Prices of Bank Muscat, Vision Insurance, Sohar International Bank and Ominvest were up 1.25 per cent, 1.25 per cent, 0.97 per cent and 0.65 per cent respectively. Takaful Oman, Global Investment Holding, Bank Dhofar and Al Anwar Investment were down 6.25 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,160.72 points, up 0.03 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry and Al Maha Ceramics were up 4.26 per cent and 0.77 per cent respectively.

Services Index up by 0.26 per cent before closing at 1,654.31 points. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,061.74	4,047.87	4,050.07	4,053.23	-3.16	-0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,410.95	6,393.85	6,401.46	6,393.85	7.61	0.12
Industry Index	6,186.35	6,160.73	6,160.73	6,158.68	2.04	0.03
Services Index	1,658.03	1,650.01	1,654.31	1,650.01	4.30	0.26
MSX Shariah Index	554.21	552.21	552.21	552.61	-0.41	-0.07
MSX TR INDEX	4,884.30	4,867.62	4,870.28	4,874.08	-3.80	-0.08

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,971,303	1,654,049	462	22,035,426,030	9	12	18	39

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	42,193	41,349	6	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.940	0.040	4.255	0.980	0.980	1.000	0.100	87,906,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	4,443,045	624,354	116	0.139	0.142	0.139	0.141	0.004	2.920	0.139	0.138	0.140	0.100	33,417,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	6,000	2,160	2	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	2.273	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.100	22,033,538
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	472,799	230,106	27	0.488	0.488	0.486	0.486	0.000	1.250	0.488	0.476	0.496	0.100	1,737,194,749
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	115,448	9,351	5	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.081	0.100	0.100	8,100,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	134,980	14,003	7	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	310,966,478
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	85,805	44,892	8	0.524	0.526	0.520	0.522	0.004	0.772	0.524	0.520	0.529	0.100	28,710,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	100,000	31,250	8	0.312	0.314	0.312	0.310	0.002	0.645	0.314	0.308	0.314	0.100	252,024,967
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	931	127	2	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.135	0.001	0.000	0.136	0.133	0.136	0.100	11,475,000
OM0000001418	RAISUT CEMENT	25,683	3,759	9	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.245	0.100	48,000,000
OM0000003077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	422,800	48,850	11	0.116	0.116	0.114	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.116	0.100	34,445,550
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	1,215,406	110,576	51	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.091	0.001	0.000	0.091	0.089	0.091	0.100	8,190,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	83,000	35,692	10	0.434	0.434	0.428	0.430	-0.004	-0.922	0.428	0.428	0.428	0.100	94,600,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	380,299	35,351	23	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.098	0.001	-1.010	0.097	0.087	0.100	0.100	19,600,000
OM0000003568	QOEDOO	526,168	194,766	34	0.372	0.372	0.370	0.370	0.004	-1.070	0.370	0.368	0.380	0.100	240,849,365
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	16,000	11,008	5	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.686	-0.002	-1.149	0.688	0.680	0.688	0.100	47,472,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	54,153	20,202	12	0.380	0.380	0.372	0.374	0.006	-1.579	0.372	0.368	0.392	0.100	46,711,837
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	108,900	80,728	22	0.752	0.752	0.740	0.740	0.012	-1.596	0.740	0.740	0.752	0.100	555,000,000
Total	18	8,203,678	1,539,523	358											

Parallel Market

OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	50,000	3,815	6	0.075	0.077	0.075	0.076	0.070	0.006	8.571	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	16,890,240
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	15,600	1,476	3	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	12,350,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,580	307	1	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.000	0.000	0.194	0.189	0.195	0.100	315,433,593
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	505	47	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.090	0.093	0.100	186,029,089
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	1,262	303	1	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.263	0.263	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.237	0.240	0.100	10,942,186
OM0000002341	OMAN CHELORE	2,490	498	5	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.185	0.200	0.100	13,620,732
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,230	49	3	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.040	0.043	0.100	9,061,410
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	13,730	1,305	4	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	69,085	6,711	13	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	16,975,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1,060,200	55,030	15	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	35,094,146
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	85,908	4,463	5	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	128,466	6,292	5	0.049	0.050	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.002	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.050	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	4,248	331	4	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.083	0.100	12,288,482
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,000	302	1	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.302	0.322	0.100	23,228,700
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	45,990	3,558	6	0.079	0.079	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	15,620,956
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	10,000	1,280	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	-1.538	0.128	0.128	0.130	0.100	383,532,984
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	73,581	4,639	6	0.063	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.064	-0.001	-1.563	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	12,600,000
OM0000003861	VOLITAMP ENERGY	54,700	6,081	4	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.001	-0.813	0.122	0.118	0.125	0.100	9,931,136
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	101,000	14,796	15	0.150	0.150	0.146	0.146	0.146	-0.003	-2.013	0.146	0.146	0.147	0.100	4,901,432
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	15,000	1,355	2	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.090	-0.006	-6.250	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.100	9,000,000
Total	20	1,735,475	113,239	101												

Indian equity indices close in green, Sensex gains 478 points

MUMBAI: Indian equity market closed in the green on Monday as the oil and gas and consumer durables sector shares gained.

At the closing bell, the BSE S&P Sensex was up by 477.99 points or 0.80 per cent, while the Nifty 50 gained by 151.70 points or 0.85 per cent. In BSE Sensex the sectors,

which gained were the oil and gas sector and the consumer durables sector, while the sector that plummeted was healthcare.

Among stocks, the top contributor was the Titan company, which surged 4.29 per cent to Rs 2,536.90 per share, followed by Ultra Tech Cement at a surge

of 4.20 per cent to Rs 8,208 per share. Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra and Kotak Mahindra too traded with a positive bias.

However, IndusInd Bank cracked by 10.71 per cent, followed by Mahindra & Mahindra down by 1.57 per cent and State Bank of India by 1.38 per cent. —ANI

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TWITTER POLL

Twitter users push Elon Musk to sell 10% of Tesla shares

NEW YORK: Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on Sunday he was "prepared to accept" the results of a Twitter poll that urged him to sell 10 per cent of his shares in the electric carmaker amid proposals in the US to more heavily tax the super wealthy.

Out of the 3.5 million Twitter users who took part in the poll, a majority of 57.9 per cent voted in favour of Musk selling the stock. If Musk goes ahead with selling the Tesla stocks it would earn the world's richest person just under \$21 billion.

The eccentric billionaire, who is also the head of the private space company SpaceX, regularly takes to Twitter to make unexpected announcements or to make controversial comments. In a poll posted Saturday, he asked users to vote "Yes" or "No" on whether he should sell the Tesla shares.

"I was prepared to accept either outcome," he tweeted in the posts following the poll closed on Sunday.

The move came after Democrats in the US Congress continued to discuss plans to tax the super-rich for the shares they own in order to pay for President Joe Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill. Stocks are only taxed when sold at the moment. —nw

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Darsait 1 & 2 BHK Flats.
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Al Amerat 2 & 3 BHK Flats With A.C.
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For viewing please call 24694088, 99316410, 92841690 or email us on: hartc@omantel.net.om

FOR RENT
1-2 Bedrooms flats with full maintenance near Mall of Oman, Bausher. Directly from Owner, starting R.O. 160.
Srinivas 91767240

FOR RENT
Room for rent in Qurum.
Contact 99664703

FOR SALE

FOR RENT
Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Ducted VRF A/Cs. Free centralize gas, Built in wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured car park.
Next to Sri Lankan School Wadi Kabir
Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment and Transport for Office also available
Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

FOR RENT
Super Deluxe 1, 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Panasonic VRF A/Cs, Free centralize gas, Kitchen appliances, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system, Free Unlimited High Speed Fiber Optic WiFi & Secured Car Park.
Behind Mazoun Complex, Ruwi
Fully Furnished Apartment Also Available
Contact: 96707247 or 24704141

FOR RENT
Deluxe 2 & 3 BHK Flats with Split A/Cs, Fixed wardrobes, Kitchen appliances, Free Unlimited Broadband WiFi, 24x7 CCTV, Security access system & Secured car park.
Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj
Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment And Transport For Office Also Available
Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

Sale of a clinic in Muscat area with all the up to date documents.
Contact 91465358

WANTED

Investments required for small projects on case to case profit sharing basis. Contact 79778950

JOB VACANCY

EUROPEAN RESTAURANTS URGENTLY REQUIRES
Restaurant Supervisors
Waitress
Age limit – 25 to 35 Yrs
All candidates should be friendly, Energetic with a good command of English. Preferably having experience in Restaurant Chains.
Interested Candidate may send email their CV to e-mail: omanstaff1@gmail.com / contact : +968 93291768

FOR SALE

POLYCLINIC WITH DIALYSIS CENTER FOR SALE in Al Khuwair – Muscat
Fully operational Polyclinic with Operation Theatre, Dialysis Machines and other Medical Equipments.
Successful track record of outsourcing dialysis services for Ministry of Health.
Contact : Tel : 99515261

SERVICES

Shining Star International L.L.C.
Oman's Leading Paper Recycling & Trading Company
INDUSTRIAL SHREDDING SERVICES FOR SECURE & CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS
Contact: 9268 7714 / Email: recycling@shiningstaroman.com

Plumbing, painting & maintenance.
Contact 96191837, 98937266
Armour Rocks for protection works. Contact 98518399
Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & anti-termite treatment, general cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting.
Mundhir Al Rizaiqi Trading LLC.
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CONNECT

JOB VACANCIES

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Accountant

With experience and full knowledge in accounting/ budgeting till finalization, financial cost control, preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statements. Well versed with computer and accounting packages - who are willing to join immediately.

Please send your CV's: financejobs789@gmail.com

REQUIRED

Diesel Mechanic

I.T.I. qualification with minimum 4 to 5 years experience in Engine / Gearbox Overhauling & Trouble shooting of Heavy Vehicles / Earth Moving Equipment's. Preferably MAN & VOLVO make Trucks. Candidates with NOC from Oman preferred for immediate employment.

Please Send your CV's to: vacancyinmuscatoman@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

10 year Oman Experience in Sales Marketing and Customer relation, looking for any type of suitable Job. Release Letter/NOC and driving Licence available.

Contact 95034204

ACCOUNTS ADMIN

Accountant with 10 yrs experience in Trading & Contracting, Oil & Gas, Building Materials, Manufacturing, Constructions & IT sectors. Expertise in Accounting, Finalization, Auditing, Budgeting, Costing, Payroll & VAT. NOC / Local release & Driving licence available.

Contact: 91183601
E-mail: suneel.suneel@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.

GSM: 92334161

FINANCE

Senior Accountant, Indian Male MBA (Finance) with 9 + years of experience of which 6 years of experience in KSA in Financial Accounting including VAT. Currently in Oman.

Contact: 78370670
Email: abid.khan.a@gmail.com

PROJECT ENGINEER

Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.

Contact 91731694

Inventory Coordinator

Indian male 31: Having 8 years experience handling Retail F&B Operations, inventory, purchase, Sales & Accounting with various other skills, NOC available.

Contact: 96219904
Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

SALES EXECUTIVE

Must have good, knowledgeable experience in Oman in Building materials/ waterproofing/ Epoxy floorings Etc.

ACCOUNTANT

Min. 2 years experience in Oman.

Pls send yours CVs to: jobmuscat2021@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED

For a Group of Companies based in Muscat, operations spread all over Oman.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Commerce Graduate, with Accounts as Major, Minimum 2 Years of Work Experience with NOC, Tally ERP 9 certified, Computer literate, knowledge of ENGLISH a must, immediate joining preferring available in OMAN, current work location at Al khuwair

E Mail your updated CV to: notcllc@gmail.com

URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR SALES COORDINATOR

One of the most reputed ISO Certified Manufacturing Company in the Sultanate of Oman has vacancy for the post of Sales Coordinator. The candidate should be a graduate with excellent skills in Microsoft Office.

- Preferred Age: 25-30 years
- 1-2 years of experience.
- Oman/GCC driving license is must.

Interested candidates may please contact on +968 99443014

JOB VACANCIES

SALES EXECUTIVES

Need experienced Sales Executives for a Healthcare Business. Good Sales & Communication skills a must. GCC driving license preferred. Both Omani & Expat candidates are welcome.

Send your CV to: jobmct19@yahoo.com with your photo

Urgently Required

Indian Cook

For Private Family, with experience in Arabic and Indian cuisine.

Please contact 99735820

JOB VACANCIES

MEDICAL

Urgently required we'll experienced **Gynaecologist** (arab speaking), **Microbiology doctor, nurse and lab technicians** (General & molecular) Candidates with MOH license are preferred. Email: apexhealth21@gmail.com Whatsapp no: 968 95773456

SALES/MARKETING

Looking urgently for a well experienced building material sales man with computer knowledge. Contact 92525406

Need experience **Sales Executive** for Gas field industry. Dood sales and communication Oman D/L needed. send cv on: osgcfinance@yahoo.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking For Carpenter and Office Staff. Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

ENGINEER (IT)

Indian, Female, B.Tech, with 2+ years of experience in Oman as Coordinator and Marketing with valid Omani D/L. Looking for a job, Currently in Oman.

GSM : +968 71198240
Email: jc.clarrinda@gmail.com

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER

MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

HR & Administration

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

Contact 94948676

HR / Finance

Indian, Male, Masters degree in HR and Finance with 5+ years of experience in Oman as HR Asst with valid Omani D/L. Looking for a job, Currently in Oman.

GSM : +968 93835905
Email : chris_alwin@yahoo.com

Chemical Engineer (Omani)

Fresh graduate, bachelor degree from The University of New Mexico (USA)

Contact +96896444740
Email: msr15@live.com

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

Process Engineer (Omani)

Bachelor degree from German University of technology in Oman, 3 year experience in process and Contract engineering worked with Multiple Water and wastewater companies in Oman in different Sites and STPs.

Contact number: 92115804
Email: Faiza112@outlook.com

SALES / BDM / ADMIN

Indian Male, B.Sc. (Mathematics), PGD in Business Management. 16 Yrs. of Oman Experience, Worked with the leading Companies in Oman (MCT, SLL & Nizwa). Sales, Admin & Oilfield Services Companies & Key Accounts Handling. Good in MS Word, Excel, letter drafting. Fluency in Arabic, English, Hindi & Malayalam. Valid Oman D/L.

Contact: +968 9527 8838, anup2p4p@yahoo.com

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Indian Female(MBA Finance) having more than 15 years of experience in Oman in Finance and Accounts seeks suitable senior positions. NOC Available.

Contact # 94953826 / 92824146

PROJECT ENGINEER

Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.

Contact 79170769

ENGINEER

B.Tech Mechanical Engineer with 2yrs Exp, Seeking Suitable placement. Presently in Muscat (Visit Visa)

Contact 78375996
Email: vishnutp999@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accounting manager, 12 years' experience in Oman doing up to finalization.Looking for suitable position D/L & NOC available. Contact 95570425 (Call/WhatsApp)

Accountant with more than 6 years experience seeks suitable placement. 2 yrs valid visa available. # 94031834

Corporate Banking and Wealth Management professional with 4 years experience in premiere Indian Banks. Seeking opportunities in Finance & Consulting. Education: PGDM Finance and B.Tech. Contact: 9430 9593

Indian Male 33 MBA looking for Senior Accountant.Having 8yrs experience including 5 yrs in Oman. Presently in Oman with NOC. Contact 78275075 or Email: smumair4u@gmail.com

Indian male Senior Accountant having 11 years experience in Accounts, Audit & Taxation looking for immediate placement. NOC available. Contact 95075222

Indian,13 years Accounts experience in Oman seeks suitable position. Contact 96496435

DRIVER

Bangladeshi driver (with car) with 12 yrs experience seeks job. Arabic, Hindi & English speaker. Contact 95951769, 99557495

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 95160208

Bangladeshi driver with 8 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 96317701

Driver from Bangladesh with 4yrs experience seeks job.Can speak Arabic,Hindi. Contact 97625632

ADMIN/HR

Indian male having 21 years HR & admin experience in Oman seeks suitable job. Contact 79329696

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman D/L & 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. CTC 79256679

Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years Oman experience. Immediate. Contact 99283938.

Omani Male 35 years old looking for PRO Job with 15 years of experience of same. # 92049106, 95422144

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Interior designer with 13 yrs experience in position of project manager, coordination,quantity surveyor,quality control, looking suitable job. Contact 96146432. Email samsuint@gmail.com

Diploma Civil engineer having 10yrs Oman experience mainly in architectural/structural drafting. looking for a suitable position. Contact 79112971.

Freelancer 2D /3D Autocad Revit drafting MEP, Arch, B.Tech. 99506977

EDUCATION

Indian Female, B.Ed, MSc Maths - with Distinction, 6 yr's exp seeking teaching jobs. Contact 92106767

HOSPITALITY

Indian 25 yrs, Hotel management course completed Chef seeks job. Contact 79892681, 79523339
Email: abusamir8@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Electrical Engineer, 9 years experience (7 years KSA and 2 years Oman). Experienced in HV substations and transmission lines, on Engineer Visa which expired on 19 Oct 2021. Ready to join immediately. Contact 94161509
Email: mubashirniazi@gmail.com

Diploma Civil Engineer, (Bangladeshi)total 10 yrs experience in Oman seeking urgent placement. NOC available & D/L. # 94025828

MEP Quantity Surveyor and Designer. Srilankan male having more than 8 years gulf experience with MEP systems, take off measurement, Design and build, estimation etc, looking for a suitable placement in Oman, NOC available. # 79098939 email: sahes89@gmail.com,

Srilankan Male Quantity Surveyor (HND QS-UK & Diploma in PM) with 3 years' experience. Looking for a suitable placement in Oman. Email: tmsafnas@gmail.com Contact 78149384

Male Civil Engineer having 15 yrs experience in Contracting project management,construction management,consultancy of mega building projects.8 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 94234934. Email ayub.engr@yahoo.com

Indian male (24) Mechanical engineering 2 years (Oman) experience in oil and gas field with OQ approved permit authority with D/L, Currently available in Oman looking for suitable placement. # 72050244, 98523127
Email: kssanju97@gmail.com

Electrical project manager (Btech) 14+ years experience in substation, OHL EPC projects upto 132kv with NOC and Omani D/L seeking placement. Contact 95290833

Srilankan Quantity Surveyor, Male with 4 years of Civil & ID experience in Oman.Looking for a job # 92187572
Email: sifathhasan1995@gmail.com

Senior Surveyor, Indian National, Diploma with 15+ years of experience both in India & Gulf countries is available in Oman with NOC to join immediately. Holding Omani D/L. Contact at 9045 9497 or mahesh.rsmahima@gmail.com

B.E civil engineer having 13 yrs Oman Experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Please contact 72132426
Indian Project Engineer 11 year experience in the execution of Electro Mechanical projects seeking suitable placements NOC available
Contact 79111574

Electrical Engineer & PMP with over 15 yrs experience in Oman,UAE &India seeks suitable placement. Contact 94029124
Email: rkdvb@yahoo.com

Indian, 25yrs, Planning Engineer, 3 years & 5 months experience in Oil & Gas (maintenance) seeks suitable placement. Contact 95586241/99892757

Sudanese electrical engineer with 8 years of experience in the field of operating distribution and transmission networks, including 4 years in Oman with Global and Tanweer Company seeks job in the field of operation or projects.Have D/L. Contact 98005485

Indian male, 28 Mechanical engineer 2 yrs oman experience,with D/L Searching sales/engg jobs. Contact 98040564 sayujvc@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor (Srilankan) with 06 years of experience in building and pipeline projects. Looking for the job, presently available in Oman. Contact 968 79991752

Sudanese Mechanical engineer have 5 years experience 1years in MEP and 4 years in factories,maintenance and with D/L. Contact 93521100

JOB WANTED

MANAGER

29 yrs Gulf experienced BE(Civil) available with NOC to work at Senior Management level with reputed Consultant/Clients/Contractors or real estate companies. Contact 92279480. Email: abdulwahab.aw880@gmail.com

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

Project Manager (Interior turnkey Fitout Decor & MEP), B.E. having 14 years experience looking for a suitable position can handle projects independently. Call 98405111

LOGISTIC

Indian with 2 year experience in Store and Inventory Controller in Kuwait, and also 5 year in sales, looking for a suitable job. Contact 79803464, 98465045

Indian male, 24 yrs BBA,diploma in logistics & shipping, 2 yrs experience as logistics coordinator, 3 months training in customs clearance. Contact 95725785. Email: melbinm003@gmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Diploma Mechanical Engineer & CNC VMC operator exp 3 yrs currently in Oman. NOC available. Contact 94227542. Email dinithdas@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian, 35 yrs, experience of more than 12 yrs in Project Sales & Marketing (Turnkey & Building Materials) seeks placement.MBA (Marketing & IBM), Oman D/L. Contact 96656162. Email: equbal.jspm@gmail.com

Looking for Sales & Marketing operations job, 5 years experience with FMCG company in GCC. Contact +968 78050760
Email: Jazmir.musawa@gmail.com

Pakistani Male (5 years experience), M.Phil, Marketing and Sales Expert in the oil & energy industry. Skilled in Lectureship, Research, Business Administration. Contact 91102995
fahadikram96@hotmail.com

Salesman & electrification, 6 years' experience in The Sultan center, Oman. Contact 94438968

Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs.Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately,, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact +968 79975463
nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com



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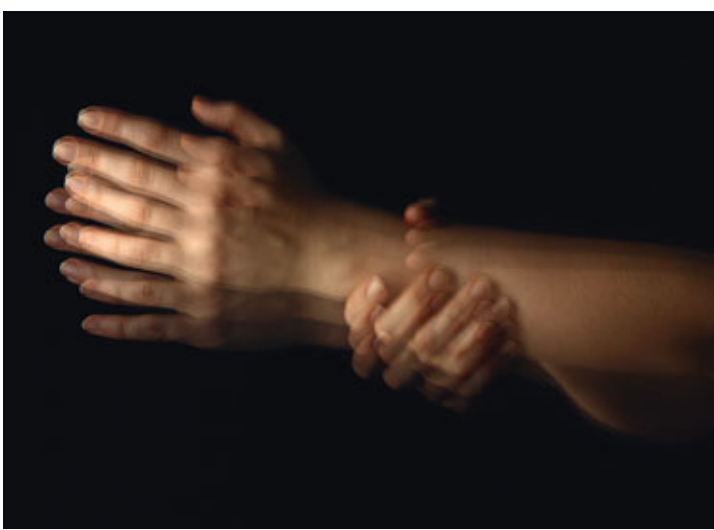


HOW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING THOSE WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE

When Ann Hanley was 49 years old, she noticed that she had persistent stiffness in her shoulders and her arms weren't swinging normally when she walked. This became particularly pronounced when it affected her ability to travel to horse races with her husband, who manages a farm, breeding champion racehorses. After visiting several specialists, a neurologist recognised she had Parkinson's disease (PD). The diagnosis was a shock, as Hanley had previously viewed PD as a disease that mainly affected older men. Initially the idea of living with a progressive disease was overwhelming for Hanley -- a self-described social butterfly -- and so was maintaining her desire to be active.

PD is the second most common progressive neurodegenerative condition, affecting millions worldwide. While it can't be cured, medications are often prescribed to help manage symptoms. Unfortunately, some of these drugs are associated with side effects like involuntary movements and motor fluctuations. And over time, these medications can become less effective.

Now 63, Hanley is a veritable expert on her condition and an advocate for other patients. Seven years ago, she began vol-



unteering at the University of Kentucky Hospital, shadowing a leading neurosurgeon who specialised in a PD treatment called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), which helps patients manage the motor symptoms of the disease when medication alone is no longer effective. DBS uses a small medical device implanted in the body and connected to leads that stimulate a portion of the brain to control the motor functions affected by movement disorders, including tremors, slowness and rigidity.

Until recently, physicians have had to rely on older DBS technology. However, the Boston Scientific Vercise Genus

DBS System, approved for use in 2021, is designed to customise therapy to match each patient's specific needs and allow for flexible stimulation therapy delivery as the disease progresses. This is important, because PD advances over time, and no two people experience progressions the same way.

"Ultimately, with early enough intervention, DBS is a tool that can help people with PD reduce tremors, increase mobility, and even reduce the amount of medication needed -- offering a reprieve from unpleasant side effects," says Dr. Michele Tagliati, MD, director, Movement Disorders Programme, Cedars Sinai

(Los Angeles). "In particular, this therapy is designed with patient comfort and convenience in mind and gives physicians the ability to manage the ever-evolving needs of a patient as their Parkinson's advances."

Hanley knew it was time to try DBS herself when her walking had slowed, she stooped over, her back hurt relentlessly and she was experiencing significant tremor in her right hand and leg. After undergoing the procedure, she was amazed at how DBS had helped her.

"When they turned on the device, I experienced an indescribable moment. My symptoms were suddenly reduced, and I felt more in control of my motion," says Hanley.

With DBS, Hanley was able to completely come off her PD medications and experienced increased mobility. While results vary for different patients, she's now able to walk, cycle and swim regularly, and attend every horse race with ease.

Today, Hanley is an advocate for DBS therapy and volunteers support to other patients, assisting during their appointments and even holding their hands during the DBS procedure. She's also raised \$3.5 million dollars through her fundraising efforts to support PD research at the University of Kentucky Hospital.

- Statepoint

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat launches new ATMs and CDMs at various locations

The latest installations will help the bank keep pace with the increased demand for its services



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced the installation of new ATMs and CDMs in different governorates in line with its vision to “To serve you better, everyday” and commitment to promoting financial inclusion in Oman. The new devices have been installed in the following locations:

Lulu Hypermarket-Ibra, Oasis Mall - Sohar, China Mall - Sohar, Mustafa Sultan Exchange - Ghala, Shell Select Filling Station near City Center Qurum, Lulu Hypermarket - Ruwi Souq, Sahnoot - Salalah, Rameez Shopping Mall - Sur, Mudhaibi Al Rudha, Bawadi Mall - Ibri, Mawaleh Fruits and Vegetables Market, Royal Guard of

Oman (Halban), Hafeet border post and Al Bahja Super Market - Salalah. The bank currently has more than 800 devices, including Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs), Full Function Machines (FFMs), Statement Printers and Business Cash Deposit Machines (BCDMs), spread across the Sultanate. Speaking on the occasion, Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and Electronic Banking, Bank Muscat, thanked customers for their strong confidence in the bank’s digital banking facilities. He said, “Bank Muscat is pleased to launch several new ATMs and CDMs at various important locations across the Sultanate. The bank is committed to continuously developing and launching new solutions and features in line with modern developments and its e-channels like ATMs, CDMs and FFM’s represent an important means for customers

to complete their banking transactions at all times with enhanced convenience and security. “As part of its customer-centric vision, the bank continuously takes feedback from its customers, conducts surveys and identifies fresh installation sites. The bank promises to keep on innovating and installing new devices based on customer feedback and in line with its pioneering role in digital transformation.” New ATMs and CDMs continue to be installed at other locations as Bank Muscat makes further efforts to improve financial inclusivity amongst all demographic segments. The final decision to install new devices are made based on various inputs including the feedback from bank officials, customer feedback and the footfalls in that particular location, especially if it is within a business hub. This drive for enhancing financial inclusion is closely aligned with

national growth and development goals as envisaged by the landmark Oman Vision 2040. Bank Muscat’s ATMs and CDMs offer a variety of services including cash withdrawals; balance enquiry; fund transfers to other accounts in Bank Muscat / other banks in Oman; loading funds onto BM Wallet; setting/resetting debit and credit card PIN; mini statements; submission of requests for cheque books; cash deposits; payment of utility bills, credit card bills and school fees; and updating of the mobile number linked to the customer’s account. Bank Muscat has also introduced an automated process for PIN creation or resetting for its debit, credit and prepaid cards through the ATMs or statement printing kiosks, thereby eliminating the wait for a physically printed PIN to be sent to customers by post or be collected from the branch. Statement Printer kiosks can be

used by bank customers to get account statements at any time. Bank Muscat’s e-channels are available 24/7 and facilitate secure and convenient transactions especially, during weekends and holidays. Bank Muscat in step with a continuous endeavour to provide world-class banking services through the latest technology and innovation, has launched 10 Business Cash Deposit Machine (BCDM) for corporate clients across the Sultanate of Oman. The state-of-the-art facility introduced in the banking sector in Oman is aimed at corporate convenience for bulk cash deposits. This BCDM facility is available in select bank branches and key offsite locations are aimed at helping corporate customers perform cash deposit transactions securely and conveniently 24 x 7. The convenient service provides the benefit of not having to store cash during non-working hours and weekends.

ZUBAIR SMALL ENTERPRISES CENTRE

Zubair SEC member launches new business

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment towards enhancing the presence of its members, Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) announced the launch of a new business INVARE. Spearheaded by Majid Al Battashi, a Zubair SEC member since 2016, the company’s services are focused on targeting small and large factories and workshops through the provision of technical, mechanical and electrical maintenance, specifically for heavy equipment and machinery. Commenting on the launch of INVARE, Majid stated, “I believe that there is a significant disparity in the market, especially when it comes to the repair and maintenance of industrial equipment and machinery. This is even truer when the original warranty has expired because the warranty period is insufficient in most cases. To be able to bridge this gap, INVARE was formed to understand the issues and challenges by such factories and workshops.”



INVARE was established after Majid successfully exited from his first start-up business in the waste management and recycling field. By following his aspiration and passion for industrial innovations and solutions, he successfully laid the foundation of his new business

with the support of Zubair SEC. Furthermore, INVARE would be working on research and development to build its new concepts and prototypes for a few new industrial tools, equipment and machines. This is aimed at solving common issues faced among manufacturers

and industrial workshops. Ali Shaker Advisor Business Development & Strategic partnerships from Zubair SEC, said, “Zubair SEC is always keen on encouraging and working together with entrepreneurs like Majid and be a part of their success stories. As a Zubair SEC member for over 5 years, he has shown an admirable track record from his previous company and has showcased dedication and commitment to his ideas. We continuously strive to partner and support upcoming entrepreneurs and look forward to enhancing this fruitful partnership. On behalf of Zubair SEC, I wish him the best of luck in his endeavours.” “I would like to thank Zubair SEC for their confidence and encouragement to allow me to capitalise on my passions. “I believe that we can collectively work towards enhancing the future for our nation by empowering and paving the way for other small and medium business enterprises,” Majid added.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANISATION

Eshraqa donates floor of building to Dar Al Atta’a

MUSCAT: As a part of its ongoing commitment to inspire sustainable development in the local community and render its unfaltering support to charitable organisations, Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas’ Social Development Arm, recently donated an entire floor of a building to Dar Al Atta’a. Dar Al Atta’a will be able to generate rental income by letting the floor for events, celebrations, and other activities, which will then be allocated to support the association’s various efforts. Commenting on the donation, Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group said, “At Khimji Ramdas, we strongly believe in supporting local organisations, especially charitable associations, as they strive towards elevating and strengthening the lives of individuals from various segments of society. This initiative comes as an ad-



dition to the several programs that Khimji Ramdas Group has undertaken in the past to support Dar Al Atta’a. As a group that has remained invested in the socio-economic prosperity, growth, and well-being of the people of the nation, we will continue to support initiatives that

are geared towards empowering them in every way possible.” Maryam bint Issa Al-Zadjali, President of Dar Al Atta’ Association, said, “We are happy with the continuing assistance from Eshraqa. This gesture demonstrates Khimji Ramdas Groups’

unwavering dedication to giving back to the ecosystem it operates in and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the association. It will assist us in achieving our goals as we continue to execute programmes aimed at improving the well-being of Omani citizens.”

MID-SIZE SEDAN

Attractively styled, comfortably appointed Nissan Altima impresses with host of features

MUSCAT: Establishing a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology within the mid-size sedan segment, Nissan Altima features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two new powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features. Nissan Altima impresses with its good looks, a striking exterior, colour range, spaciousness and fashionable interior. Its powerful high-performance engine and a range of other options add to its appeal. A senior official of Nissan Oman said, “Nissan Altima has been electrifying customers with its class-leading fuel economy, classy design, driving dynamics, comfortability and safe technology. Nissan Altima offers effortless power and remarkable fuel economy. Its outstanding drive, enhanced handling, fuel efficiency and thought-

ful technology solutions are plus points too.” Nissan Altima has advanced safety features for those seeking a more focused driving experience. Owners vouch that with its advanced technology and in-built design, Nissan Altima is a pleasure to drive. The Nissan Altima 2.0L Turbo, which has a new standard of design, driving enjoyment and technology has been creating waves within the mid-size sedan segment since its launch. The sedan’s advanced VC-Turbo engine – the company’s first production-ready variable compression ratio engine – is one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created. Similarly, Nissan Altima 2.5L features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intel-



ligent Mobility features. The Nissan Altima 2.0 has the world’s first variable compression turbo engine. The engine is so smart that it anticipates what the

driver wants. The Altima’s shape-shifting VC-turbo engine lets the driver enjoy it a lot. Nissan Altima 2.5 L unlocks the pure joy of driving through its innovative latest

technology and Nissan Intelligent Mobility feature that responds to the world around in real-time. Powered by an innovative 248 horsepower, 2.0-litre, turbocharged variable compression, four-cylinder engine, Nissan Altima continuously adjusts its compression ratio to optimize power and efficiency. Whether its turbocharged power that pushes you back in your seat or efficiency that sips fuel, even in city streets, Altima’s shape-shifting VC-Turbo engine gives you the best of both worlds. The sedan is a complete technological package – it over-delivers on the basics, boasts features and innovative technologies never seen in its class. The VC-Turbo engine has been developed after years of research and consumer feedback. It seamlessly changes its com-

pression ratio between 8:1 (for high performance) and 14:1 (for high efficiency) – with an advanced multi-link system continuously raising or lowering the pistons’ reach to transform the compression ratio. While a high compression ratio gives greater efficiency, a low compression ratio allows for greater power and torque and avoids knocking. Nissan Altima also comes standard with a traditional 2.5 litre, four-cylinder engine. The 2.5-litre inline 4-cylinder, which is standard on all Altima grades, utilizes more than 80% or redesigned parts. Nissan Altima 2.0 L Turbo delivers 248 horsepower and has dimensions of 4900 x 1852 x 1447mm (LxWxH). It has a CVT transmission, a Wheelbase of 2825mm and a Fuel Tank capacity of 61 litres.

HOTELIER MIDDLE EAST POWER 50 AWARDS

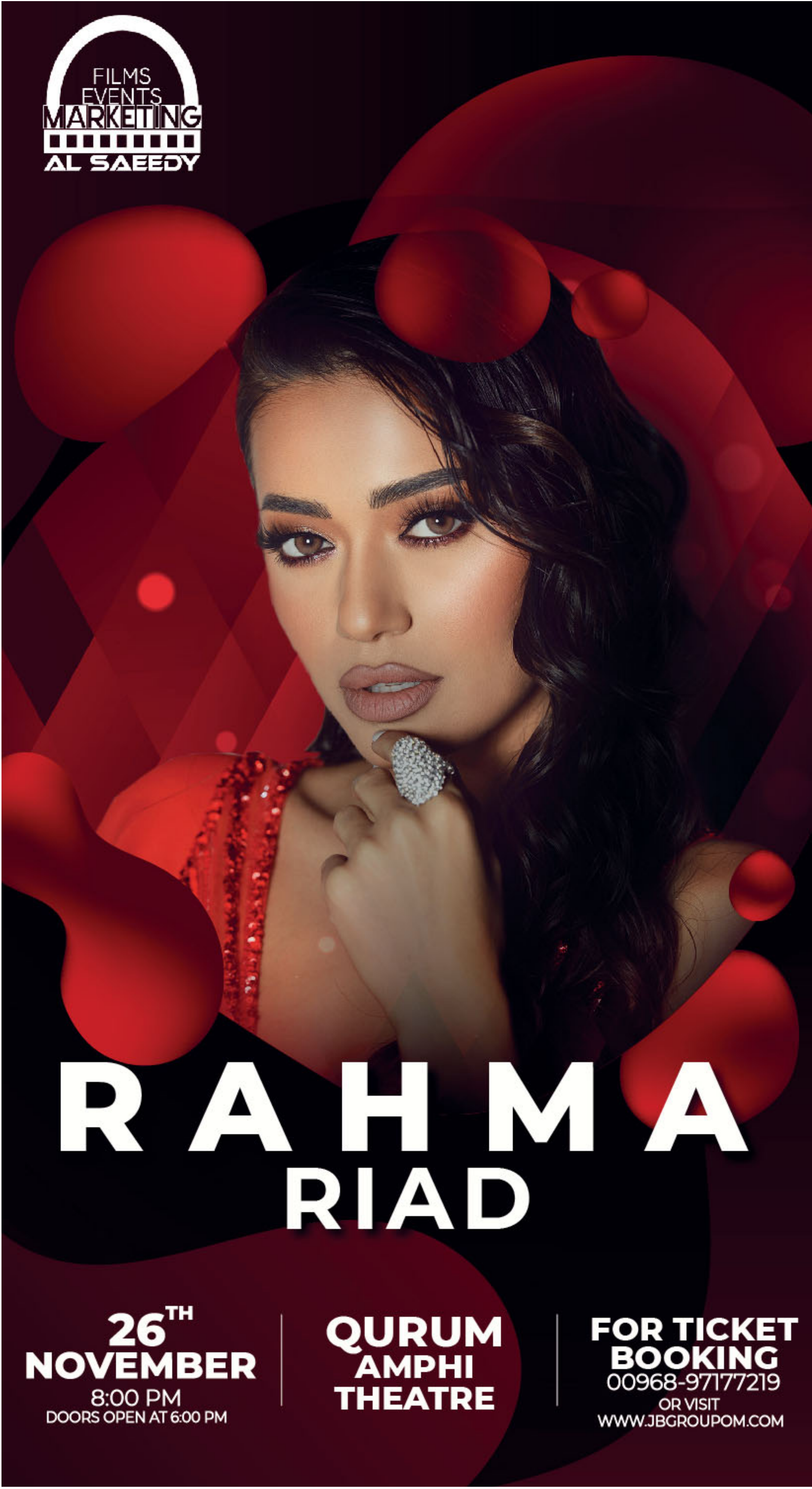
Golden Tulip Nizwa’s general manager among 50 professional hotel leaders in Middle East

MUSCAT: Sandeep Jaitley, General Manager, Golden Tulip Nizwa Hotel, has recently been named one of the Top 50 Leaders in the Middle East region, at the recently announced Hotelier Middle East Power 50 Awards. Sandeep Jaitly is a hospitality veteran of some 36 years and is a member of the Institute of Hospitality, United Kingdom. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Commerce and a post-graduate diploma in Business Management from IMM, New Delhi, India. Among his many professional qualifications, he has completed the General Manager course conducted by ESSEC Business School & Louvre Hotel Group University, Paris, France and also holds a Certification in Hotel Industry Analytics (CHIA) from AHLA, American Hotel & Lodging Association, USA. He also completed a diploma from the Food Craft Institute, New Delhi, and a certificate course in Bar and Beverage Management from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel and Motel Association, USA. He started his career with Taj Group of Hotels in 1984 and held various positions over 18 years.



In his current role, Jaitly’s hotel bucked the trend that was seen in Oman hospitality over the past year, as it stayed open for the entire time during the pandemic. What’s more, not even a single staff member was let go. Jaitly optimised and reduced the HR engagement and welfare cost of the staff to implement a zero-retrenchment policy and pay the staff salaries on time to retain his employees. He also managed to keep the business running by re-strategising the business and by managing cash flow effectively. Jaitly shifted the major market segment from the leisure market, which constitutes 70 per cent of the

business, during normal times, towards the corporate market. Additionally, to save on costs, Jaitly installed solar lights in the hotel in order to control and reduce the energy usage at the property. He also regularly monitored the occupancies and closed off specific sections of the hotel to save energy and water costs. Jaitly also re-negotiated rates with the vendors for goods and services and also revised payment terms to optimise the cash flow of the hotel. He also reviewed menus and changed them to optimise the F&B cost of the hotel. The banquet hall was also converted into a sports bar as no public gatherings were allowed, and optimised the F&B cost by promoting a special menu in the new bar. This new revenue stream during the pandemic helped the hotel survive while leisure took a back seat. Even during these challenging times, Jaitly ensured that the guest services and standards of the hotel were not compromised and the hotel continued its journey of excellence under his able leadership, testimony to this are the four prestigious awards won by the hotel: Booking.com’s Traveller Review Award 2021, Agoda Customer Review Award 2021, Tripadvisor Traveller’s Choice Award 2021 and a 2021 Award from Hotels.com for the number of very good reviews received from hotel guests.



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ROUND-UP

IWC Schaffhausen celebrates horological heritage of Oman

In a showcase that will take over the first floor of the vast Mistal showroom, historical IWC timepieces belonging to private Omani watch collectors and dating back to the 1970s will be on display



MUSCAT: IWC Schaffhausen celebrates the horological heritage of the Sultanate of Oman with a special exhibition at the luxury watch and jewellery boutique Mistal in November. The announcement of the exhibition comes after the recent unveiling of the Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Sultanate of Oman" (IW387910) to mark the country's 51st National Day on November 18, 2021. In a showcase that will take over the first floor of the vast Mistal showroom, historical IWC time-

pieces belonging to private Omani watch collectors and dating back to the 1970s will be on display. The exhibition pays homage to the rich heritage of IWC's long-standing relationship with Oman, one that dates back nearly a century. In February 1974, a current member of IWC's Board of Directors Hannes Pantli visited the country for the first time and had the honour of meeting late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. This was the beginning of a remarkable relationship between

IWC Schaffhausen and the nation of Oman. Since then, Hannes Pantli has regularly visited the Sultanate, and IWC has created special watch sets for the country. Now, over 40 years after his first visit, Hannes Pantli will be heading to Oman again to open the special exhibition on 7 November, ahead of the National Day celebrations. Watch enthusiasts and aficionados in Oman will be able to view the timeless IWC pieces at their leisure throughout November and

explore the historical mechanics of each piece. Some of the pieces on display will be historical watches with complications along with jewellery and accessory sets. "We wanted to create a unique celebration that truly showcases the history between IWC and the nation of Oman. There is no better way to tell our story than through these exquisite and timeless pieces that speak for themselves. Together, we look forward to reaching new heights in the next 50 years," said Mehdi Rajan, Regional Brand

Director of IWC Schaffhausen for the Middle East, India and Africa. Speaking on behalf of Mistal, IWC's local partner in the country, Dharmesh A. Khimji, Managing Director of Mistal said, "We share a very special relationship with IWC, and we are more than delighted to have the watch community in Oman experience the brand's unique craftsmanship dedicated to the beauty of our nation." Available exclusively at luxury watch and jewellery boutique Mistal in Muscat for a limited time only.

PREMIUM VEHICLE

Avail special EMI of OMR324 on full-size luxury SUV INFINITI QX80

MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has announced a special EMI on the INFINITI QX80, a premium vehicle that is designed and engineered to allow customers to travel everywhere in luxury. The INFINITI QX80, which has a refined and spacious cabin, is now available on a low EMI of OMR324. Starting EMI mentioned is inclusive of VAT and is calculated on the price of the base model with a 20% down payment, for 96 months loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Bank Muscat. The special offer is valid till November 30. The model features a high-quality, hand-crafted interior, driver-centric, passenger-minded space for inclusive and modern luxury travel. With a firm yet comfort-oriented suspension, and ample performance from its 5.6-litre V8 engine, the INFINITI QX80 aims to give drivers an assured feeling of control and confidence at the wheel. A spokesperson for INFINITI Oman said, "A design and engineering masterpiece, QX80 exudes luxury from every angle, for every passenger. It is liberally equipped with attentive touches, with plenty of room to grow in. QX80 is designed to handle all of life's roads, so owners can make memories with style and grace. The INFINITI QX80 the flagship of the INFINITI range combines bold proportions and a commanding exterior design with a spacious, high-quality cabin with room for seven or eight passengers. Effortless performance, advanced drive-assist technologies and taut yet refined dynamics allow for a relaxing and confidence-inspiring drive. INFINITI QX80 features a range of drive-assist technologies. Blind Spot Intervention® (BSI®), Lane Departure Prevention (LDP), Dis-



masterpiece, QX80 exudes luxury from every angle, for every passenger. It is liberally equipped with attentive touches, with plenty of room to grow in. QX80 is designed to handle all of life's roads, so owners can make memories with style and grace. The INFINITI QX80 the flagship of the INFINITI range combines bold proportions and a commanding exterior design with a spacious, high-quality cabin with room for seven or eight passengers. Effortless performance, advanced drive-assist technologies and taut yet refined dynamics allow for a relaxing and confidence-inspiring drive. INFINITI QX80 features a range of drive-assist technologies. Blind Spot Intervention® (BSI®), Lane Departure Prevention (LDP), Dis-

tance Control Assist (DCA), and an updated Intelligent Cruise Control system are all included, while Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™ continue to bring enhanced connectivity across the QX80 range. Key additions to the flagship model include the new generation INFINITI InTouch infotainment, Premium In-Vehicle-Infotainment (P-IVI) System featuring two HD display screens, 3D maps, Apple Car Play and Android Auto capabilities. A further notable addition to the model is the BOSE Performance Series with 17 speakers for high fidelity audio experience with surround sound technology. The new 'Black Edition' grade features dark chrome and black exterior accents that highlight the front grille and fascia, side fender vents, door mirror caps and rear

tailgate strip. The commanding stance is heightened with the addition of dark chrome 22-inch forged alloy wheels. Three stylish interior trim colours are also available; including 'Graphite', 'Saddle Brown' and 'Wheat' with a revised Charcoal Ash Wood accent trim. With a powerful 5.6-litre V8 engine driving the rear or both axles, the QX80 is a consummate performer in all driving conditions. A smooth-shifting seven-speed automatic transmission seamlessly channels the engine's ample power and torque reserves for an assured feeling of control behind the wheel. From travelling on the highway, towing a heavy load, or traversing tough off-road passes, the QX80 brings hand-crafted luxury, utility and sophistication for up to eight passengers.

ISC OMAN OPEN BADMINTON

Elaheh Shakiba, Diya Anil win Women's Doubles Open

MUSCAT: Modern Exchange - ISC Oman Open Badminton championship continues to entertain sports fans at ISC multipurpose hall. Iranian national Elaheh Shakiba paired with 11-year-old talented Diya Anil to beat mother and daughter duo Minna and Nayan Anil. A brilliant combination of teamwork helped Elaheh and Diya to win against Minna and Nayan. Despite trailing from 8-12, the duo surpassed the threat of opponents and registered 1st set in their favour. Elaheh and Diya displayed superb skills in the 2nd set but Minna's drop shot and services helped them to win the 2nd set. Both teams played aggressively in the 3rd set and the school kid's superb skills and Elaheh's precise drop shots to claim victory by scoring 21-19;16-21 and 21-17. The mixed doubles open category top-seeded Nowfal and Jisha Aju will face Himesh Haridas and Kshama in the semis and the same category. Rajesh and Nimita will face 2nd seeded Shanid and Achsa Aju. In the boys' under 12 category, Himnesh Shalot and Sushanth Shetty will face Aman Dcosta and Ian George respectively in the semis. Himnesh will lock horn again in the under 14 category with Pranav Prasannakumar in the semis and the same category Vedanth Anand will

A brilliant combination of teamwork helped Elaheh and Diya to win against Minna and Nayan. Despite trailing behind 8-12, the duo surpassed the threat of opponents and registered first set in their favour

face Jitheesh Pandiyan. Much favourite Harshpreet Singh had a tough resistance from Sreehari Vijayan to reach the finals of Boys under 16 category Alan Anil had an easy walk through over Jitheesh in the semis and he will face Harshpreet in the finals. In girls under 16, Christine Angeline will face Nimita Ann Varghese in the finals and in under 12 Diya Anil will clash with Naima Anil. The tournament will continue until next week.

OMAN ARAB BANK

With exclusive benefits, OAB launches 'Advantage' segment



MUSCAT: In line with its continuous endeavours to provide high-quality services that enrich customer experience, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently launched a new segment, entitled 'OAB Advantage'. Aimed at customers who have modern lifestyles and are always keen to enjoy the benefits life has to offer. OAB Advantage offers 1% guaranteed cashback on e-payments and POS transactions using debit card for limited time. This is in addition to an attractive savings interest rates, merchant discounts and eligibility for a special salary monthly prize draw. Commenting on the launch of

OAB Advantage, Rashad Al Shaikh, Head of the Retail Banking at OAB, said, "As customer demands shift with the transition of time, at OAB we always look to ensure that the services and facilities that we offer can be adapted to best suit their respective lifestyles. Targeted towards customers within the salary range (OMR1,000 - OMR3,499) or maintaining deposit of (OMR10,000- OMR34,999). "OAB Advantage seeks to make banking even easier, while simultaneously hosting an array of benefits and offers. A unique aspect of the new service that places it ahead of its competitors is that it

is the only debit card in Oman to provide a cashback on e-payments, alongside opening the door for our customers to step into a world of incredible advantages." Additionally, customers can benefit from higher interest rate-of up to 3% p.a on their savings and get special entries in the Hasaad Monthly Draws by simply transferring their salary to the Bank, as well as special discounts and offers from renowned retailers across the Sultanate. Advantage customers are entitled to receive a Visa Platinum Credit Card which offers travel benefits including freelounge ac-

cess (6 times annually) at over 35 most visited airports, complimentary pick & drop service to the Muscat International Airport, joining bonus points and higher rewards on retail purchases. Both Omani nationals and expatriates aged 18 and above are eligible to apply for this segment by simply maintaining a deposit balance of OMR 10,000-OMR 34,999 or transferring monthly salary between OMR 1,000 - OMR 3,499. "At OAB, we are always looking into innovative waysto enhance our customer's banking experience, which is aligned with one of the key pillars of our transforma-

tional strategy. Through Advantage, which is specially crafted to suit our customer's diverse lifestyles, we can support them in ensuring that they get the most out of what we have to offer so that they can focus on the things that matter in life. "We believe that this will bring about a lot of positive impact in the longrun since it rewards customers with several offers as well as a high level of seamless facilities. This, in turn, will reinforce OAB's position as a customer-centric institution that strives to be at forefront of the banking sector," Rashad added.

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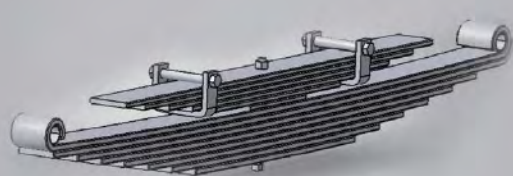


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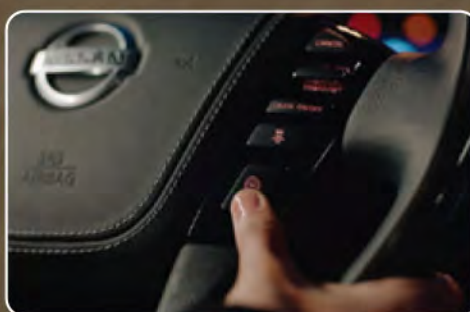


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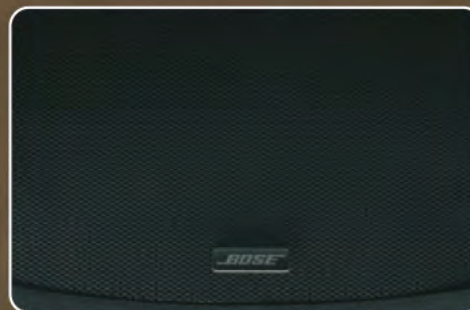
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