

## TREASURY BILLS WORTH OMR20M ISSUED

Oman's central bank raised OMR20 million by way of allotting treasury bills. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from August 18 until September 15. **>B1**



## COMMEMORATING WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

World Humanitarian Day is commemorated every year on 19 August to pay tribute to humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and to honour all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need. **>A4**



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## SYSTEM OF OIA

## HM issues Royal Decree

**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Wednesday issued a Royal Decree, No. 57/2021, on promulgating the System (Bylaw) of Oman Investment Authority.

Article (1) stipulates that the provisions of the System of Oman Investment Authority, attached to this decree, shall be enforced.

Article (2) states that the Chairman of the Board of Oman Investment Authority shall issue the organisational regulations of the Authority, as well as other regulations and decisions necessary for the application of the System attached. Till such time, the existing regulations and decisions shall continue to be enforced without prejudice to the provisions of the System attached (to this decree).

Article (3) cancels all that contradicts the attached system or contravenes its provisions.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on the day following its date of publishing. **— ONA**

## TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

## OMAN Higher education admission tests

**1** The HEAC at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, will begin to conduct admission tests and interviews from Monday, 23 August to 29 August 2021 for students. **>A3**

## WORLD

## Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in UAE

**2** Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, who fled the war-torn country after it was overtaken by the Taliban, is now in the United Arab Emirates on humanitarian grounds, the UAE government confirmed on Wednesday. **>A6**

## MARKET

## Compensation paid by insurance firms up

**3** The total amount of compensation paid for the claims by insurance companies in Oman was OMR5.19mn in the second quarter of 2021, data issued by the CMA shows. **>B1**



## His Majesty the Sultan chairs meeting of COVID-19 Supreme Committee

**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik chaired a meeting of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) at Al Mamourah Palace in Salalah on Wednesday.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks and praise to the Almighty Allah for the considerable decline in the number of COVID-19 infection cases in the Sultanate. He expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the National Immunisation Strategy against this disease. His Majesty affirmed that this improvement would not have happened without the issuance of appropriate decisions (by the COVID-19 Supreme Committee) and the efforts exerted by all departments in the Sultanate, notably the health sector, as well as the high sense of responsibility shouldered by all members of society and their commitment to the decisions. The achievement is also attributed to the designated departments' endorsing regulations that safeguarded public health—individuals and all Omani society, His Majesty added.

His Majesty the Sultan gave his Royal directives to the Supreme Committee to undertake suitable measures to tackle the pandemic in the next stage in a manner that secures public health and ensures

the sustainability of tasks of all state departments.

His Majesty the Sultan also thanked the Supreme Committee for the elaborate efforts it exerted while handling the pandemic at all stages and developments. He extended his Royal thanks to all members of society—citizens and residents, to government and private establishments for providing services and healthcare in all governorates of the Sultanate.

In particular, His Majesty the Sultan valued the efforts of military and security departments to ensure the success of lockdowns, movement bans and other decisions taken to curb the spread of the disease.

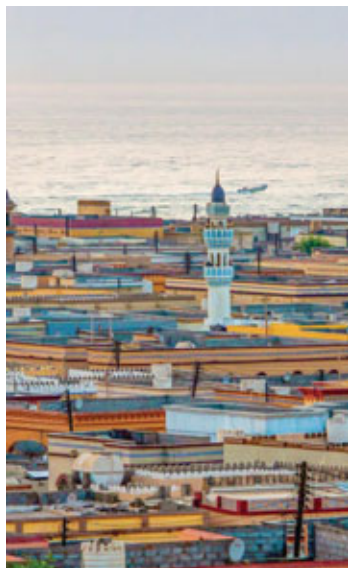
His Majesty the Sultan voiced his appreciation for the role of all media establishments in spreading valid knowledge and disseminating accurate news and awareness about the disease, ways to prevent infection and means of protection against the virus.

His Majesty the Sultan also expressed his thanks to the business community and private sector firms for understanding the situation and for their collaboration in implementing precautionary measures to stem the disease.

His Majesty the Sultan urged all people to take the vaccines against COVID-19 in line with the programme set for that purpose. He also exhorted all to keep commitment to the decisions and regulations endorsed by the COVID-19 Supreme Committee to shield public health and protect individuals and society.

May the Almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan and guard him as a symbol of pride to this nation and may He perpetuate the bounties of progress and prosperity in Oman under His Majesty the Sultan's wise leadership. **— ONA**

## ACHIEVER



## Omani photographer tells his story

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Hosani from the wilayat of Al Khaboura in North Al Batinah Governorate has been fascinated by the world of photography since his childhood.

Nature was a safe haven for the beauty of his colours so that his lens monitored his first capture when he returned with his brothers from school as a 14-year-old boy.

Many years and multiple awards later, Al Hosani spoke

about his beginnings in the world of photography, "I joined the photography group in my school, and in light of the encouragement that everyone has showed me, my passion for the world of photography increased. I found a different world, and after I finished secondary school, the journey began by acquiring a smart phone, and the nature around me helped me to reach creativity."

He said that he began to open his world with more passion and interest.

"I felt that everyone support-

ed me and my first supporter was the Omani Photographic Society, which is credited with opening up multiple horizons for my photographic talent. I was keen to acquire a digital lens through which I could enter the world of photography and attend courses to develop and refine my talent."

"I started posting some photos on Facebook pages and several sites, and it was a special experience that helped me continue and delve deeper into my talent," the photographer added. **>A5**

## SIX-MONTH DATA

## Over 19,000 jobs generated by public, private sectors in Oman

**MUSCAT:** The Ministry of Labour has said that a total of 19,023 jobs were generated in public and private sectors during the first six months of this year.

Of this, 58.9 per cent of vacancies were filled in accordance with the executive plan for the target set for 2021.

It also reflects the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Labour, which issued a set of procedures to regulate the labour market and develop human resources as per the declared plan.

## Opportunities unveiled

As part of the employment opportunities unveiled, at total of 8,493 jobs were generated in the State's Administrative Apparatus (government units).

The Ministry of Education generated 3,381 jobs while the Ministry of Health generated 1,965 jobs. The University of Technology and Applied Sciences generated 292 jobs and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation generated 175 jobs. Other state units generated 2,680 jobs.

According to a report issued by the Labour Ministry, 951 employment opportunities were generated



File picture

in different sectors supervised by government authorities and units.

The report also states that 5,583 Omanis were appointed for the first time in the private sector. Of those 1,718 were holders of General Education Diploma (GED) or its equivalent, while 1,329 were holders of qualification below the GED, 1,813 were holders of university degrees, 638 holders of univer-

sity diploma and 40 postgraduate, Masters or PhD degree holders.

In the meantime, 547 employment opportunities were generated through initiatives of the Ministry of Labour and 3,449 jobs resulted from training and qualification through on-the-job training (the human resources development sector) and the SME entrepreneurship programme. **— ONA**



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Maghrib.....6:42pm  
Isha.....7:56pm  
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:26am

# Times of Oman

VOL. 8, NO. 24

MUSCAT, THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1982—SHAWAL 30, 1402

PRICE BAIZAS 200

## GCC summit likely in November

**Heads of Gulf Cooperation Council states are likely to hold their second summit meeting in the first week of November.**

This was disclosed by sources close to the GCC which groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE and Oman.

The Council which celebrated its first anniversary in April held its first summit in Riyadh on November 10, last year. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

accompanied by a large delegation attended the summit.

The GCC Secretariat in Riyadh is now busy completing details of dates and venue of the second summit. Secretariat sources have named Bahrain as one possible site.

The GCC heads of state have signed an agreement on economic co-operation aimed at knitting the region into a single integrated economic union on the pattern of the European Economic

Community.

Meanwhile, the Council's Secretariat is preparing for two ministerial meetings to be held in Riyadh in October.

The first conference will be of commerce ministers of Council states meeting for the first time since the GCC came into being.

Under Secretaries of commerce of the states met in Kuwait in May and prepared an agenda for the ministerial meeting.

The agenda includes matters

relating to exports and imports, strategic food stocks, joint economic agreements in international business, a common set of commerce regulations, measures for the protection of local products and a joint programme of participation in international trade fairs.

The Industries Ministers of the GCC who are also likely to meet in Riyadh will discuss a programme of industrial co-operation between member states.

## Duty imposed on foam products

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has imposed a 15 per cent duty on imports of all products made of polyurethane foam.

Disclosing this a spokesman at the Ministry said that the duty, which came into effect last week, had been imposed to provide protection for local foam products.

However, he said that there was no duty on the import of rigid polyurethane which is used in insulation coverings.

The Poly Products LLC is the only factory in Oman which makes a wide range of products from polyurethane foam. Set up in October 1979 the factory produces an average of 300 tons of foam products every year.

Commenting on the Government's measure a spokesman of Poly Products said that the local products were facing stiff competition from imports. The duty would greatly help in boosting production and sale of local products.

## Lebanon — latest

### Habib for talks in Syria

The American Middle East envoy Mr Philip Habib is to visit the Syrian capital Damascus. The trip follows further discussions with Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon on the remaining problems surrounding the withdrawal of Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters and Syrian forces from the city. Mr Habib will have similar discussions in Damascus.

A BBC correspondent in Jerusalem says that the Israelis are demanding that Syria should give a firm commitment about their involvement in the whole withdrawal process. Syria, of all the parties involved, has so far made no such commitment. Syria has about 1500 troops in West Beirut.

Leaders of the PLO have also been reluctant to discuss withdrawal of their forces from West Beirut. The outstanding issue remaining appears to be demands by the Israelis for the release of one of their pilots and the return of the remains of nine Israelis killed in Lebanon in 1978.

The PLO wants to link this with the release of some 7000 Palestinians held by the Israelis.

Lebanese leaders were announcing details of the agreement after a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

As discussions of the evacuation continues, Israeli troops are reported to have withdrawn from the area around the Lebanese museum and Parliament building.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency which is responsible for the welfare of about two million Palestinians, has said that about 30 years of its work in Lebanon had been destroyed by the Israeli invasion. In a report, they said that refugee camps for about 100,000 people had been razed and the inhabitants left with nowhere to go except to a few schools.

# RUWI AND HAMRIYA SCHEMES

**The Ministry of Land Affairs and Municipalities is studying an improvement plan for the Southern Ruwi and Hamriya areas. The plan is for modern civic amenities.**

The main features of the plan are to ensure a smooth flow of traffic, better access points and redevelopment of old housing areas.

The areas lie between Ruwi roundabout — Plaza road, the

South Hamriya hills Wadi, and Al Nahda Hospital area up to Wadi Adei roundabout.

The plan envisages construction of a network of modern roads, car

by Muzaffar Mohammed

parks, pavements, playgrounds, housing blocks and shopping centres.

A lot of land scaping is also planned to make an attractive environment.

The Ministry has also prepared plans to expand areas in some interior towns including Birka, Masna, Suwaiq, Khaboura, Mudaibi, Dhank, Shinas, Sohar and Jalan.

The plans are to provide civic amenities as well as accommodate new applications for land.

Schools, mosques, housing blocks, car parks, shopping centres, playgrounds, parks and other amenities are planned.

## Numbering of houses on way

The Capital Municipality has set up a department to name and number houses in the Capital Area.

The Municipal Council which met this week under the chairmanship of Sayyid Abdalla bin Hamad al Bussaidi reviewed the progress made to get the department start.

The department is at the Technical Affairs building of the

Ministry of Land Affairs and Municipalities.

After naming the streets is completed, it will start numbering houses.

The first phase of the project, was completed last year with the naming of streets in the Capital upto Seeb.

The completion of phase II will pave the way for a project of the Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones to start door-to-door delivery of mail.

A spokesman of the Capital Municipality said on Tuesday that a budget for the department had been approved and now they are looking out for suitable staff.

## Muscat to have twin-Casablanca

**Muscat will soon be linked to Casablanca. The Municipal Council which met this week gave the go ahead for signing the twinning arrangement with the Moroccan city.**

An official of the Casablanca Municipality will shortly arrive in Muscat to complete details of the agreement.

The Capital Municipality will also sign a protocol of co-operation with the Municipality of Amman, capital of Jordan.

### Envoy's call

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi received Oman's outgoing ambassador to Kenya, Abdallah Saeed Abdallah on Monday.

### Gulf visits

The Municipal Council has approved a programme of visits to other Gulf countries by councillors

### INSIDE

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- **Cement plant takes shape** — page 10.
- **Woman's world** — page 25.

**TV and radio programmes are on page 22**



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# Higher education admission tests from Aug 23 to 29



**NEXT LEVEL EDUCATION:** In a statement issued recently, the HEAC said that the students can view (via its website) the venues, and dates and contact numbers accorded to each programme.

Close to 36,000 successful candidates applied through the website of the Higher Education Admission Centre

**MUSCAT:** The Higher Education Admission Centre (HEAC) at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, will begin to conduct admission tests and interviews from Monday, 23 August to 29 August 2021 for students who completed general education diploma or equivalent and received their certificates/diplomas this year as per the scheduled programmes.

In a statement issued recently, the HEAC said that the students can view (via its website) the venues, and dates and contact numbers accorded to each programme.

The names of students selected for the tests/interviews will be available under "registration" page at HEAC website from Sunday, 22 August 2021.

HEAC advises those unable

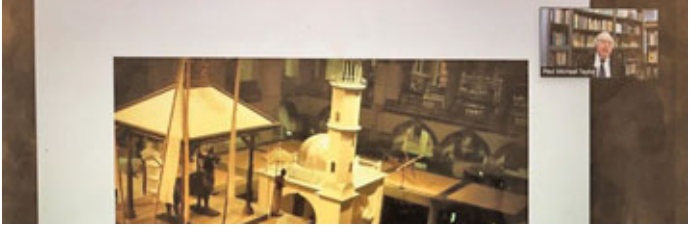
to attend the interviews/tests due to health reasons (like contracting Covid-19 infection or mixing with Covid-19 patients or any other health reasons) to directly contact the establishments concerned and discuss alternative dates.

**Fixed**  
The dates set for tests and interviews have been fixed after the end of the "Period of Amendment/Change of Choices" by 17 August via HEAC website.

The number of successful candidates who applied via the HEAC website stood at 35,753 students.

The Higher Education Admission Centre reminds all that the first results of sorting will be available from Sunday 5 September 2021. -ONA

## Management of museums in 21st century discussed



**MUSCAT:** The National Museum, represented by the Learning Centre and in collaboration with the United States Smithsonian Institution and the US Embassy in Muscat, hosted the second lecture in a series on museum management in the twenty-first century for Omani specialists and students within the museum field.

The series is another sign of the strong partnership between Oman and the United States.

Titled "The History of Representation of Cultures in Museums and Cultural Centres," the virtual webinar was hosted by Dr. Paul Michael Taylor, Research Anthropologist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Director of the Museum's Asian Cultural History, European and Middle Eastern Cultures and Director of the Asian Cultural History Programme and curator of Asian, European and Middle Eastern Ethnology. It targeted employees of the National Museum, employees of public and private museums, employees of private art galleries, employees of cultural agencies and administrative divisions that fall under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, in addition to tourism students from Sultan Qaboos University and Oman College Tourism.

Dr. Taylor will also present three additional lectures this year addressing a range of topics: "Virtual Exhibitions and Other Museums Uses of the Web", "Programme Development: Development of Dynamic Programmes and Visitor Participation", and "Activities of Museums or Cultural Centres" Modern: Prosperity in the Twenty-first Century." In addition to a sixth lecture on "Exhibition Development: A Case Study of Money as Material Culture: Acquisitions and Organisation in the American Museum of Money," by Douglas Mudd of the Colorado Museum of Money in the United States. -ONA





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## HOUSING PROJECT

The Nizwa Charitable Team inaugurated the first project called 'Maskani' which included building the first housing unit for limited-income families. The ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Khalfan Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning. The unit, equipped with necessary accessories and furniture, is built on 208 square metres, at a cost of OMR30,000 for each house. — **ONA**

COLUMN

# Channelling aspirations towards fulfilment

**“WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?”** – is a question that the world asks of us and that we ask ourselves around Grade 12. But, unfortunately, as we grow older and enter a career industry, we assume that we have found the answer and stop reflecting on this question.

But we humans are here on Earth on a journey to be our personal best version. And for that to happen, we need to ask this of ourselves every single day. “What do I want to be?” What kind of a person do I want to become tomorrow? “What would I be if I could be anything?”

Goal setting has been hailed as one of the crucial elements of improving our happiness and well-being. Psychology researcher Sonja Lyubomirsky, in her book, *The How of Happiness*, talks about several benefits that goal setting can have on our well-being. These include the sense of purpose and a feeling of control they bring to our lives; the increase in our self-esteem; the structure and interest it adds to our daily lives; the grounding it offers us, the social connections they lead to and so on.

### Vision, mission and life goals

Most businesses have a publicised vision and mission statement. And although, at times, it may feel more of a cliché than a genuine reflection of the organisational identity, these statements do actually serve a very crucial objective. The ‘vision’ underlines the long term goal in terms of the futuristic impact it aims to make. On the other hand, the mission’ highlights the purpose and relevance of the business as actionable, shorter-term goalposts in the journey towards achieving the overarching vision.

Likewise, we must sift through our interests and passions and create a manifesto of meaningful life goals. A larger vision for

our life towards which you move forward through smaller mileposts of intrinsic goals.

Most people, out of necessity and otherwise, tend to limit our ambitions to extrinsic ones – the kind that makes us conform to others’ expectations or standards of success.

These may be attaining good grades, getting a high paying salary, or buying a fancy car – dreams that are external signs of self-worth. On the other hand, intrinsic goals such as those related to personal growth, relationships, community engagement or other personally meaningful objectives are deeply connected to our passions, inter-

Goal setting has been hailed as one of the crucial elements of improving our happiness and well-being.



ests and core values. Research has shown that prioritising intrinsic aspirations can increase our happiness, self-esteem and overall well-being because they foster our fundamental need for autonomy, competence, and relatedness — who we are as a person.

Hence, right now, this moment, pause everything else and ask yourself this: what is your ultimate aim? What do you want to do tomorrow, in 5 years, in 10 years and in 30 years that will make meaning for you and make you happier?

### SMART goals

To make your goal setting most

effective, the action steps involved should be meaningful, achievable, and measurable. As you develop your list, work with the principle of designing your objectives to be “SMART” — that is, make them:

**S = Specific:** Think of the What, Who, Why, When, Where, Which and of the action plan.

**M = Measurable:** Think of what achieving the goal would look like - the endpoint of your aspirations.

**A = Achievable:** This involves the “How” - how to make the aims attainable and the resources needed for it.

**R = Relevant:** Make sure each action step aligns with your larger purpose.

**T = Time-bound,** with a deadline: Keep realistic timelines to motivate yourself and keep you accountable.

### The 1% Principle

There is immense potential inside each of us to grow in unimaginable ways if only we believed in ourselves enough to take that first step and remain consistent in our efforts. One idea that has struck a chord with me is the 1% Principle, showing the compound interest of self-improvement.

In the book *Atomic Habits*, James Clear notes that with a daily improvement of just 1%, we can see a compounded change when repeated consistently for 365 days.

1% better every day for 1 year:  $(1.01)^{365} = 37.7$

1% worse every day for 1 year:  $(0.99)^{365} = 0.03$

Thus, even tiny incremental growth can, over time, build up enough to produce a remarkable difference in the long run.

I wish everyone a lifetime of meaningful growth & happiness.

*Dr Baby Saamuel is the Vice-Chairman, Knowledge Oman and is Ex-Chairman, Indian Schools in Oman. You can contact him at mail@babysam.biz for queries or suggestions.*

IMPORTANT DAY

## Commemorating World Humanitarian Day



**WORLD** Humanitarian Day is commemorated every year on 19 August to pay tribute to humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and to honour all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need.

World Humanitarian Day is also marked as the day to remember and honour Special Representative of the secretary-general to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 21 aid workers who were killed in a bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19, 2003. It was after this tragedy that the UNGA

designated August 19 as World Humanitarian Day in 2009.

Every year, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs sets a theme to raise awareness to a cause or crisis that needs the world's attention. This year's theme is focused on the severe climate crisis that has gripped several countries across the world.

The climate emergency is wreaking havoc across the world at a scale that people on the front lines and in the humanitarian community cannot manage.

Time is already running out for the world's most vulnerable

people — those who have contributed least to the global climate emergency yet are hit the hardest — and millions of others that are already losing their homes, their livelihoods, and their lives.

With most climate campaigns focused on slowing climate change and securing the planet's future, World Humanitarian Day 2021, will highlight the immediate consequences of the climate emergency for the world's most vulnerable people and ensure that their voices are heard, and their needs top the agenda at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November.



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|  <p><b>سفرة الصياد</b><br/>كل خميس<br/>من الساعة ١٩:٠٠ - ٢١:٣٠</p>     |  <p><b>لايف جاز برنش</b><br/>كل جمعة<br/>من الساعة ١٢:٠٠ إلى ١٧:٠٠</p>      |
|  <p><b>ذا غريل سوسايتي</b><br/>كل جمعة<br/>من الساعة ١٩:٠٠ - ٢١:٣٠</p> |  <p><b>برنش اللحم والأسماك</b><br/>كل سبت<br/>من الساعة ١٢:٠٠ إلى ١٧:٠٠</p> |

**٢٨ ريال عماني لتغريد**  
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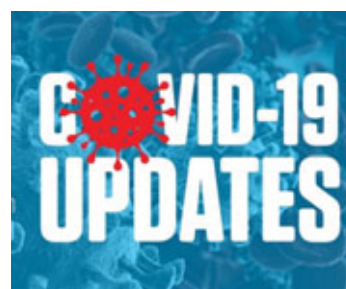
## Forum discusses vital topics related to criminal investigation in Arab countries

— DNA



# 147 new coronavirus cases reported in Oman

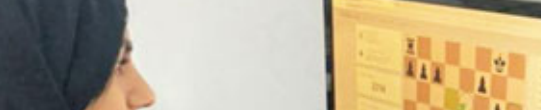
The Ministry also pointed out that 22 cases were hospitalised



— DNA

20 AUGUST TO 15 SEPTEMBER

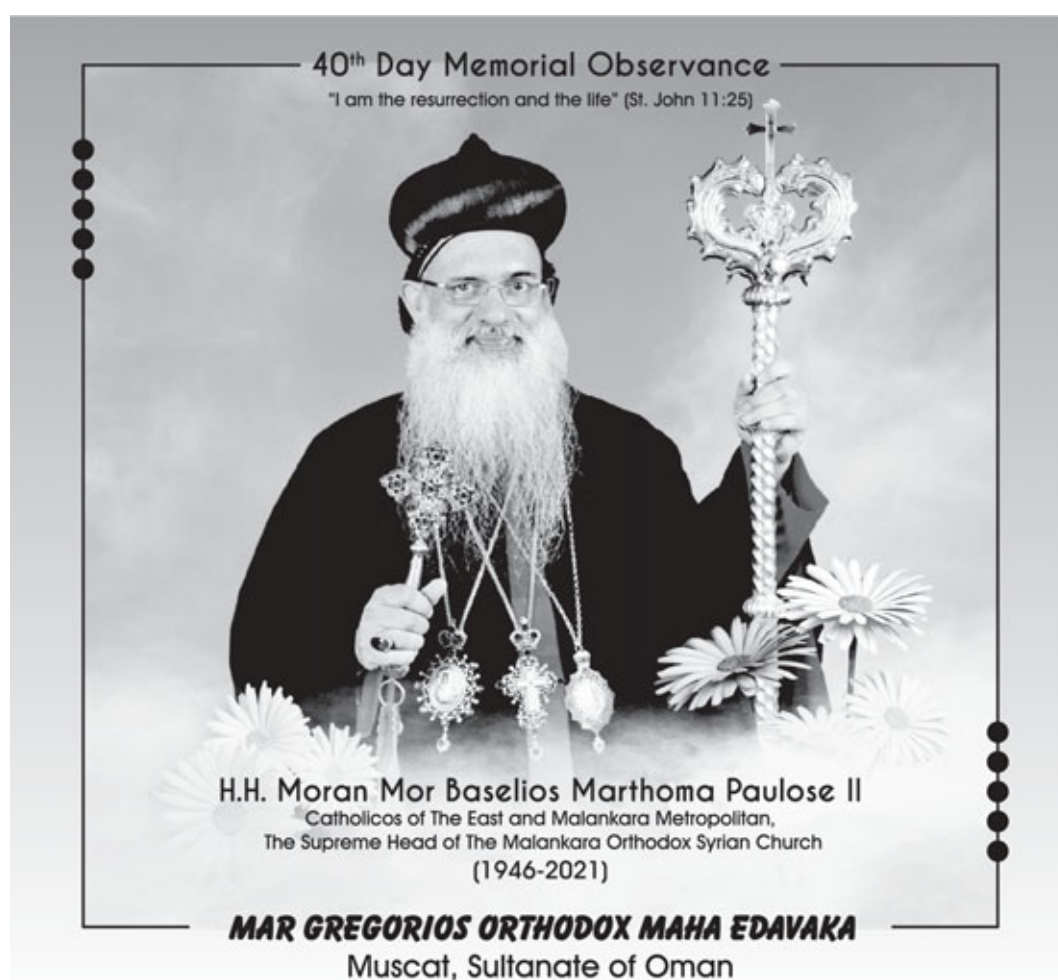
# Oman to participate in 2021 Fide Online Chess Olympiad



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

## < FROM **A1** Attended major exhibitions

"I participated in more than 40 international and 15 local exhibitions, and I was awarded the title of FIAP Artist from the International Federation for the year 2017," Al Hosani said.





## MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

### Public Auction No. ( 34/2021)

Muscat Municipality, represented by the Auction Committee, announces an auction (in closed envelopes) for the sale of different materials as per the following details:

| SN | Materials and Movables to be Sold.                                                           | Location                                                                       | For inspection, please contact: |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1  | Steel Scrap (Roadblocks and Signboards)                                                      | Landfill Area, Sinub, Bausher                                                  | Rashid Al-Housi 92359848        |
| 2  | Electrical and Agricultural Materials, Plumbing Materials, Water Pumps, Lawn-cutting Machine | The yard of the Directorate General of Afforestation and Parks, Ghala, Bausher | Saif Al Batashi 99225586        |
| 3  | Steel structures for children's playground constructions and steel scrap                     |                                                                                |                                 |
| 4  | Caravan Structures (Mobile Homes)                                                            | Labor Camp in Al Seeb                                                          | Mohammed Al-Hatali 92269653     |
| 5  | Air- conditioners and Water Coolers                                                          |                                                                                |                                 |
| 6  | Various materials (Iron scrap, Ac covers, office furniture, steel beds, steel locker)        |                                                                                |                                 |

**Those interested participating in the Auction must comply with the following conditions:**

- Bids shall be submitted in closed envelopes sealed with red wax, addressed to the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Sale by Auction) bearing the name and number of the auction from the outside with no indication to the name of the bidder.
- Those wishing to take part in the Auction shall pay a non-refundable fee of RO 2/- (Two Omani Riyals Only) and an interim warranty of RO 500/- (Five hundred Omani Riyals only) (refundable). The payment shall be made electronically to the Committee Cahier at the Directorate General of Financial Affairs at the Head Office of Muscat Municipality, Darsait.
- Movable items shall be sold on an "As Is" basis, and the Muscat municipality is not responsible for the loss or damage of any item once payment is done. Muscat Municipality in no way can guarantee the condition of the movable materials sold. The bidders should do the prior inspection before making the bids on the day specified by Muscat Municipality.
- The materials and movables once sold shall not be returnable nor can any claim for reimbursement of the cost will be entertained.
- The buyer is bound to dismantle and load the purchased materials after paying their full value within a period not exceeding one week from the date of purchase. The buyer shall bear full responsibility for any delay in transporting the materials within the specified period, and in the event the materials are not shifted from the site within the specified period, Muscat Municipality may resell such items at the expense of the buyer.
- The date and location set for inspecting the movables and submitting the bid are specified as follows:

|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>                               | As stated above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Inspection Date</b>                        | From 22/8/2021 to 26/8/2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Inspection Time</b>                        | From 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>For Further enquiries and coordination</b> | Communicate with the concerned persons whose details are shown above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Bid submission Date</b>                    | From 29/8/2021 to 2/9/2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Place for bid submission</b>               | Auction Box located in Muscat Municipality Head Office, Darsait                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Other conditions</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The materials shall be sold at wholesale level not retail level and as per the quantity specified on the site.</li> <li>The VAT specified in the law will be applied to successful bidder.</li> <li>A bid that does not meet the required advance payment guarantee will not be considered</li> <li>Payment of the auctioneer fees shall be 3% of the purchases value.</li> <li>The payment receipt shall be enclosed with the bidding documents.</li> <li>Muscat Municipality may cancel or defer the sale without providing any justification.</li> <li>The security deposit will not be refunded in the following cases:-               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the purchaser does not pay the value of the movables.</li> <li>If the purchaser does not transfer the movables from the site within the specified period.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |



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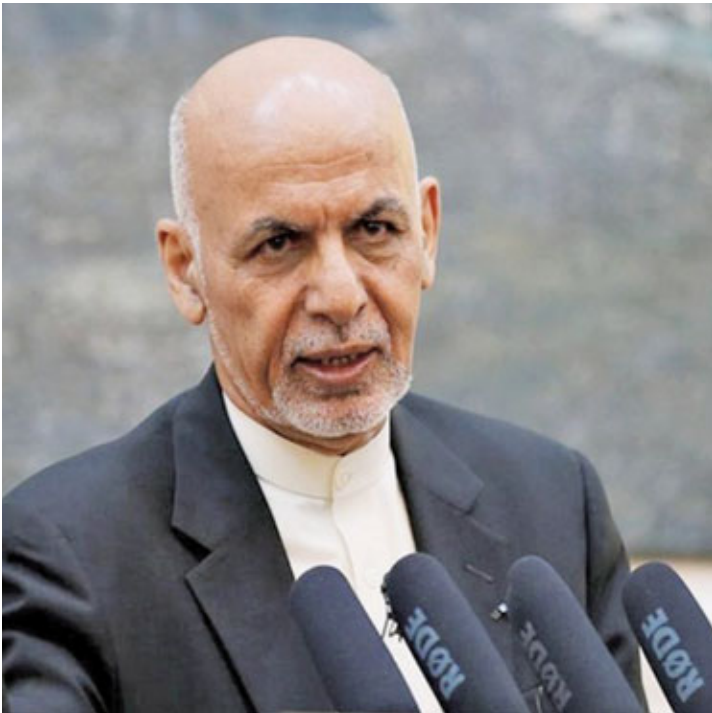


MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani arrives in UAE

**ABU DHABI:** Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, who fled the war-torn country after it was overtaken by the Taliban, is now in the United Arab Emirates, the UAE government confirmed on Wednesday.

“The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation can confirm that the UAE has welcomed President Ashraf Ghani and his family into the country on humanitarian grounds,” the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said in a statement. On Sunday, Ghani left Afghanistan after the Taliban entered the presidential palace. Ghani said he fled to prevent “bloodshed.” Soon after the group claimed control over the Afghan capital, several countries evacuated their diplomatic personnel from the country, and thousands of people flocked to the Kabul airport in a desperate attempt to leave Afghanistan. — **ANI**



WILDFIRES

# One person killed in French wildfires

**PARIS:** Wildfires in the hills near the French coastal resort of Saint-Tropez have claimed their first human life, the regional government said on Wednesday.

“The battle is ongoing and the fire has not yet been contained,” French President Emmanuel Macron said after visiting the area. “The coming hours will be absolutely decisive.”

## What has happened so far?

A total of 1,200 firefighters fought to extinguish the flames of France’s worst fire of the summer that has forced about 7,000 residents and tourists to flee their homes in the French Riviera area. Crews used high-pressure hoses and water-carrying planes to try to put out flames that were spread quickly by strong winds and high temperatures.

Authorities reported no new evacuations on Wednesday, but another 20 people had to be treated for smoke inhalation.

The blaze that broke out on Monday in the Plaine des Mures nature reserve had still not been stabilized, a government official reported. Over 5,000 hectares (12,355 acres) of forests, vineyards and wild animals were burnt to cinders in just three days. Frank Graciano, the Var fire service spokesman, said that although the fire “had not spread” throughout Tuesday night, “that does not mean it is under control.” — **AP**



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CLEARED OF CHARGES

# Delhi Court discharges Congress leader Shashi Tharoor in Sunanda Pushkar death case

**NEW DELHI :** The Delhi court on Wednesday cleared Congress leader Shashi Tharoor of charges in connection with the case involving the death of his wife Sunanda Pushkar.

Special Judge Geetanjali Goel of the Rouse Avenue Court said that the accused was discharged and asked him to file a bond. Shashi Tharoor, who was present during the virtual hearing, thanked the court and said it had been absolute torture for the past seven-and-half years.

Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa told the court that they will be filing the bond today or tomorrow. Tharoor was represented by Senior advocate Pahwa and lawyer Gaurav Gupta.

Public Prosecutor Atul Kumar

Srivastava represented Delhi Police in the matter. Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel in Delhi on the night of January 17, 2014.

Tharoor was the main accused in the matter according to the Delhi Police.

The former union minister, who is currently on bail in the case, was charge-sheeted by Delhi Police under Sections 498-A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Special Judge Geetanjali Goel recently reserved the order after prosecution and defence counsel concluded their arguments on the issue of framing of charges. — **ANI**

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## NOTICE FOR ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Services Co. SAOG ( the “Company”) has the pleasure to invite the Shareholders to attend the General Meeting, which will be held at 3:00 pm on 6/9/2021, via the electronic platform to hold general meetings which can be assessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company ([www.mcd.gov.om](http://www.mcd.gov.om)). If the quorum requirement for holding the General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second General Meeting shall be held at 3:00 pm on 9/9/2021, to discuss the following agenda.

**Ordinary agendas:**

- To consider and approve the proposal for the distribution of an interim cash dividend of 20 baiza for each share to the shareholders on the date of meeting out of the retained earnings of the company as shown in the company audited financial statements for the six months ended on 30/06/2021.**

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCD.
- Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the Shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information, please contact Ms. Badriya Khamis Al Abri on telephone No. 24706499 or email: [damacinv@omantel.net.om](mailto:damacinv@omantel.net.om)

|                 |                      |                         |
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# Sri Lanka to tour Oman for two T20 games in October

The two T20 matches will be played on OC Ground 1 in Amerat on October 7 and 9

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** A full-strength Sri Lanka team will be touring Oman in October before proceeding to the UAE for the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup Round 1 matches where it will compete with Ireland, The Netherlands and Namibia for passage to the Super 12. Oman's weather and playing conditions are similar to the UAE, presenting an ideal platform to The Lions to prepare for the World Cup. The two T20 matches will be played on OC Ground 1 in Amerat on October 7 and 9. "Sri Lanka will be playing two T20 matches against Oman during the tour and we are extremely pleased that they decided to come to Oman on their way to the UAE," confirmed Oman coach



**T20 MATCH:** Sri Lanka is placed in Group A along with Ireland, The Netherlands and Namibia while Oman has Bangladesh, Scotland and PNG in Group B.

Duleep Mendis. "We are glad that the Oman team will be getting the opportunity to play a full-strength Sri Lanka squad which will participate in the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup Round 1. The two T20 matches will help both teams as Sri Lanka will have acclimatized before reaching the UAE and

Oman would have a crack at a top side just before the tournament starts," he added. Sri Lanka is placed in Group A along with Ireland, The Netherlands and Namibia while Oman has Bangladesh, Scotland and PNG in Group B. Top two teams from each group will join cricket's eight elite sides in the tour-

nament's Super 12 stage. Coached by Mickey Arthur, Sri Lanka is a young side in transition with some exciting players in the ranks. The Lions recently beat touring India 3-1 in a four-match T20 series, though India were without many of their star players like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah.

## PAKISTAN VS WEST INDIES



## Dropped catches took 1st Test away from us, says Waqar Younis

**KINGSTON:** Pakistan bowling coach Waqar Younis feels the team's sloppy fielding tilted the first Test in favour of the West Indies. Kumar Roach's resilience and grit helped West Indies walk away with a one-wicket victory over Pakistan in the first Test of the two-match series here at Sabina Park on Sunday. "We would not get a better advertisement for the beauty of Test cricket. Both teams fought very well but unfortunately, we didn't avail some good opportunities at a crucial stage of the match which cost us at the end," Waqar said in a release issued by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "The pitch was conducive to seam bowling and our pacers bowled really well. Undoubtedly, it was a low target that we had to defend yet we fought really hard and it was only some dropped catches that took the game away from us,"

he added. The legendary pacer also admired the efforts of Pakistan bowlers. "I am very proud of my bowlers. Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali bowled brilliantly. I have full confidence on the abilities of Mohammad Abbas. He was very impressive in the match but unfortunately, he didn't get many wickets," said Waqar. The former bowler is also hopeful that Pakistan will stage a better show in the last Test match against the host nation commencing from Friday. "We must admire Babar Azam for the way he kept his nerves and took some good decisions as captain in the last match," said Waqar. "Leggie Yasir Shah is a match-winner and we are fortunate to have Nauman Ali as a good back-up spinner. We will go with a positive mindset in the second game and try to do better," he added. **ANI**

## TEST PLAYER RANKINGS

# Root closes in on Williamson, Kohli firm on fifth spot

**DUBAI:** India skipper Virat Kohli and opening batsman Rohit Sharma remained firm at their respective fifth and sixth spot, but England captain Joe Root jumped two spots to claim the second position in the ICC men's Test Player Rankings. Root's valiant 180 not out in the first innings of the Lord's Test has taken him to within striking distance of top-ranked batter Kane Williamson in the Test rankings. The England captain, who started the series in fifth place and overtook Kohli after the first match against India, has risen another two slots to the second position after the second Test. Root, a formerly top-ranked batter in the format, is on 893 rating points, only eight less than Kiwi skipper Williamson. Player of the Match KL Rahul is another batter to gain after helping India to a 151-run victory and a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series. The 29-year-old opener, whose



**ICC RANKINGS:** Root's valiant 180 not out in the first innings of the Lord's Test has taken him to within striking distance of top-ranked batter Kane Williamson in the Test rankings.

career-best is the eighth position he attained in November 2017, has gained 19 slots to reach 37th place with a knock of 129 in the first innings. The bowlers to gain from the Lord's Test include James Anderson, who has gained one spot and is sixth after a five-wicket haul in the first innings while England pacer Mark Wood and India's Mohammad Siraj have made significant gains to reach 37th and 38th positions, respectively. Wood has gained five slots with five wickets in the match while Siraj's four wickets in each innings sees him gain 18 places. The latest weekly update, which includes performances in the first Test in Kingston, sees Pakistan captain Babar Azam move up two slots to eighth position among batters after scores of 30 and 55 while Faheem Ashraf and Fawad Alam have gained four slots each to reach 48th and 55th positions, respectively.

For the West Indies, who won by one wicket against Pakistan, Jermaine Blackwood has gained nine slots to reach 35th position after getting 22 and 55. All-rounder Jason Holder is up five places to 43rd and captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who missed a first-innings century by three runs, has advanced 18 places to 45th. Holder has also moved into the top 10 for bowlers, his four wickets in the match lifting him two places to ninth position. Fast bowler Jayden Seales has soared 39 places to 58th after his eight-wicket match haul that earned him the Player of the Match award while Kumar Roach is another gainer, moving up two places to 11th. For Pakistan, left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has gained four slots to reach 18th position after taking four wickets in each innings and Faheem is up four places to 71st. **ANI**

## FOOTBALL

## My story at Real Madrid has been written: Ronaldo on transfer rumours

**NEW DELHI:** Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo has rubbished the "disrespectful" media reports which suggested the Portugal striker could return to Real Madrid. The star footballer is entering the last year of his Juventus deal and there were talks of him moving to his old club. "Anyone who knows me is aware of how focused I am on my work. Less talk and more action, this has been my guiding motto since the start of my career. However, in view of everything that's been said and written recently, I have to set out my position," Ronaldo said in a statement on Instagram. "More than the disrespect for me as a man and as a player, the frivolous way that my future is covered in the media is disrespectful to all the clubs involved in these rumours, as well as to their players and staff. "My story at Real Madrid has been written. It's been recorded. In words and numbers, in trophies and titles, in records and in headlines. It's in the Museum at the Bernabeu Stadium and it's also in the minds of every fan of the club. "And beyond what I achieved,



I remember that in those nine years I had a relationship of deep affection and respect for 'merengue aficion', an affection and respect that I retain to this day, and that I will always cherish. I know that the true Real Madrid fans will continue to have me in their hearts, and I will have them in mine," he added. The Juventus star also blasted the recent news and stories claiming that he is in talks with other clubs too. "As well as this most recent episode in Spain, there have been frequent news and stories associating me with a number of clubs

in many different leagues, with nobody ever being concerned about trying to find out the actual truth," said Ronaldo. "I'm breaking my silence now to say that I can't allow people to keep playing around with my name. I remain focused on my career and in my work, committed and prepared for all the challenges that I have to face. Everything else? Everything else is just talk," he added. Earlier this month, in one of the biggest transfers in football, Lionel Messi signed for PSG on a two-year contract with an option of a third-year after leaving Barcelona. **ANI**

## AUGUST 22

## OC to award Junior Division champions

**MUSCAT:** Oman Cricket will award the champion sides of the Junior Division League tournament of the season 2020-21 at Oman Cricket Academy in Amerat at 5 pm on Sunday, August 22.

Prizes will also be presented to all the toppers including best batsmen, best bowlers and best all-rounders across various age group tournaments held during the season.

In an amazingly successful season Muscat Cricket Coaching Centre (MCCC) teams swept the honours by winning all three tournament formats; Under-19, Under-16 and Under-13.

## PARALYMPICS

## First batch of Indian athletes arrive in Tokyo for Paralympics

**TOKYO:** The first batch of Indian para-athletes arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for the Tokyo Paralympics which gets underway from August 24. 54 para-athletes from across 9 sports disciplines will be featuring in the showcase event. This is India's biggest ever contingent to the Paralympic Games. The first batch of the Indian contingent for the 2020 Paralympics had departed for Tokyo from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport in the wee hours of Wednesday. Ahead of departure, Tek Chand, a javelin thrower, said, "I will try my best to win a medal. There were few hurdles but it is part of life. I overcame them. Today, I am going to play for the country." Speaking to ANI, Deepa Malik, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) President, said the Indian team looks in great shape.



"Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent his wishes along with the Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur. I'm delighted. I'm in a different role as I'm not playing this year but it is a different feeling to work alongside para-athletes. The team looks in great shape. I wish them all the best for the Games," she said. The Tokyo Paralympic Games

is scheduled to be held between August 24 and September 5. India will start its campaign on August 27 with men's and women's archery events. Thangavelu Mariyappan, Rio 2016 Gold Medal winner, will be the flag bearer of India while Gursharan Singh will be the Chef de Mission of the team. **ANI**

## OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by October 2021 reaching \$68.70, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 17 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$68.53. - **ONA**

# MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



## MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 3,990.84 points, down 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index up 0.56 per cent at 595.63 points. SMN Power Holding, up 3.17 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Holding, down 5.56 per cent, was the top loser.

# Big jump in compensation paid by insurance firms in Oman

The total claims (paid and unsettled) increased by 77 per cent this year to OMR23.31 million compared to the second quarter of 2020

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** The total amount of compensation paid for the claims by insurance companies in Oman was OMR5.19 million in the second quarter of 2021, data issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) shows. This is an increase of 189 per cent compared to the same period of 2019.

The total claims (paid claims and unsettled claims) increased by 77 per cent this year to OMR23.31 million compared to the second quarter of 2020.

The report further stated that insurance companies in Oman



**CMA REPORT:** Insurance companies in Oman reported 15,200 traffic accidents and a total of 24,800 claims in the second quarter of this year. This is an increase of 119 per cent and 121 per cent respectively compared to the first quarter of 2020- **File picture**

reported 15,200 traffic accidents and a total of 24,800 claims in the second quarter of this year. This is an increase of 119 per cent and 121 per cent respectively compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Regarding claims recorded by insurance companies for traffic accidents, the data shows the number of claims for minor traffic accidents with financial damage remarkably increased to 16,400 in

the 2021 second quarter compared to 6,500 claims in the same period last year.

This was accompanied by a huge increase in the compensations paid to redress the damages result-

ing from such claims. The total amount of compensation for minor accidents was about OMR2.18 million in the second quarter of 2021 compared to OMR907,000 in the same period in 2020.

Nearly 3,950 claims were recorded for major accidents and 3,340 claims for major accidents with injuries and medical treatment expenses. The number was 2,200 and 2,400 claims respectively.

### Major accidents

The total compensation for major accidents was OMR1.52 million and the compensations for major accidents that resulted in injuries and medical treatment was OMR1.31 million.

This is a huge increase compared to 2020 which recorded a total compensation amount for major accidents with financial damage at only OMR531,000 and OMR267,000 for major accidents which resulted in injuries and medical treatment expenses.

The number of claims for major accidents that resulted in deaths was 183 claims with OMR187,000 paid as compensation. The number of major accidents that resulted in deaths in 2020 was 103 claims and OMR95,000 was paid in the same quarter of 2020.

CMA emphasises that adherence to safety requirements and traffic instruction issued by Royal Oman Police (ROP) are the best means for protection from major accidents and the resultant impact on lives and properties. The insurance service will only mitigate the financial damage, not the moral damage.

## CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

# Treasury bills worth OMR20mn issued



**MATURITY PERIOD:** The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from August 18 until September 15. - **ONA**

**MUSCAT:** Oman's central bank raised OMR20 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from August 18 until September 15.

The average accepted price reached 99.950 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.950 per OMR100. Whereas the average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.65179 per cent and 0.65211 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent, for

the same period.

The treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the CBO on behalf of the government, which helps the licensed commercial banks to gainfully invest their surplus funds, with the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo) offered by the Central Bank.

Further, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates.

The government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

## NATIONAL FINANCE



# New horizon for sustainable initiatives launched

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** Consolidating its efforts towards community welfare, grassroots engagement and sustainability, National Finance Company, Oman's leading finance company, has announced the launch of 'Imtidad', its independent wing for sustainable initiatives.

With 'Imtidad' - an Arabic word which means "an extension of impacting lives beyond business", National Finance aims to bring a fresh perspective to its CSR programmes inspired by the same core values that the company is committed to since its inception - community engagement, economic support and environmental protection.

Launching its first initiative under Imtidad, National Finance has renewed its previously successful partnership with Fund for Development of Youth Projects (Sharakah) for the third consecutive year, with the objective of youth skills training and development, and supporting the growth of Oman's SME ecosystem. Both the organisations have a successful track record of previous initiatives supported by National Finance and implemented by Sharakah, which has received positive feedback from participants over the years.

The agreement was signed by Ali Al Mani, Acting CEO at National Finance and Nasser Al Hajri, Board Member of Sharakah.

Commenting on the launch of Imtidad, Al Mani said, "At National Finance, we are pleased to announce the launch of our 'Imtidad' programme today which undertakes a strategic approach towards planning and implementing long-term sustainable initiatives that are beyond our day-to-day business operations. Imtidad stems from National Finance's belief in growing with the communities,

by effectively serving them to contribute to national socio-economic development. We will continue to launch several impactful initiatives for the benefit of the people of Oman under Imtidad."

He further stated, "We are delighted to extend our existing partnership with Sharakah where we have already successfully contributed skill upliftment of more than 500 participants in our previous two years of working together. Through this collaboration, we aspire to enhance the skills of future entrepreneurs, helping them realise their potential and develop their projects."

Imtidad's kick-off programme, as a joint initiative with Sharakah, will be spread over 10 months.

It aims to provide consultancy and handholding services to selected 5 SMEs and conduct 5 'Calculate it Right' workshops for existing and potential business owners and students from all around Oman. The initiative focuses on enabling entrepreneurs to gain the right set of skills in financial management and proper resource planning.

Nasser Al Hajri said, "We are delighted to renew our collaboration with National Finance for the 3rd consecutive year. This time the launch of 'Imtidad' will take the programme to a whole different level. We are pleased that National Finance has found the collaboration very useful for the community and thus continues to work with Sharakah. The launching of 'Imtidad' gives credence to our joint effort, as this year the scope has expanded only from conducting workshops to handholding and guiding existing SMEs over almost a year's time. We believe this approach will generate a greater positive impact from the social investments programmes and benefit the community."

## FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

# Eastern Europe wised up to Chinese investment

**BRUSSELS:** Hawkish observers argue that China's foreign investments are - by definition - corrupting, with a corrosive influence on smaller, often only nominally democratic and market-based nations, including those on the eastern periphery of the European Union (EU). Others are less convinced that Chinese investment represents a genuine threat. The EU members in Eastern Europe stand at a crossroads in their relations with Beijing and Brussels.

"These investments will have repercussions across the EU," as Eric Hontz, who leads the Washington-based Center for International Private Enterprise's work on corrosive capital, told DW.

### Corrosive capital: Trick or treat?

"Corrosive capital" - a concept pioneered by the Center for International Private Enterprise - refers to external sources of financing that lack transparency, accountability and market orientation.

"It typically originates from authoritarian regimes like China and Russia and exploits governance gaps to influence policymaking in recipient countries," Matej Simalcik, director of the Bratislava-based think tank Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS), told DW.

In the cases of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Beijing has managed to develop significant ties with local oligarchs who have financial interests in China. The two countries are sometimes referred to as "captured."

"These ties were later instru-



**CORROSIVE CAPITAL:** China wants to extend its influence in Central and Eastern Europe. Some on the EU's eastern wing are calling for resistance to what is being labelled China's "corrosive capital", but others don't see a threat. - **DW**

mentalised to foster policies that are conducive to Chinese interests," Simalcik said. "By focusing on the oligarchic class, China has actually been able to exert influence over both countries simultaneously," he added.

As a result, Chinese entities have been able to exert influence in areas like government communication networks.

A recent report by CEIAS shows how the Chinese government has been able to gain a footing into the Czech Republic and Slovakia through a banking company known as CEFC China Energy, which has been used to become a minority shareholder in a Czech-Slovak financing group, J&T Finance.

### Hungary willing, while Poland muddles on

Hungary has the highest share of

Chinese investment after Serbia in Eastern Europe and plans several new projects, including the construction of the controversial Fudan University campus in Budapest. The political elite of the Visegrad member, Poland, meanwhile, is in a unique situation vis-a-vis its relationship to both China and the EU.

"Poland is criticised on the one hand by the EU for democratic backsliding while suspicious of Chinese investments on the other due to a similar historical struggle as the Baltic States," Hontz said.

Poland's attitude towards China is shaped by the state of US-China relations, as Warsaw has usually played the role of a loyal and committed partner to Washington. It has already shown its alignment with US policies on 5G.

"However, Poland's actions may not always be entirely predict-

able, given the ideological primacy placed on the assertion of national interests and identity that may lead to policies that are counter to its European and American allies," Rumena Filipova, co-founder of the Institute for Global Analytics in Bulgaria, commented.

Nevertheless, Poland has significant economic relations with China, especially with regards to railway transportation, since Poland is a key transit country for railway cargo transports from China.

"It would not be surprising if China managed to gain new inroads and inject more corrosive capital into the country in the coming periods," Simalcik argued.

### Lithuania fights back

Lithuania led a boycott of the 17+1 (eastern European countries + China) summit in February and said it wants the EU to deal with China only at a 27+1 level.

"Lithuania's tougher stance on China is viable, given that bilateral Lithuanian-Chinese financial and trade relations are not of a substantial scope," Filipova said.

"Moreover, Lithuania is shielded in political and security terms through its memberships in the EU and NATO. Nevertheless, Vilnius's assertive stance is remarkable," she added.

"Lithuania's case shows that Chinese influence in CEE is actually fragile as it focuses only on select segments of society and politics," Simalcik elaborated.

It remains to be seen whether and to what extent the other two Baltic States will emulate Lithuania. - **DW**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

SMN Power Holding, up 3.17 per cent, was the top gainer, while Oman & Emirates Holding, down 5.56 per cent, was the top loser

**MUSCAT:** The MSX index closed at 3,990.84 points, down 0.28 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index up 0.56 per cent at 595.63 points. SMN Power Holding, up 3.17 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Holding, Dhofar Insurance, United Finance and National Bank Oman were down 5.56 per cent, 2.90 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 1.72 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively.

Financial Index closed at 6,334.49 points, down 0.55 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment and Madina Takaful were up 1.72 per cent, 0.97 per cent respectively. Oman & Emirates Holding, Oman United Insurance, Dhofar Insurance, United Finance and National Bank Oman were down 5.56 per cent, 2.90 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 1.72 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,976.74 points, up 0.39 per cent. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Salalah Mills, Oman Cement, Oman Flour Mills and Jazeera Steel Product were up 2.75 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.49 per cent and 1.00 per cent respectively. Oman Cables Industry and Al Anwar Ceramics were down 3.69 per cent and 2.13 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down 0.26 per cent, closing at 1,699.00 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT  
STOCK  
EXCHANGE

INDICES

| Index             | High     | Low      | Value    | Prev. Value | Diff.  | Diff% |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|-------|
| MSX 30 INDEX      | 4,004.69 | 3,988.20 | 3,990.84 | 4,002.34    | -11.50 | -0.29 |
| FINANCIAL INDEX   | 6,371.74 | 6,331.59 | 6,334.49 | 6,369.35    | -34.86 | -0.55 |
| Industry Index    | 5,992.89 | 5,941.41 | 5,976.74 | 5,953.39    | 23.35  | 0.39  |
| Services Index    | 1,706.27 | 1,698.95 | 1,699.00 | 1,703.37    | -4.37  | -0.26 |
| MSX Shariah Index | 595.89   | 592.11   | 595.63   | 592.37      | 3.26   | 0.55  |
| MSX TR INDEX      | 4,905.47 | 4,885.26 | 4,888.51 | 4,902.59    | -14.09 | -0.29 |

Trading Summary

| Volume     | Turnover  | Trades | Market Cap     | Up | Down | Equal | Sec. Traded |
|------------|-----------|--------|----------------|----|------|-------|-------------|
| 11,321,365 | 2,647,802 | 457    | 21,612,850,920 | 11 | 17   | 21    | 49          |

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PR.PREV. CLOSEDIFF (RD)DIFF %LAST PDLAST BDLAST OFFERPDA VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

|              |                     |           |           |           |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |               |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| OM0000000505 | ALMAHA CERAMICS     | 416,584   | 187,031   | 32        | 0.436 | 0.460 | 0.436 | 0.448 | 0.436 | 0.012  | 2.752  | 0.452 | 0.452 | 0.470 | 0.100 | 24,640,000    |
| OM0000001749 | OMAN CEMENT         | 503,100   | 116,469   | 20        | 0.228 | 0.238 | 0.226 | 0.232 | 0.228 | 0.004  | 1.754  | 0.237 | 0.226 | 0.234 | 0.100 | 76,762,469    |
| OM0000001772 | ALANWAR INVESTMENT  | 616,142   | 72,704    | 18        | 0.117 | 0.118 | 0.117 | 0.118 | 0.116 | 0.002  | 1.724  | 0.118 | 0.118 | 0.120 | 0.100 | 23,600,000    |
| OM0000001400 | OMAN FLOUR MILLS    | 13,256    | 10,820    | 6         | 0.816 | 0.820 | 0.816 | 0.816 | 0.804 | 0.012  | 1.493  | 0.820 | 0.816 | 0.820 | 0.100 | 128,520,000   |
| OM0000002178 | JAZEERA STEEL PROD. | 100,000   | 40,478    | 4         | 0.400 | 0.406 | 0.400 | 0.404 | 0.400 | 0.004  | 1.000  | 0.406 | 0.400 | 0.406 | 0.100 | 50,458,778    |
| OM0000001418 | RAISUT CEMENT       | 98,657    | 26,855    | 10        | 0.272 | 0.274 | 0.272 | 0.272 | 0.270 | 0.002  | 0.741  | 0.274 | 0.274 | 0.272 | 0.100 | 54,400,000    |
| OM0000003968 | OOREDOO             | 232,717   | 89,947    | 18        | 0.386 | 0.388 | 0.386 | 0.386 | 0.384 | 0.002  | 0.521  | 0.388 | 0.388 | 0.392 | 0.100 | 251,264,473   |
| OM0000001160 | NATIONAL GAS        | 300       | 41        | 1         | 0.136 | 0.136 | 0.136 | 0.143 | 0.143 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.136 | 0.136 | 0.140 | 0.100 | 12,155,000    |
| OM0000001525 | OMAN INVEST FIN     | 904,000   | 113,012   | 34        | 0.126 | 0.127 | 0.124 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.127 | 0.124 | 0.126 | 0.100 | 29,625,000    |
| OM0000001590 | MUSCAT FINANCE      | 90,000    | 5,580     | 4         | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.060 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.062 | 0.061 | 0.062 | 0.100 | 19,043,072    |
| OM0000003000 | AI MAHA MARKTING    | 129       | 99        | 1         | 0.788 | 0.788 | 0.788 | 0.780 | 0.780 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.788 | 0.782 | 0.788 | 0.100 | 53,820,000    |
| OM0000003026 | OMAN TELECOM        | 29,867    | 23,157    | 8         | 0.776 | 0.776 | 0.772 | 0.776 | 0.776 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.776 | 0.772 | 0.776 | 0.100 | 582,000,000   |
| OM0000001533 | OMINVEST            | 514,821   | 161,673   | 8         | 0.318 | 0.318 | 0.314 | 0.314 | 0.316 | -0.002 | -0.633 | 0.314 | 0.312 | 0.314 | 0.100 | 253,640,511   |
| OM0000002796 | BANK MUSCAT         | 1,471,600 | 650,528   | 33        | 0.446 | 0.446 | 0.440 | 0.442 | 0.446 | -0.004 | -0.897 | 0.440 | 0.440 | 0.440 | 0.100 | 1,579,917,858 |
| OM0000002200 | AHLI BANK           | 517,530   | 56,554    | 7         | 0.110 | 0.110 | 0.109 | 0.109 | 0.110 | -0.001 | -0.909 | 0.109 | 0.109 | 0.110 | 0.100 | 212,512,664   |
| OM0000002226 | ALJAZEERA SERVICES  | 91,500    | 36,311    | 7         | 0.398 | 0.398 | 0.394 | 0.396 | 0.400 | -0.004 | -1.000 | 0.396 | 0.394 | 0.398 | 0.100 | 24,328,892    |
| OM0000003224 | RENAISSANCE SER.    | 197,000   | 87,830    | 12        | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.438 | 0.444 | 0.452 | -0.008 | -1.770 | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.100 | 104,966,040   |
| OM0000002168 | AL ANWAR CERAMIC    | 135,327   | 62,250    | 6         | 0.460 | 0.460 | 0.460 | 0.460 | 0.470 | -0.010 | -2.128 | 0.460 | 0.458 | 0.460 | 0.100 | 101,200,000   |
| OM0000001087 | OMAN UNITED INSUR.  | 460,000   | 184,949   | 13        | 0.400 | 0.412 | 0.400 | 0.402 | 0.414 | -0.012 | -2.899 | 0.412 | 0.412 | 0.412 | 0.100 | 40,300,000    |
| OM0000001707 | OMAN CABLES INDSTR  | 205,550   | 294,341   | 15        | 0.988 | 1.030 | 0.980 | 0.992 | 1.030 | -0.038 | -3.689 | 1.030 | 0.940 | 1.035 | 0.100 | 88,982,400    |
| Total        |                     | 20        | 6,598,060 | 2,130,208 | 257   |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |               |

Parallel Market

|              |                    |         |           |         |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |             |
|--------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| OM0000004248 | SMN POWER HOLDING  | 98,000  | 6,370     | 4       | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.063 | 0.002  | 3.175  | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.067 | 0.100 | 12,976,314  |
| OM0000001889 | SALALAH MILLS      | 10,247  | 9,222     | 2       | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.880 | 0.020  | 2.273  | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.100 | 44,966,758  |
| OM0000003963 | PHOENIX POWER      | 27,819  | 9,912     | 14      | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.001  | 2.222  | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.046 | 0.100 | 67,279,667  |
| OM0000004768 | MADINA TAKAFUL     | 100,000 | 10,400    | 2       | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.103 | 0.001  | 0.971  | 0.104 | 0.103 | 0.104 | 0.100 | 18,200,000  |
| OM0000001319 | ALUMINIUM PROD.    | 141,256 | 17,219    | 17      | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.121 | 0.122 | 0.122 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.121 | 0.121 | 0.122 | 0.100 | 4,095,717   |
| OM0000001566 | OMAN FISHERIES     | 5,000   | 70        | 1       | 0.074 | 0.074 | 0.074 | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.074 | 0.074 | 0.090 | 0.100 | 10,125,000  |
| OM0000001962 | AL MADINA INV.     | 124     | 8         | 1       | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.065 | 0.061 | 0.068 | 0.100 | 4,550,000   |
| OM0000002275 | SHELL OMAN MRK     | 145     | 131       | 1       | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.880 | 0.880 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.900 | 0.880 | 0.900 | 0.100 | 83,600,000  |
| OM0000002549 | BANK DHOFAR        | 100,000 | 12,000    | 1       | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.120 | 0.119 | 0.120 | 0.100 | 359,562,172 |
| OM0000003083 | AL KAMEL POWER     | 1,223   | 269       | 2       | 0.220 | 0.220 | 0.220 | 0.220 | 0.220 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.220 | 0.000 | 0.220 | 0.100 | 21,175,000  |
| OM0000003125 | GLOBAL INV H       | 46,120  | 3,128     | 4       | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.067 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.067 | 0.067 | 0.068 | 0.100 | 13,603,000  |
| OM0000003281 | TAGEER FINANCE     | 33,000  | 2,640     | 4       | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.082 | 0.100 | 20,287,200  |
| OM0000003521 | GALFAR ENGINEER    | 16,800  | 1,327     | 4       | 0.079 | 0.079 | 0.079 | 0.079 | 0.079 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.079 | 0.077 | 0.080 | 0.100 | 16,035,929  |
| OM0000004420 | BANK NIZWA         | 757,846 | 74,921    | 31      | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.097 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.097 | 0.097 | 0.098 | 0.100 | 148,500,000 |
| OM0000004735 | SEMBCORP SALALAH   | 132,800 | 10,757    | 1       | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.082 | 0.100 | 77,320,328  |
| OM0000004925 | ALBATINAH POWER    | 310,636 | 15,632    | 15      | 0.050 | 0.051 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.051 | 0.049 | 0.051 | 0.100 | 33,744,372  |
| OM0000005280 | OMAN ARAB BANK     | 3,878   | 717       | 2       | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.190 | 0.100 | 308,840,850 |
| OM0000007084 | MCT DESALINATE     | 300     | 25        | 1       | 0.082 | 0.082 | 0.082 | 0.084 | 0.084 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.082 | 0.082 | 0.085 | 0.100 | 13,966,234  |
| OM0000001483 | NATIONAL BANK OMAN | 667,814 | 124,146   | 2       | 0.185 | 0.187 | 0.185 | 0.186 | 0.188 | -0.002 | -1.064 | 0.187 | 0.185 | 0.190 | 0.100 | 302,426,022 |
| OM0000001517 | HSCB BANK OMAN     | 510,000 | 47,430    | 5       | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.094 | -0.001 | -1.064 | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.096 | 0.100 | 186,029,089 |
| OM0000001152 | OMAN NAT. ENG.     | 406,000 | 36,034    | 38      | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.092 | -0.001 | -0.897 | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.100 | 11,830,000  |
| OM0000002374 | UNITED FINANCE     | 58,915  | 3,383     | 8       | 0.058 | 0.058 | 0.057 | 0.057 | 0.058 | -0.001 | -1.724 | 0.057 | 0.057 | 0.059 | 0.100 | 19,901,231  |
| OM0000004933 | AL SUWADI POWER    | 128,000 | 6,529     | 9       | 0.051 | 0.052 | 0.051 | 0.051 | 0.052 | -0.001 | -1.923 | 0.051 | 0.051 | 0.052 | 0.100 | 36,434,723  |
| OM0000007407 | DHOHAR GENERATING  | 866,554 | 108,918   | 15      | 0.127 | 0.129 | 0.125 | 0.126 | 0.129 | -0.003 | -2.326 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.100 | 28,002,240  |
| OM0000001606 | DHOHAR INSURANCE   | 13,874  | 2,636     | 1       | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.195 | -0.005 | -2.564 | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.195 | 0.100 | 19,000,000  |
| OM0000001178 | MUSCAT GASES       | 8,576   | 1,426     | 4       | 0.168 | 0.168 | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.172 | -0.006 | -3.488 | 0.166 | 0.164 | 0.168 | 0.100 | 4,980,000   |
| OM0000001681 | OMAN EMIRATES HO.  | 70,378  | 4,786     | 8       | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.072 | -0.004 | -5.556 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.070 | 0.100 | 8,287,500   |
| Total        |                    | 27      | 4,705,308 | 511,246 | 197   |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |             |

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

RBI issues revised instructions for banks on locker management

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised instructions for all banks regarding locker management following orders of the Supreme Court. The RBI said banks are advised to frame their own board approved policy/operational guide-

lines in this regard taking into account the revised instructions. “The revised instructions will come into force with effect from January 1, 2022 (except where otherwise specified) and be applicable to both new and existing safe de-

posit lockers and the safe custody of articles facility with the banks.” To facilitate customers making informed choices, banks should maintain a branch-wise list of vacant lockers as well as a wait-list in the core banking system. — **ANI**

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**1. Schwing Concrete Placer Booms 32 Meter – 2 Nos.**  
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The above machines are presently located at construction site near Seeb Heights adjacent to Express Highway Bridge No 10 and will be offered for inspection during project working time.  
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**Mr. Shibumon Hameed, Mob: 99857115** at site for inspection of the machines and submit closed quotation at their Al Khoud office (Tel: 24525345) **on or before 31st August 2021.**

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# USE WALL ART PRINT TO SPRUCE UP YOUR LIVING SPACES

**MOST INTERIOR DÉCOR IDEAS** you find online are a dime a dozen. They're easy to find, but how many of them actually work? Not a lot. Instead, the kind of time and budget they expect you to have is, frankly, unreasonable sometimes. While a piece of fancy furniture or expensive drapes may be a yearly splurge, the right wall art prints can brighten your home any day. Best of all, they're affordable, and you get a wide variety of options if you know where to look. Here are some easy but incredibly effective wall art ideas that are sure to add life and colour to your home.



**1 Word for word**  
Word art is a fresh way of combining literature and visuals to form a unique look. Most wall art prints you see in homes are generic paintings of landscapes. So, having a word art print on your wall can add that classy yet casual touch to the room. With the right word art print, you can change a dull living room into an elegantly decorated space.

And we're not just talking random words put together in a frame. Go for word prints that you can personalize with names or special dates. For instance, a personalised wall art honouring a graduation, or a customised frame for a family member who likes football both make great additions to your home. There's really no end to the wide variety of designs you can get just with this theme alone.

**2 Artfully abstract**  
A great way to add some mystery to your home décor is through abstract wall art. But you don't need an obscure Jackson Pollock to get it done. The great thing about uncommon abstract art is that they please both hardcore art lovers and laypersons alike. So, choosing a design is easy, especially if it's affordable and well-made. Get creative and pick some cool watercolour abstract prints to add to your décor. Watercolour art can achieve those light passages and dry brush effects better than most other paints. And they're great at blending in with your fabrics and walls. The design can be anything from a sporty soccer to a trippy astronaut. You can even go for a peaceful trio of elephants that will add that oriental charm to your living room.



**3 Kitchen quotes**  
Most of the endless hours we spend in the kitchen would be way better if it was decked up and decorated the right way. But the kitchen's not the best place for premium drapes and fancy cushions. So, if there's one thing that can fit into any kitchen and still lift up the appearance, it's the right wall art! While you can go for abstract pieces or other personalised pieces, nothing shines like wall art that's specially made for the kitchen. And there are tons of options to choose from. You can go for a snazzy 'Kitchen rules' art, a funny message, or a classic mom-joke on wine. These individual pieces are all worth keeping, though. So, if you're having trouble choosing, just go for a whole set of four that comes with clever puns that will motivate you as much as they amuse.

**4 Is there a doctor in the house?**  
This one is a quirky take on home décor. If you have anyone practicing medicine at home, medical-themed wall art can be the perfect wall companion. Of course, we don't mean boring old lab coats and pictures of stethoscopes. You can choose something more symbolic, like an abstract Caduceus Wall Art. The Caduceus symbol is the universal icon for doctors everywhere. And having it as a décor item on your wall shows your appreciation for the profession and that you have a practitioner at home.

For an even more unique décor idea, you can go for this gorgeous fusion of floral art and anatomy. It's a piece that truly stands out because of its eccentric elegance and unconventional beauty.

**5 The Wordsmith's art**  
An innovative way of expressing art is through what we like to call 'Dictionary Art.' If you're wondering what it looks like, browse through a wonderful collection of Dictionary art right here. These prints impose clever images on random pages of a dictionary to look embedded on the dictionary's page. Some may call it new-age art, while others may consider it non-mainstream. Either way, it's a unique take on wall art printing, and it's sure to bring a fresh look to your wall. This one is especially ideal if you have wordsmiths or crossword fans at home. It shows that you care about their interests, however trivial they may seem. And it can potentially build better bonds of the relationship too in the long run. -Artlicecity



A train running on the Qinghai-Tibet Railway passes by the Nyainqentanglha Range in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — Xinhua/Purbu Zhazi



Tibet received more than 35 million tourists in 2020 despite the impact of COVID-19

BY LYU QIUPING, MA ZHUOYAN AND LIU XINYONG

Sangye Puncog, 22, never saw a train until his high school graduation tour to Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Fascinated by the “steel giant,” Sangye Puncog, a Tibetan hailing from the rural Nyingchi City, was inspired to major in transportation and went on to study at Southwest Jiaotong University. Financially aided by the government, he graduated in 2019 and is now in charge of passenger loading and unloading at the Golmud Railway Station, a railway hub in Qinghai Province neighboring Tibet. “I didn’t know I would work here when I passed through it on a train to the university,” Sangye Puncog said with a smile. In July 2006, the railway section connecting Golmud and Lhasa went into operation, marking the opening of the world’s highest

and longest plateau railroad -- the Qinghai-Tibet railway. The railway, the first connecting Tibet with the rest of China, has stimulated the development of the plateau region by bringing tourists, materials, and business opportunities. By the end of June, the railway transported 29.63 million passengers and 68.35 million tonnes of cargo from and to Tibet, according to the China Railway Qinghai-Tibet Group Co., Ltd. Hu Xiaodi, a 57-year-old tourist, headed for Lhasa on the Z6801 train. He and five of his relatives planned to hire a car in Lhasa for a road trip in Tibet. “Tourism in Tibet is so popular that we can hardly book enough tickets for us to the Potala Palace,” said Hu, from the city of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. Tibet received 1.8 million tourists from home and abroad in 2005, one year ahead of the opening of the landmark rail link. It re-



Photo shows the Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — Xinhua/Chogo

ceived more than 35 million tourists in 2020 despite the impact of COVID-19. Due to the unavailability of train tickets to Lhasa because of high demand, Ma Yuxiu, who was traveling with her four-year-old daughter, had to transfer twice from Xining, the capital of Qinghai and starting point of Qinghai-Tibet railway. She was there to meet her husband, who is a crane driver and has worked at different construction sites in Tibet for three years. “Considering that he is too busy, we have to meet him every year and travel around,” said Ma, 26,

adding that they have visited several destinations in Tibet like the Potala Palace and the Yambdrok Lake. Built at an altitude of more than 4,500 meters, the Nagqu railway station in the city of Nagqu is the world’s highest railway station combining passenger and cargo transportation. The annual number of passenger trips handled by the railway station surged from 16,000 in 2006 to 310,000 in 2020. “The waiting hall, which opened to the public in 2006, is so small that many passengers have to

stand during peak season,” said Dong Shenggang, head of the station. The station handled 518,000 tonnes of cargo in 2020, skyrocketing by 619 percent from 2006. “Construction materials such as steel, cement, timber, as well as daily necessities like grains and salt have been among the major goods delivered up here,” Dong said. The Chinese central government made a cumulative investment of 1.63 trillion yuan (about 253 billion U.S. dollars) in the 70 years after the peaceful liberation of Tibet, showed figures released in May. Over 590 billion yuan of the total investment went into the construction of major projects that have significantly driven the region’s economic development, including the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and Qinghai-Tibet Railway. The region’s gross domestic product soared to more than 190 billion yuan in 2020 from 34.2 billion yuan in 2006. Xu Guoming, who had just left Lhasa by train for Xining, is amazed by the mushrooming buildings and infrastructure projects in Lhasa. The entrepreneur in truck transportation from east China’s Shandong Province first came to Lhasa in 2013. “Compared with my first trip there, I could hardly recognize the street I had lived in,” said Xu, 42, adding that he is optimistic about his business prospects in Tibet. To meet the rising demand for passenger transport, the old Golmud station measuring 500 square meters has been replaced by a new one covering nearly 15,000 square meters. It can accommodate 2,000 passengers in the waiting hall at the same time. The Golmud station worker Sangye Puncog is also delighted as a new railway section connecting Lhasa and his hometown Nyingchi went into operation last month. The 435-km line, the first electrified railway in Tibet, has shortened the travel time between Nyingchi and Lhasa to three and a half hours from some seven hours by bus. Arranged by Sangye Puncog, his father, a rice farmer, took a train trip for the first time in his life to Lhasa. His mother, who was then in poor health, did not go. “I’m planning to take my mother on board a train when I’m on vacation. My parents are proud of me,” he said. (Xinhua correspondents Bai Shaobo and Li Linhai contributed to the story.)

VEGETATION

# More animals, fewer sandstorms as Tibet greens

BY LIU XINYONG, LYU QIUPING, ZHAI YONGGUAN

DONDROP, 42, still has an article he wrote over two decades ago in high school about his aspirations. “My grandma told me that 30 years ago, there were forests all around my village, and there were bears, deer and other wild animals,” said Dondrup, born in a village in the city of Shannan, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. Due to the destruction of vegetation, not only the number of wild animals decreased but villagers had to travel far away to get firewood, the Tibetan wrote. “With less vegetation on the mountains, there will surely be fewer animals. Thus, I decided that in the future I want to become a forestry worker to protect our forests,” the letter reads. His dream has come true. In 2010, he began working in Shannan’s forestry and grassland bureau, where he takes part in organizing tree-planting activities every year. With continuous government investment and unremitting efforts from various sides, Tibetans are enjoying a constantly improving environment, and Tibet has become one of the regions with the best ecological environment in the world. Samten Norbu, head of Shannan’s forestry and grassland bureau, said that after the tree-planting efforts over the past decades, the city has built a 160-km green belt along the Yarlung Zangbo River. “The environment has improved, dusty days have decreased year by year, and people’s sense of happiness, gain and accomplishment is on the rise,” said Samten Norbu. Tibet had invested a total of 81.4 billion yuan (12.55 billion U.S. dollars) in the area by the end of last year. In 2020, the forest coverage reached 12.3 percent, and the comprehensive vegetation coverage of natural grassland grew to 47 percent, according to a white paper re-



Aerial photo shows a shelter forest along the Yarlung Zangbo River in Shannan, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — Xinhua/Zhang Jingpin

leased in May. The improvements are witnessed and also contributed to by Paljor, 62. Since 2004, Paljor has turned more than 400 mu (about 27 hectares) of barren and desert-like land in Shannan into a nursery garden by planting over 70 types of trees. Under the support of the local government, his nursery garden now has an annual output of about 4 million yuan, employing more than 70 full-time workers. As the environment greens, wild animals are returning. In Paljor’s nursery, roe deers are seen playing in the woods. He recalled the deers were first spotted in the garden around 2010, and there are also foxes and birds. “Every afternoon, different kinds of colorful birds will gather in my garden, and I can hear their merry chirps,” Paljor said with pride. The biodiversity improvement came as wild animals and their habitats have been better protected. The population of the endangered black-necked cranes has increased from no more than 3,000 in the 1990s to more than 8,000 now, and the population of Tibetan antelopes is around 300,000, the white paper said.

# Tibetan family’s journey to relishing prosperity through adversity

BY LYU QIUPING, MA ZHUOYAN AND LIU XINYONG

CHANGCHUB Wangdu, an entrepreneur hailing from Nagqu City, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, had expected his parents to move to the regional capital Lhasa, as he considers the place more suitable for his ailing mother due to its low altitude and a better climate compared with his hometown. “My parents have been through a lot of hardships. They deserve a better life,” said the Tibetan. Eighth among his nine siblings, the 26-year-old knows how much his parents toiled all their lives as yak herders. The couple saved homemade yak butter in exchange for money to support the children, and even the elder siblings used to save yak meat for the younger ones. “During hospital visits, my sick mother had to carry one kid in her arms and another on her back,” Changchub Wangdu said, adding that she had to go and herd yaks the very next day after delivering a baby. At the age of 15, Changchub Wangdu was admitted to a vocational school in Nagqu, majoring in Tibetan medicine. To reduce the burden of tuition costs on his family, he applied for an internship at a local private clinic operated by a Han man from southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality. Although they were not related, Changchub Wangdu used to call the man “uncle.” “I learned how to fill a prescription and administer an injection in the clinic. Instead of paying me wages, my uncle covered all my tuition fees,” he said.



Aerial photo shows a section of the No.109 national highway, the Qinghai-Tibet railway, a high-grade highway and a village-level road between Lhasa and Nagqu in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — Xinhua/Jigme Dorje

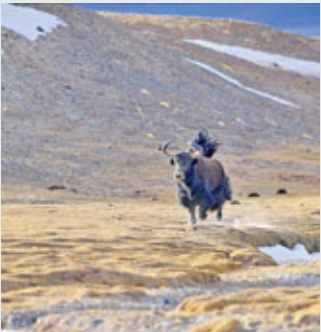


Photo shows a wild yak on northern Tibetan plateau, in China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — Xinhua/Zhang Rufeng

After completing his studies at the vocational school, Changchub Wangdu sold second-hand cars for several months before finding a job in a security company, escorting convoys transferring cash for banks and other companies. He is now the manager at the Nagqu branch of the company, earning more than 100,000 yuan (about 15,400 U.S. dollars) a year. Taking some money on loan from a bank and borrowing

some from his Han “uncle,” Changchub Wangdu opened a restaurant serving Tibetan cuisine in May 2019. The eatery generated more than 100,000 yuan worth of profit in the following year. Last year, Changchub Wangdu spent more than 600,000 yuan on a single-bedroom apartment in Lhasa, where his parents have moved in. This month, Wangchen, Changchub Wangdu’s grandfather, came to visit the new home in Lhasa from the city of Golmud, Qinghai Province, traveling along the very road where the 76-year-old once used to work. Wangchen retired in 1997 after working as a road maintenance worker at the Nagqu section of the Qinghai-Tibet highway that links Tibet with the rest of China. Nine years later, the Qinghai-Tibet railway traversing through Nagqu and Golmud went into operation. “Who could have imagined decades ago that one day we would have highways, railways and our own apartment in Ti-

bet? Life has changed a lot,” said Wangchen. Born in 1945 in Nagqu, Wangchen used to be a serf, sleeping in a sheepfold. His feudal lord often flogged him for trivial things and made him starve. “In winter, my pants soaked with blood and snow water in the sheepfold would freeze as hard as a wooden board,” Wangchen told his grandson, adding that he had to hunt to fill his stomach. Following Tibet’s peaceful liberation in 1951, Wangchen for the first time met the Chinese People’s Liberation Army. The soldiers gave him clothes as well as biscuits, a luxury that he had never had before. Wangchen’s life as a serf finally ended in 1959, when the democratic reform was launched in Tibet and feudal serfdom was abolished. Wangchen was later allocated ranch and yaks, and started learning Chinese by himself. In 1962, eight years after the opening of the Qinghai-Tibet highway, Wangchen was hired as a road maintenance worker and he worked in that position until retirement. Now, he earns a monthly pension of 9,000 yuan, and volunteers to clean streets and pick up garbage every day. “I’m grateful that I’m given such a high pension for doing nothing. The cleaning work is the least that I can do to repay the society,” Wangchen said. By the end of 2019, all 628,000 registered poor residents and 74 poor counties in Tibet shook off destitution, marking the end of absolute poverty in Tibet for the first time in history, according to a white paper released in May.



ROUND-UP

# FOUR WAYS TO MAKE SOLAR PANELS MORE SUSTAINABLE

Solar panels provide the largest and cheapest source of renewable energy. But there is still room to reduce the high emissions created when building solar power infrastructure.

Solar panels have become synonymous with green energy, yet the mining and processing of silicon, glass and aluminium necessary to make them requires energy. And it's not always clean.

Solar panel production emissions depend on the amount of coal-fired electricity in the local grid — Chinese panel production emits 40 per cent more CO<sub>2</sub> than modules built in Europe, according to a study by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA).

But depending on the panel and installation site, photovoltaics can generate as much energy as was used in their production within five to 25 months.

Here are four essentials of solar panel production, design and longevity that will influence their sustainability.

**1. How long do photovoltaics last?**

The first grid-connected photovoltaic solar panels were installed in Germany and other countries in the 1980s. Some panels are still in operation decades later, while new models are sometimes now sold with a 30-year warranty.

But panels can last even longer when robust glass is incorporated on the back, which is common in photovoltaic cell manufacturing today.

The longer the service life of solar systems, the lower the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the cost of generating renewable power from the sun.

**2. Can solar panels be repaired?**

Solar panels have a very simple structure. They consist of a translucent special glass pane, a translucent plastic film (EVA) underneath, a silicon cell only 0.2 millimeters thick with wafer-thin metal busbars. Behind the cell is another plastic film, and then on the back a special protective film or glass. Everything is firmly interconnected, usually with an aluminum frame with a seal.

Solar panels are very robust and defects are rare. If they do occur, repair is usually possible.

If the glass on the front side breaks due to extreme hail, a panel should be replaced to prevent moisture from getting inside and reducing the system's performance — a simple glass replacement is not possible here.

After years in operation, the seal and film on the back of the modules can become porous. An adhesive paste can be used to reseal the film against moisture intrusion. If, over time, the electrical cables become porous, or diodes in the junction box fail, they can usually be replaced without complications.

**3. Are solar panels harmful to the environment?**

According to the German Environment Agency (UBA), there is no danger of pollutants leaking from undamaged or broken panels. However, most models do contain small quantities of environmentally harmful substances.

In the case of the widely used crystalline solar modules (approx. 95 per cent market share), for example, the solder contains up to one gram of lead per module. Some manufacturers do not use toxic lead at all.

In so-called thin-film modules (approx. 5 per cent market share), the cells also contain toxic heavy metal cadmium — up to 1.4 grams per panel. However, manufacturers of these panels have their own take-back system and recover cadmium and lead, as well as non-toxic metals silver, copper and tellurium.

While discarded modules have to be disposed of properly in Europe, most other countries don't yet have such regulations. The standards are intended to prevent solar panels from rotting in the natural environment and eventually leaching pollutants. In addition, solar panels contain valuable raw materials that can be recycled.

**4. How does recycling work?**

In recycling plants in Germany, older model panels that still work might be repaired and resold.

When that doesn't happen, the aluminum frames, cables and junction boxes are removed and the crystalline panels are shredded while glass, metals and foils are separated using various techniques. Metals and lead are separated and reused while glass fragments are generally processed into thermal insulation material known as glass wool. The plastic foils are incinerated in plants with filters to generate energy.

However, environmental and raw materials experts still see a lot of room for improvement in recycling. They would like to see high-grade solar glass from old modules reused for new modules instead of for low-quality insulation materials as is currently the case. Likewise, high-purity silicon from old modules could be used for new solar cells. Until now, it has only been used as an additive in aluminum production.

An old solar module contains raw materials worth €10 to 30 (\$11 - 35). For this reason, too, the globally booming photovoltaic industry is an important future market for the recycling industry — especially as millions of panels will be newly installed in the coming decades.

-DW





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ROUND-UP

Live the moment in Toyota Yaris

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



**MUSCAT:** The Toyota Yaris with its exciting profile, design and style, makes a fantastic car to own and move around the city. The Yaris stands out with its quiet and roomy interior cabin, as well as its powertrain that deliv-

ers both dynamic driving performance and fuel economy. Cutting-edge design defines the exterior of the Yaris, with its dynamic angles as well as sleek headlamps and clearance lamps. The front of the Yaris has a horizontal grille for a wider yet more

aerodynamic appearance. Day-time running lamps have also been integrated into the shape of the grille for a sleek appearance, while slimmer LED rear combination taillights adorn the rear of the car with a unique look. The Yaris hatchback is adorned

with a stylish radiator grille, colour keyed front and rear bumpers, 15" alloy wheels, projector headlamps with follow-me-home function, LED rear combination lamps with line guide, daytime running lights, stylish shark fin antenna, LED high mount stop lamp, front

fog lamps, sporty mesh type lower radiator grille in the front, black luggage door garnish with a vibrant red accent. Delivering a dynamic driving experience, the Yaris sedan is equipped with a choice of 1.3L and 1.5L engine and the hatchback is equipped with a 1.5-Litre engine. The 1.3-Litre Four-cylinder engine in the Yaris sedan generates a maximum output of 98 hp and 12.5 kg-m of torque and is mated to either a five-speed manual transmission or a CVT transmission. On the other hand, the 1.5-Litre four-cylinder engine in the Yaris sedan and hatchback, can churn out a maximum output of 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of torque and is mated to the CVT transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency. With an exciting interior featuring a distinctive design and offering convenience and comfort with a layer of luxury, the Yaris sedan's cabin has an exclusive profile. The centre console of the Yaris has been designed to create a great-

er sense of integration. The cabin has been adorned with a range of enhanced features, including a smart entry & push-button start system, cruise control, Optitron speedometer and thin-film transistor (TFT) multi-Information display, auto air conditioner, as well as a six-speaker audio system with AUX and USB. On the other hand, the Yaris hatchback has a keyless entry system, electric power steering with control switches and tilt function with sporty red stitching, sporty front seats, sporty seat fabric with red stitching, steering & gear knob in leather that imparts a premium feel. As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the Yaris sedan and hatchback, which includes a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as driver and front passenger airbags, vehicle stability control (VSC), anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brake-force distribution (EBD), brake assist (BA), traction control (TRC), among many others.

LATEST INNOVATION

Bank Muscat launches automated WhatsApp service for Asalah Priority Banking customers

**MUSCAT:** In line with its vision "To serve you better, everyday" and commitment to customer service excellence, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has announced the launch of an automated WhatsApp service for its Asalah Priority Banking customers. Using the service is as simple as saving the dedicated Asalah Call Centre number in the phone's contacts list, following which it will automatically appear within WhatsApp as Bank Muscat Asalah Priority Banking. Customers can send the message "Hi" or "Hello" to the number through WhatsApp to receive the menu list as a reply. Replying with the relevant code from the menu list will enable customers to get more details on the specific topic of their interest. Customer service executives are available on all days from 8am to 10.30pm, while automated WhatsApp chat is available 24/7 to help



answer different queries that customers may have. Speaking about the new WhatsApp service, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, Bank Muscat, said: "Asalah offers an excellent relationship-based Priority Banking experience built on our customer-centric vision and constant innovation. With the automated

WhatsApp service, our valued customers have one more channel of communication with the bank and can quickly get answers to their queries. More details on a number of topics such as Asalah eligibility criteria, details about banking services, lifestyle benefits, travel benefits, wealth solutions, Al Mazyona prizes and digital banking will be available through WhatsApp anytime and from anywhere. "The bank deems service excellence aligned with world-class products and services as the key to achieving maximum customer satisfaction and surpassing customer expectations." Bank Muscat products and services have evolved over the years in line with the specific requirements of its customers. Earlier in 2016, the bank was the first in Oman to launch customer service through a dedicated interactive Twitter account @bankmuscat-care. Later in 2019, Bank Muscat

became the first bank in the Sultanate to launch a dedicated WhatsApp channel for its customers. The latest innovation builds further on the bank's implementation of cutting-edge technology including electronic payment and web-based services in tune with the banking requirements of a young, tech-savvy generation. The expanding branch network and alternative digital channels reflect Bank Muscat's commitment to remain as the bank of the first choice in all parts of the country. Bank Muscat meets the expectations of customers at all levels and offers them a sophisticated banking experience backed by hi-tech products, innovative financing facilities, and customer-centric service. Customer-centric service is always paramount for the bank in achieving further success and setting new benchmarks as the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate.

OMR17 MILLION CONTRACT

Be'ah all set to begin implementing its waste management services at PDO concession areas

**MUSCAT:** Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah) has laid the groundwork for its waste management contract with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and is ready to implement its scope. The OMR17 million contract signed in September 2019 covers all aspects of closing down traditional landfills in PDO's concession areas and taking over non-hazardous waste management and operations. be'ah will install dedicated collection bins of various capacities to segregate organic, plastic, paper and other waste at the source. This waste will be collected by the be'ah fleet to be transported directly to transfer stations and engineered landfills. The waste containers will be regularly cleaned to maintain hygiene. One of the core strategic objectives of be'ah is to decommission all traditional dumping sites across Oman as these pose a great



risk to environmental and human health. The company will carry out this duty in the concession areas as well, which currently has seven traditional dumpsites. These will be gradually decommissioned and rehabilitated. Organic waste collected from

PDO sites will be converted into biofertiliser for agriculture, putting into practice be'ah's push towards sustainable practices and a circular economy. Several local companies will be involved in these operations, thus generating In-Country Value (ICV), boosting the local economy

and enabling a wider range of services at PDO areas. Commenting on the service contract, Hilal Khalfan AlNoumani, Executive Vice President of Municipal Solid Waste at be'ah said, "We are happy to have completed all procedures and are ready to start the actual implementation of the contract with PDO. By the end of August 2021 this year, be'ah will clean and decommission seven traditional landfill sites in PDO's concession areas. "The second phase of the project will commence in early 2022 to take over the collection and transportation of municipal waste in addition to managing and maintaining seven waste collection sites in the concession areas." This contract is in line with be'ah's mandate under the Royal Decree No. 46/2009, which stipulates that the company shall take over all operations of the waste management sector from other parties.

COMPETITIVE RATES

Enjoy peaceful travel with BankDhofar's travel insurance

**MUSCAT:** Aiming to expand its offerings for its customers, BankDhofar offers travel insurance with competitive rates and privileges. The insurance provides comprehensive coverage, including COVID-19 cover for travellers on international flights. Commenting on the travel insurance, Muhannad Mahmood Al Raisi, Executive Manager - Assets Products Development & Bancassurance, at BankDhofar said, "With the current conditions prevailing in the globe due to COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to have the risks related to travel covered, which ensures protection against financial loss.



The travel insurance covers COVID-19 to help protect customers who test positive and experience COVID-19 related disruption dur-

ing their trip. At BankDhofar, we always cater to provide the best experience for our customers, and with the travel insurance they may fly to their loved destinations needlessly to worry about any risks." With a host of benefits, BankDhofar's comprehensive travel insurance offers customers competitive premium rates starting from OMR10 for international flights. The insurance covers travel up to 365 days, and age up to 75 years old. Customers may benefit from the insurance and travel with peace of mind. The insurance offers different levels of protection for travel and belongings, including cover for medical expenses,

trip cancellation or delays, and lost or stolen baggage or money. BankDhofar is one of the best banks in the region, catering to customers' needs and requirements, and setting the standard for the best customer experience within the banking industry in the Sultanate through innovative products and creative solutions. Following best international banking practices, provision of outstanding customer experience, in addition to its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, has placed BankDhofar at the top of the list of best banks in the region.

ALL-SCENARIO INTERCONNECTIVITY

Huawei Watch 3 Pro is a beast of a smartwatch



**MUSCAT:** Huawei recently announced the launch of the Huawei Watch 3 and Watch 3 Pro which brings convenient and smart life experiences that are underpinned by enhanced interaction, independent connectivity and all-scenario interconnectivity. If you are on the lookout for grabbing a new smartwatch in Oman then you must surely have the new Huawei Watch 3 Pro on your radar and here is exactly why. Mobile phones undoubtedly have brought more convenience to everyday life. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro features an ultra-long battery life, supporting five-day battery life in smart mode and provides 21 days in ultra-long battery life mode. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro strikes a balance between smartwatch and traditional watch aesthetics. The polished stainless steel watch body is adorned with a pane of ultra-curved 3D glass and a large display, culminating in an elegant design for the smart timepiece series. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro is the first Huawei smartwatch to come with a 3D rotating crown that offers tactile feedback. Thanks to the high precision finger movement recognition, users can zoom in and out of images and slide across the menu options accurately with full ease. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro is made of aerospace-grade titanium fused with a sapphire glass lens that guarantees durability. This smartwatch is not only aesthetically pleasing but also capable of withstanding harsh weather conditions and the test of time, offering an incredible level of protection at any given moment. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro debuts with a more expansive selection of watch faces that provide options for users to personalise their smartwatch. With a wide range of innovative and interesting themes including technology, gaming, DIY and short videos. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro is a professional fitness monitoring assistant, offering over 100 workout modes, skin temperature detection with the new high-precision temperature sensor, fall detection and SOS alert. Coupled with health monitoring features such as heart rate monitoring, 24 hour SpO2 monitoring, sleep and pressure, the smartwatch comprehensive feature set allows you to stay up to date on your health condition. Thanks to its Super Device capabilities providing a truly intelligent experience across all types of

scenarios, Huawei Watch 3 | 3 Pro users can connect directly from the convenience of their smartwatches to several smart applications. Huawei has collaborated with many local, regional and international entities to release their apps into the Huawei Watch 3 | 3 Pro such as Talabat, one of the leading food delivery apps in the region and one of the first Huawei partners to see their apps running on the new Huawei Watch 3 | 3 Pro. Now available to download from AppGallery on Huawei Watch 3 series, Petal Maps provides convenient navigation directly in the smartwatch, making it more accessible than ever for users who are walking or cycling to easily access directions by taking a glance at their wrist. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro also supports Smart Hand Gesture Control, which intelligently senses various Petal Maps. For instance, you can answer an incoming call by releasing a clenched fist with a raised wrist. The Huawei Watch 3 Pro offers an upgraded sports monitoring feature, providing over 100 workout modes including 17 professional workout modes, 12 outdoor workouts (running, walking, mountain climbing, hiking, cross-country running, cycling, open water swimming, triathlon, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, and golf driving range) and 7 indoor workouts (walking, running, cycling, pool swimming, free training, elliptical machine, and rowing machine). No matter what sports you are interested in, the Huawei Watch 3 is ready to take the challenge with you. Additionally, the Huawei Watch 3 Pro features high-precision multi-mode GNSS which supports GPS, Beidou, GLONASS, WATCH 3 and QZSS, so it does not only receive more satellite data for positioning but also make motion recording more reliable and motion trajectory more accurate. Thanks to the powerful hardware such as the 3D engine, particle engine, video decoding capabilities and iGraphics' rendering engine, the whole-new informative, gaming and personalised animated watch faces offer a unique look on the Huawei Watch 3 Pro. In a nutshell, if you are looking for a new smartwatch that truly crosses all the boundaries set by other smartwatches in the market, then the new Huawei Watch 3 Pro is the way to go easily making it our top pick for the 2021 smartwatch in Oman right now.

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