

HIS MAJESTY

— ONA

505 A person wearing a light blue shirt is shown from the chest up, facing slightly to the right. Overlaid on the image is large, bold, black text that reads: "NO HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS SEEN AMONG VACCINATED PEOPLE". The text is arranged in five lines, with the first line being the longest and the last line being the shortest. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

**NO HOSPITAL
ADMISSIONS
SEEN AMONG
VACCINATED
PEOPLE**

MOVEMENT BAN

A police car with flashing blue and red lights is parked at night on a paved area. In the background, there is a large, white, cylindrical structure with a crenelated top, resembling a fortification or a large water tower. Several streetlights are visible, illuminating the scene.

Emergency cases
“It is not possible for people to communicate in the submission of reports related to the pandemic that need to be dealt with in a timely manner, and in emergency cases and other inquiries, the person must initiate contact to the nearest police command,” he added. **>A3**



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CORONAVIRUS

< FROM
A1 Rise in infection

“We’ve seen a rapid rise in the infection curve of the coronavirus, which has caused much anxiety among all of us. For the first time in 152 days, the number of active cases in the country has reached 12,000.”

Najwa Al Rawahy, a nurse at the Royal Hospital, was of a similar opinion to the doctor. “The current situation in intensive care is very critical. That there has been an increase in the number of patients admitted to our hospital is evidence of the rate at which the virus is spreading,” she said.

796 new cases of COVID-19 were reported on Monday, taking the total number of cases in the country to 156,883, according to the Ministry of Health.

MEETING

CBO praises stimulus plan

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) convened its first meeting of Board of Governors for 2021.

The meeting was chaired by His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa’ad Al Said, Chairman of CBO’s Board of Governors. The meeting was held at the CBO Head Office yesterday.

At the outset of the meeting, the Board commended the Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), endorsed by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik when His Majesty presided over the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 9 March 2021.

The ESP aims to support the economic recovery efforts and enhance the performance of the national economy. The Board also appreciated the efforts and measures taken by CBO to minimise the impact and repercussions of the ongoing economic conditions on the performance of the national economy.

The Board, which took stock of the economic, financial and monetary developments in the Sultanate and across the world, underlined the importance of maintaining banking sector’s core strength and its ability to bolster the national economy. Likewise, the Board also emphasised the critical role played by financial institutions in providing appropriate financial support and guidance to their customers, enabling them to counter the negative effects of the pandemic.

The CBO Board also examined a set of reports submitted to it, for its perusal, including the one on the prospects and challenges being faced by the Omani economy in view of the ongoing economic conditions. Other reports, which came up for the Board’s scrutiny included a report on the financial position of the CBO, a banking surveillance report indicating the financial safety data and performance indicators of the banking sector, and a report explaining the status of SMEs financing by banks. -UNA

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No upper limit on remitting money from Sultanate

But people who remit money above a certain limit do need to provide a proof of how they have got such funds

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expatriates who wish to remit money to their families and friends back home can send as much as they wish to, as there is no limit on the amount they can transfer.

According to Amit Talukdar, the general manager of Global Money Exchange LLC, an exchange house in the country, people who remit money above a certain limit, though, do need to provide proof of how they came by those funds.

"In terms of remittances, anyone can remit any amount of money at any time," he said. "Each organisation has its own limit on how much money you can freely remit, based on its anti-money laundering protocols. You can safely remit about OMR5,000 to OMR6,000 at a time, but any amount above that will require you to provide additional details."

"If you do need to send home more money than that, you need to provide a bank statement which shows you have that money in your account," added Talukdar. "There is no ceiling, but whenever it goes beyond this threshold limit, you need to be prepared to provide these additional documents."



SAFE LIMIT: You can safely remit about OMR5,000 to 6,000 at a time, but any amount above that will require you to provide additional details.

They need to ensure the source of that fund."

"If you bring cash above a certain amount to an exchange house, you also need to provide a cash withdrawal slip which shows that you have drawn money from the account whose bank statement you have submitted," he explained. "All of these are based on anti-money laundering policies adopted by institutions."

List of documents

While there is a list of documents remittance companies use to verify that the fund remitted actually belongs to the person remitting them, the exact paperwork required might differ from one organisation to another.

"An additional document that you might be required to provide, if you are remitting this money on behalf of a company, is a copy of the commercial registration," said Talukdar. "If your statements do not match, the institution may decline to complete the transaction."

People who do remit money

above a certain limit can also expect to face questions, such as the relationship they have with the recipient of the funds.

Talukdar also explained a most common method used by people who try to launder money by sending it outside the country.

"There have been instances where people who do bring smaller amounts of money are required to provide these documents, based on the transactions they have conducted in the past," he explained. "For example, if you bring OMR5,000 to our organisation every day for the purposes of remittance, then, based on the current economic conditions, we will wonder why he brings so much money on a regular basis."

"Our systems and staff are robust enough to flag such individuals and send out an alert," he added. "People do these things so that they do not cross the threshold which requires them to submit additional documents. So if we do see such incidents, we will be on the alert."

NIGHT LOCKDOWN

< FROM A1 Shop before closing time

Lt. Col. Director of Planning and Operations of the General Department of Operations noted the necessity of completing shopping well before the time of prevention of movement to ensure access to the residence, and the shops and vendors must adhere to the closing dates with a period that allows consumers to finish the purchase

in a suitable time.

"In addition to not overcrowding in commercial complexes, markets and buying places in order to be careful, with the necessity to wear a mask while shopping, and to observe the physical distance between people," he added.

The Royal Oman Police confirms its assigned role and pa-

triotic duty through the police presence in all governorates of the Sultanate, and it seeks, according to the procedures it takes, to monitor public places, address the public, direct people, whether citizens or residents, to move away, break up gatherings, and educate them about its dangers to limit the spread of the virus.

One dead, another injured in fire

MUSCAT: One person died and another was injured in a fire in Seeb. Firefighting and ambulance teams in Muscat Governorate responded to a report of a fire in an apartment in Maabela area in the wilayat of Seeb, which resulted in the death of one person and the injury of another with minor injuries, Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance said.



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Story on the Ever Given ship refloated in the Suez Canal

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NATIONWIDE NIGHT LOCKDOWN BEGINS IN OMAN

The lockdown is likely to run until Thursday 8 April, from 08PM to 01AM



Video on nationwide night lockdown

2,077 VIEWS

Minister of Health discusses COVID-19 situation in Oman



Morning Minute video on Minister of Health

The Morning Minute video on Minister of Health discusses Covid-19 situation had 2,077 views and 127 likes on Instagram.





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WHAT TO DO DURING
NIGHT LOCKDOWN

GO GAMING: STAY ENGAGED AND ENTERTAINED

Whether it is a casual gaming tournament among friends or a global sports event, users can choose any online game on any platform for organising a tournament.

Last year when the world was battling with the challenges of COVID-19 and none of us knew what it meant to be confined to our homes for days owing to coronavirus-led lockdowns that were implemented to restrict the spread of the virus, Facebook Gaming announced the launch of a new feature called Tournaments on its platform. The main aim of launching Tournaments was to help people stay connected during the lockdowns.

A year has gone by and while we are still braving the virus and maintaining social distancing, let us join together through these and many other online games. The Tournaments allow the users to create and organise virtual gaming tournaments in a variety of formats. It also allows the users to create, join, or follow live gaming tournaments, the ones that help in supporting important causes. As these are

part of Facebook Gaming service users can host tournaments and stream them at the same time. Whether it is a casual gaming tournament among friends or a global sports event, users can choose any online game on any platform for organising a tournament. For this you need to download the Facebook Gaming app and in the Tournament page, users are given options to join the Tournament, share it with Facebook friends, and an option to report the tournament.

Facebook Gaming was launched back in June 2008 for game live-streamers. Apart from Facebook's Tournament one can join other leading game streaming platforms, such as Twitch, YouTube gaming, Mixer, Minecraft, Sea of Thieves or Fortnite and several others. And if you are not interested in playing online games, go the traditional way. Raid your cupboard, pick up some board games and keep yourself engaged and entertained.





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Fahd meets China’s foreign minister

The Chinese official conveyed greetings of his country’s leadership and best wishes of permanent success to His Majesty the Sultan, and Omani people further progress

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers on Monday received Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China.

The Chinese official conveyed greetings of his country’s leadership and best wishes of permanent success to His Majesty the



MEETING: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers with Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, on Monday. -ONA

Sultan and the government, and the Omani people further progress and growth.

The two sides reviewed the growth and progress of their deep-rooted relations and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in all fields. They also discussed current regional and international issues and developments.

Wang Yi underscored the significance of his visit to the Sultanate in terms of exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. He

voiced his country’s appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Sultanate, both in consolidating domestic development and fostering ties of friendship with all countries.

The Chinese official also expressed his country’s willingness to back efforts to enhance dialogue and understanding between countries of the world to help find fair solutions to crises and ensure peaceful coexistence among all people so that they could focus on

development in a climate of security and stability.

Wang Yi commended the exchange of views between Omani and Chinese officials, noting that this exchange will reflect positively on Oman-China relations.

The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, the delegation accompanying the Chinese Foreign Minister and Li Lingbing, Ambassador of China to the Sultanate. -ONA

Al Nu’amani meets China’s minister



CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office with Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China, on Monday. -ONA

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office received at his office on Monday Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged cordial conversations on the march of relations binding the Sultanate and China.

The meeting also reviewed fields of the joint cooperation and means of promoting them to serve the joint interests of the

two friendly countries, as well as touching on several matters of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Li Lingbing, Chinese Ambassador to the Sultanate.

Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China left after an official visit to the Sultanate during which he met with senior officials.

The Chinese guest was seen off by Dr. Khalid Said Al Jaradi, Head of the Protocols Department in the Foreign Ministry. -ONA

CORDIAL EXCHANGE

Oman, China hold discussions on investments, tourism

MUSCAT: The governments of the Sultanate and the People’s Republic of China held a session of political discussions at the Foreign Ministry on Monday.

The Omani side was headed by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister while Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, led his country’s delegation.

The two sides reaffirmed their support to measures of advancing investments and tourism exchange within the context of the Chinese “Belt and Road Initiative” and with a view to realising mutual benefits for both countries.

The two sides welcomed the enforcement of a joint agreement for mutual waiving of entry visas for their respective citizens. They also welcomed a cooperation agreement in the fields of science and technology.

Bilateral cooperation

The session touched on bilateral cooperation in economic, scientific and cultural fields, as well as the exchange of views on various regional and international issues of common concern. They reiterated the significance of resolving conflicts by peaceful means and through dialogue among the dis-

puting parties.

As part of his current tour, the Chinese official unveiled the plaque of a memorial monument of Chinese navigator Zheng He, commemorating his visit to Oman 600 years ago. Earlier, the two sides agreed to set up the memorial of Zheng He in Salalah.

The session was attended by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Foreign Ministry’s Under-Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Deng Li, Assistant Foreign Minister of China, Li Lingping, Chinese Ambassador to the Sultanate, and other high ranking officials from both countries. -ONA



TALKS SESSION: The Omani side was headed by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister while Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, led his country’s delegation. -ONA

ILLEGAL ACT

<FROM A1 Human trafficking

Such people are also likely to not be in possession of their own identity papers, and are often either unpaid or poorly paid, added Al Busaidi, who is also a supervisor at the NCCHT that has launched a campaign titled ‘Insan’ (Arabic for ‘person’ or ‘human’) to spread awareness about the impact of human trafficking.

While the country does always strive to review, update and implement laws, policies and procedures catered towards efforts to combat human trafficking, Oman has recently adopted more measures against this unethical and illegal act. These include the National Action Plan, which will run from 2021 to 2023 and increase efforts to educate people and clamp down on people smuggling, and the review and updating of the human trafficking law.

Additionally, new bureaus in the Foreign Ministry, ROP, Public Prosecution, and Ministry of Labour have been set up to assist in

stopping trafficking. Those who wish to find out more about human trafficking can also visit the NCCHT website.

“The Sultanate of Oman maintains a shelter to protect and provide aid, and support victims of trafficking, at no cost to them,” explained Al Busaidi. “The Sultanate also cooperates with its international partners to ensure workers are provided with a legal contract from their sponsors and labour recruiting agencies.

“Oman hosts a number of bilateral agreements with labour-based countries to combat human trafficking and protect the human rights and dignity of all the people residing in Oman,” he added.

“Unfortunately, trafficking is a crime based on greed, similar to narcotics trafficking. Traffickers do not heed the risks involved across borders and will set up their activities where there is the best potential for them to make some form of profit.”

FUNCTION

Pact signed in media health fields

MUSCAT: The Sultanate and the People’s Republic of China signed an executive programme of cooperation in media, health and cultural fields for the years 2020-2024.

The signing ceremony was held at the Foreign Ministry.

Chinese ambassador

The programme was signed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs and Li Lingbing, Chinese Ambassador to Oman.

Foreign Minister

The signing ceremony was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China. -ONA

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee for Family Affairs discusses ties with UNICEF



MUSCAT: The National Committee for Family Affairs on Monday held its first meeting for 2021 under the chair of Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development and Head of the Committee.

The committee discussed the National Cooperation Programme between Oman and the UNICEF. It also reviewed proposals on “Children’s Criminal Protection” and “Supporting Family Studies,” as well as touch-



FIRST MEETING: The National Committee for Family Affairs on Monday held its meeting for 2021 under the chair of Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development. -ONA

ing on the reality of marriage and divorce in the Sultanate.

The meeting also approved minutes of the 3rd meeting of the committee for 2020. It also reviewed the implemented recommendations of the 3rd meeting for 2020. -ONA



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Container ship Ever Given successfully refloated in Suez Canal

The massive ship's grounding impeded international trade, resulting in a pileup with hundreds of vessels in the canal



REFLOATED: The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) confirmed in a statement that the ship is now partially floated and turned in the "right direction."

CAIRO: The Ever Given ship was successfully turned by an Egyptian crew in the Suez Canal early on Monday morning, after it was stuck for nearly a week, according to canal authorities.

The massive ship's grounding impeded international trade, resulting in a pileup with hundreds of vessels in the canal.

What is the latest?

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) confirmed in a statement that the ship is now partially floated and turned in the "right direction." Canal service firms and maritime service providers previously reported the ship was once again afloat.

The authority's chief, Osama Rabie, said workers used "pulling maneuvers" to move the ship.

The shipping traffic monitoring site, MarieTraffic.com, said satellite data showed the ship's bow has been moved, but there is "still some work to do."

Videos posted by several reporters on Twitter showed tug boat teams celebrating as the front of the ship appeared to be moving in the canal once again.

Other videos showed the ship positioned straight in the canal, no

longer fully wedged across.

Excavators have been working around the clock to dig out and vacuum up a massive amount of sand and mud around the ship, while tug boat crews have been working to reposition it.

What happens next?

The SCA said tug boat teams will resume work again later this morning when water levels in the canal rise in a bid to completely free the stuck ship.

The process "will resume when water flow increases again from 11:30 local time [0930 UTC/GMT]... in order to completely refloat the vessel, so as to reposition it in the middle of the waterway."

Officials say the high tide should enable tug teams to pull the boat further into the center of the canal.

It's still unclear when the canal will reopen for traffic now that the vessel has been dislodged, but officials voiced hope for clearing the backlogged ships over the next three days.

Egypt's Sisi praises efforts

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi also hailed the "success" of the operation, after the Suez Canal Authority said the ship had been moved to point "80%" in the right direction.

"Today, Egyptians have been successful in putting to an end the crisis of the stranded ship in the Suez Canal, despite the tremendous technical complexity that surrounded this process from every side," Sisi said on Twitter. "By restoring matters to their normal course, with Egyptian hands, the

whole world will be assured of the path of its goods."

How did the Ever Given get stuck?

On March 23, the Ever Given was passing through a single-lane portion of the Suez Canal when it veered off course during a sandstorm.

Although authorities had blamed strong winds for the ship's grounding last Tuesday, Transport Authority chief Rabie had believed it could have been possibly due to "human error."

The 400-meter (430-yard) long Ever Given was en route from Malaysia to the Netherlands when it got stuck. The ship, registered in Panama, is owned by Japanese company Imabari Shipbuilding and operated by shipping firm Evergreen Marine. **aw**

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COVID VACCINE

UAE to start COVID vaccine production

ABU DHABI: In a historic move in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Arab Emirates announced the commencement of the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccine in the country. The vaccine, called Hayat-Vax [Hayat means life in Arabic], is the first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine in the region that will be manufactured by a newly created joint venture between Sinopharm CNBG, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world that has supplied over 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine globally, and G42, the leading technology company based in Abu Dhabi.

The announcement was witnessed by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, during a high-profile ministerial event in Abu Dhabi, in the presence of dignitaries from the two nations.

The occasion also served to launch a purpose-built research and development hub for life sciences, biotechnology and vaccine production – the first-of-its-kind in the Arab world – that is being set up in KIZAD, the integrated trade, logistics and industrial hub in Abu Dhabi. Last year, G42 and Sinop-



harm CNBG successfully collaborated on conducting 4Humanity, the world's first phase III clinical trial of inactivated vaccines across the Pan Arab region with over 43,000 volunteers participating from over 125 nationalities.

The new vaccine plant in KIZAD will become operational this year and over its phased development will have a production capacity of 200 million doses per annum across three filling lines and five automated packaging lines. The JV is already producing Hayat-Vax with its partner, Julphar in the UAE with an initial capacity of 2 million doses per month.

In his comments on the landmark move by the UAE to commence vaccine production, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, "The advancement in Life Sciences and Vaccine Manufacturing in our country is UAE's contribution towards global efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the whole world."



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Indonesia oil refinery fire prompts evacuation

Around 20 people were injured and hundreds of residents evacuated from a nearby village

JAKARTA: A massive fire broke out following an explosion at one of the biggest oil refineries in Indonesia on Monday. A column of black smoke rose from the state-run Pertamina Balongan Refinery in West Java, about 225 km (140 miles) east of Jakarta. Around 20 people were injured and hundreds of residents evacuated from a nearby village.



MASSIVE FIRE: A column of black smoke rose from the state-run Pertamina Balongan Refinery in West Java, about 225 km (140 miles) east of Jakarta

What do we know about the cause of the fire? Local media reported that the fire started just after midnight. Pertamina president director Nicke Widiyawati said that operations at the complex had ceased as “we are putting our efforts into handling the blaze.” The authorities have isolated and cooled the area around the flashpoint and deployed 10 fire engines, said Pertamina spokesperson Agus Suprijanto. “The fire

has been localized. Therefore, it will not spread to the surrounding area,” said Suprijanto. District chief Nina Agustina told Kompas TV the blaze had started to subside. Pertamina said that it was conducting “oil flow control” to prevent any further spread. Officials said the cause of the fire was still unknown, but at the time it broke out, it was “raining hard accompanied by lightning,” said spokesman Ifky Sukarya.

Five people were being treated in hospital for burns, Sukarya added. About 15 others were slightly injured. No Pertamina staff were hurt, he said. **What does this mean for oil production in Indonesia?** The Balongan refinery is one of the company’s largest, processing oil in the Riau province and supplying fuel to the capital Jakarta and western regions of Java island. Shipping data on Refintiv Eikon

showed an expected delivery of 600,000 barrels of crude oil from Gabon on April 10. Repairs could take months depending on the damage, Mamit Setiawan, executive director of think tank Energy Watch said. Pertamina’s Cilacap refinery in Central Java should be able to meet supply shortages in the short term. The company said that it hopes to restore operations in four or five days. **rw**

Churchgoers breaking COVID rules attack journalists in the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM: Police in the Netherlands arrested a man after he hit and kicked a journalist outside a Protestant church that had opened for a full congregation on Sunday despite the country’s strict lockdown. Reporters showed up at the Mieraskerk church in the town of Krimpen aan den IJssel near the city of Rotterdam. The church made headlines after reports that it was going ahead with a service for its entire congregation. The Netherlands is under a strict lockdown and has a rising COVID-19 rate. The journalist Jacco van Giesen shared a video of the incident on Twitter, writing that “the pain has gone but I am still shocked — I was attacked during my work this morning by a churchgoer in Krimpen.” The 43-year-old man accused of the attack was escorted out of the church during the service and arrested. **Not an isolated event** Worshipers at the Sion church in the town of Urk, northeast of Amsterdam, also reportedly attacked journalists at a service that took place without observing any protective measures. A churchgoer deliberately hit a

TV cameraman outside the church with his car, the German news agency dpa reported. The journalists involved in the attacks were reportedly only slightly injured. Reporters were also targeted with violence during anti-curfew riots earlier in the year. **Outrage over attacks on journalists** Several Dutch lawmakers from different political parties reacted with anger to the reports of violence and disregard for lockdown measures. “Independent journalism is necessary for a democratic constitutional state,” Justice Minister Ferd Grapperhaus said. “Let journalists do their job,” tweeted Lilianne Ploumen, the leader of the Social Democrats. Dutch police shared a similar message on Twitter. Prime Minister Mark Rutte had already criticized the decision by the churches to hold in-person services during the lockdown. The Dutch constitution prohibits the government from banning religious communities from gathering, but most have gone along with lockdown measures and allowed only a maximum of 30 people to take part in services. **rw**

CONDEMNATION

US President Joe Biden condemns bloodshed in Myanmar

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden condemned the violence unleashed by the Myanmar military on protesters who have returned to the streets of Yangon and Mandalay in further defiance of the junta as at least 100 people have been killed in a single day. Joe Biden said, “It’s absolutely outrageous, and based on the reporting I’ve gotten, an awful lot of people have been killed totally unnecessarily,” reported DW news. He further added that the US government is working on imposing sanctions in the coming days. Nations including Germany and

the US jointly decried the military violence which resulted in over 100 deaths in one day. According to DW news, “defence chiefs from 12 different countries had earlier condemned violence in Myanmar, which saw military forces open fire on anti-coup protesters, killing at least 100 people.” The US, Britain, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and Japan issued the statement, a day after Myanmar’s deadliest day of protests since the military coup in February, read the DW news.



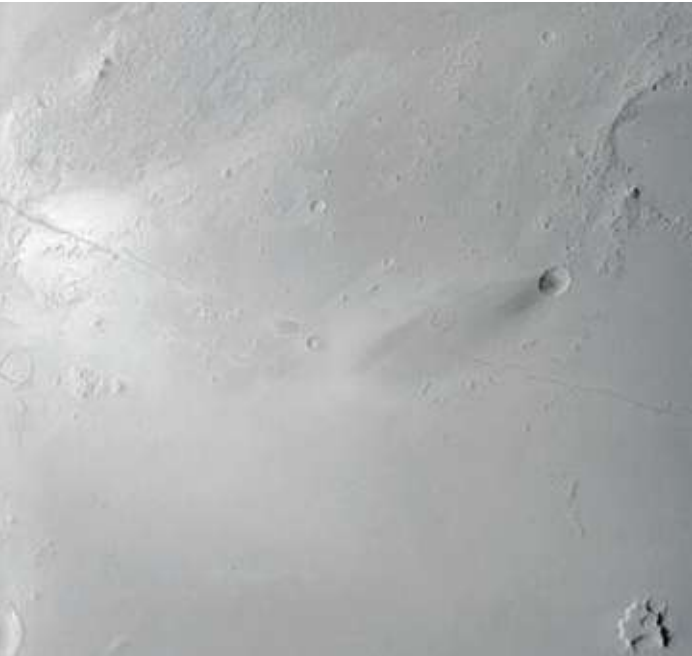
“We condemn the use of lethal force against unarmed people by the Myanmar Armed Forces and associated security services,” the statement read. The military chiefs called on Myanmar’s armed forces to cease violence and work to “restore respect and credibility with the people of Myanmar that it has lost through its actions.” Taking to Twitter the German FM Heiko Maas said, “It is the task of security forces to protect the population. Instead, the military killed peaceful protesters and even children. My thoughts and sym-

pathy are with the families of the victims.” In the United States, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a tweet that his country was “horrified by the bloodshed perpetrated by Burmese security forces, showing that the junta will sacrifice the lives of the people to serve the few,” as reported by DW news. A bloody Armed Forces Day celebration Myanmar’s military celebrated Armed Forces Day on Saturday with parades and speeches, despite the non-stop protests against its seizure of power last month read the DW news. **ANI**

INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION

Emirates Mars Mission Hope probe transitions to science orbit

DUBAI: The Emirates Mars Mission, the first interplanetary exploration undertaken by an Arab nation, announced it had commenced its transition from its capture orbit to its science orbit with the successful completion of a 510 second (8.36 minutes) burn of its thrusters. Barring the requirement for a minor course correction, the spacecraft is now in its final orbit of Mars and ready for its two-year science data gathering phase – the core aim of the mission. “Although the Hope probe is a huge achievement and a source of great national pride, its core objective, defined right from day one of this mission, is to build the first complete picture of Mars’ atmospheric dynamics.” Said Omran Sharaf, EMM Project Director. “The TSM manoeuvre was critically important and I can say was the last truly scary moment for the mission because there was a very real risk of losing the spacecraft during this last burn. We’re now assessing the results of that burn, but I can say we are confident that we will not need a further large correction manoeuvre.” The transition saw the Hope probe move from its 1,063 by 42,461 capture orbit to a 20,000 by 43,000 science orbit. The manoeuvre was the last scheduled ‘big burn’ in the spacecraft’s journey from its launch on the 20th July 2020. The science phase will commence on 14 April with a number of calibration and test runs that aim to establish a sound baseline for the accurate and efficient management of the measurements from the spacecraft’s three instruments. The mission’s two-year science data collection



will formally commence on 23 May 2021, with data being made available globally in October. “Once we have established our stable science orbit and deployed our instruments, we can start building datasets and testing our systems with the live data,” said Hessa Al Matroushi, EMM Science Lead. “This is the data we will be processing, formatting and sharing with the world’s science and academic communities openly through our website.” The painstaking process of science data gathering consists of making repeated ‘passes’ around Mars and mapping each set of measurements to build a dynamic picture of the movement of dust, ice and water vapour throughout the planet’s atmospheric layers. As well as

measuring Hydrogen, Oxygen, Carbon Monoxide and Ozone, the probe will capture variations in temperature. The unique elliptical 25-degree orbit of the Hope probe enables a planet-wide, high resolution sample to be taken each 225 hours (9.5 days). “If you imagine spinning a basketball on your finger and then wrapping it with wool as it spins, you get an idea of how Hope covers the whole planet over consecutive orbits. While we’re doing that, we’re constantly measuring with two spectrometers and an imager. These three data streams combine to give us a holistic, powerful and unique picture of Mars’ atmosphere that we hope will answer many, many questions we have about the planet and our theories regarding its atmospheric loss,” said Al Matroushi.



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102 competitors look to seal their spot at Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games

The week-long tournament offers a final opportunity for male and female sailors to qualify for the Olympics

MUSCAT: The eyes of the global sailing community will be on Mus-sanah this week as 102 competitors from 16 countries across Asia and Africa look to seal their spot at this summer's long-awaited Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games. Kicking off on Thursday 1 st April at the Millennium Resort, the week-long tournament offers a final opportunity for male and female sailors to qualify for the Olympics in Laser, Laser Radial, 49er, 49erFX and RS-X sailing and windsurfing classes.

Oman Olympic hopefuls in sailing, 49er sailors Musab Al Hadi, Waleed Al Kindi, Abdul Rahman Al Mashari and Ahmed Al Hasni, are aiming to impress and book their place in Japan with a strong performance on home waters.

Each day of action will be divided into a coach briefing in the morning with racing in the afternoon, giving all competitors the opportunity to familiarise them-



QUALIFIERS: Oman Olympic hopefuls in sailing, 49er sailors Musab Al Hadi, Waleed Al Kindi, Abdul Rahman Al Mashari and Ahmed Al Hasni, are aiming to impress and book their place in Japan.



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selves with their equipment as well as the judging criteria and regulations. Racing at the Mussanah Open Championship will begin on Saturday 3rd April 2021 and the prize giving and closing ceremonies will take place on Thursday 8th April 2021.

Rashid Al Kindi, Oman Sail's Director of Sailing, said, "This is an incredibly important event in the sailing calendar and we're looking forward to a week of intensely competitive sailing. Oman's own national team is competing and, in what has been a disrupted season, we need to perform at our very best to reach the Olympic Games. For nearly five years we have been building towards this moment and having the opportunity to compete for a medal in sailing. The Mussanah Open Championship is a chance to realise our dreams on the water and polish our performances against a high calibre of international sailors before travelling to Japan."

He added, "Mussanah has proven to be an excellent host in the past and due to COVID delays around the world we are honoured

that World Sailing and ASAF selected Oman to host the event. We have created a COVID-safe environment for all athletes and delegates with strict measures in place to ensure the safety of everyone involved. We are grateful to the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth and the Oman Olympic Committee for their continued support, and to Millennium Resort Mussanah, Salsabeel Water from the National Mineral Water Company and the International Maritime College Oman (IMCO) for their support of this event."

As events were cancelled and rescheduled due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Oman national team's preparations for Olympic qualification took them to training camps in Vilamoura, Portugal, in late-2020 as preparations resumed. This represented a return to the normal training routine after a long hiatus. All sailors, coaches and delegates are currently on site and currently making final preparations for the event which will serve to bolster Oman's as one of the world's most exciting event hosts.

FORMULA 1

'Great to be back', says Hamilton after winning Bahrain Grand Prix

SAKHIR: After winning the Formula 1 2021 season opener at Bahrain, Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton said that he loves challenges and how great is it for him to be back on the circuit.

"I love the challenge. I love this sport. What a way to start the season, today is a reminder that through harnessing and channeling our collective power, we can accomplish great things. It's great to be back," tweeted Hamilton. Hamilton had won the Formula 1 2020 season and in the process, he also broke Ferrari's Michael Schumacher's record of recording most wins in Formula One. Carrying from his form, the Mercedes driver scripted win in the first race of the 2021 season as well. Before the 2021 season



opener at Bahrain Grand Prix, Hamilton once again took the knee to show his support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Talking about taking the knee, Hamilton tweeted: "Whilst we celebrate this victory, it's impor-

tant to remind ourselves that action speaks louder than words. The road ahead to create pathways for kids like myself is a long and strenuous one, but it's a journey i'm proud to be on."

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton on

Sunday won a nail-biting Bahrain Grand Prix season opener, triumphing over Red Bull's Max Verstappen in a fantastic duel in the desert that went down to the very last lap of the race.

Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas completed the podium. Starting from the fourth pole position of his career, Verstappen had taken control of the race early on, but lost his advantage when Hamilton was able to undercut the Dutchman into the lead in the first round of pit stops. Following a second stop for both drivers - Verstappen's coming 10 laps after Hamilton's - a thrilling finale was set up, Verstappen eating into Hamilton's lead before attempting a pass on Lap 53 but running too wide and giving the place back. **ANI**

CRICKET

All in England squad have taken great learning from Curran's knock, says Buttler

PUNE: England's Jos Buttler, who led the side in the last two ODIs against India, has said that all-rounder Sam Curran's unbeaten knock of 95 runs in series decided on Sunday is great learning for all the squad members.

Curran's innings, however, went in vain as India registered a seven-run win in the third ODI to clinch the three-match series 2-1. At one stage, England -- chasing 330 -- was down and out at 200/7, but Curran changed the game with his brilliant batting. However, T Natarajan defended 14 runs in the final over, and the hosts clinched the series.

"Sam's a young guy, and many guys are never really exposed to that kind of situation in their whole career, so he'll take great

learning from that. I can't think of many times myself that I've been in those situations, so there's always a bit of suck-it-and-see about how to make the right decisions and take the game forward," Buttler said in a virtual post-match press conference on Sunday.

"So he'll be much better equipped if he's ever in that situation again, and I'm looking at it as well, as a fellow player and the other guys in the team, if we were in Sam's situation, how would we take that game forward. So all of us in the team, and the squad, will have taken great learning from watching him, and trying to think through how we would take that situation down individually as well," he added. **ANI**



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FOOTBALL

Lewandowski to miss World Cup qualifier against England

WARSAW: Robert Lewandowski has been ruled out of the 2022 World Cup qualifying match against England due to a knee injury, the Polish FA announced on Monday.

Lewandowski picked the injury during a clash against Andorra. He scored twice in the match to power Poland to a 3-0 win.

"Robert Lewandowski will not play in Wednesday's 2022 World Cup qualifying match against England in London due to an injury. Clinical and imaging studies have shown damage to the collateral ligament of the right knee," the Polish FA said in a statement.

"The short time remaining until the next match of the national team excludes the participation of the national team captain in this match. This would carry too much risk of aggravating the injury. This decision is the only right one, bearing in mind the upcoming EURO 2020 tournament," it added.

The statement also stated that Lewandowski will return to his club, Bayern Munich, and will undergo further rehabilitation. **ANI**

ENERGY DEMAND TO RISE

The all-India energy demand is expected to be higher in fourth quarter FY21 despite partial lockdowns in some states after increase in COVID-19 cases, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM index closed at 3,684.26 points, down 0.45 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.79 per cent at 530.68 points.



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TOTAL NATIONAL DAY PRIZES	TOTAL PRIZES FOR LADIES	TOTAL MEGA PRIZES
OMR 55,000 3 WINNERS PER DAY	OMR 11,000 3 WINNERS PER MONTH	OMR 112,000 PRIZES FOR KIDS, STANDARD & PRIORITY CUSTOMERS



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ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

ahlibank approves cash dividend of 5 baisas per share

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ahlibank held its Annual Ordinary General Meeting on Thursday (March 25, 2021) via the electronic platform for general meetings on Muscat Clearing and Depository Company's website. The AGM was presided by Hamdan Ali Nasser Al Hinai, Chairman of the Board of Directors, ahlibank. The AGM approved the Board of Director's Report for the financial year ending December 31, 2020, the Bank's Corporate Governance Report, the Auditor's Report on the Bank's Audited Financial Statements, the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the same fiscal year. The AGM took note of ahli islamic's Sharia Supervisory Board's Report for the year ending on December 31, 2020. The shareholders also approved the

distribution of cash dividend of 5 baisas per share. The AGM concluded with a set of decisions to be implemented in the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, in which an independent third party has been appointed to appraise the performance of the Board of Directors, as well as appointing auditors and external Sharia auditors. The Assembly also validated the appointment of the Sharia Supervisory Board members, and took note of the Bank's related party transaction and the contributions made to support community services in the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2020. The proposed allocation of OMR150,000 to support community services for the year ending 31 December 2021 was also considered and approved during the meeting. "ahlibank has successfully

completed the Rights Issue of 300,000,000 shares, with an oversubscription of 1.29 times. The purpose of the rights issue was to strengthen the Tier I capital of the Bank and to meet the capital requirement for business growth," Al Hinai remarked. ahlibank has lately announced the closure of the Rights Issue that increased the Bank's paid-up capital by OMR30 million to OMR194,965,746 from OMR164,965,746. "The bank was able to achieve positive results despite the difficult local and global economic environment in light of the continuing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the banking sector and the rest of the economic sectors," Al Hinai added. Amid the exceptional circumstances, the Bank's total assets grew by 7.3 per cent in 2020, reach-

ing OMR2.70 billion, compared to OMR2.51 billion in 2019. Customer deposits went up by a whopping 12.4 per cent to reach OMR1.92 billion compared to OMR1.71 billion. Loans and advances and financing, net grew by 8 per cent, reaching OMR2.21 billion. The Bank's operating income increased by 2.6 per cent, reaching OMR71.50 million in 2020. Operating expenses increased by 9.1 per cent, while the profit for the period was lower by 22.6 per cent, largely due to the pandemic-related slowdown and additional impairment charges on account of the prevailing operating environment due to the COVID-19 impact. Al Hinai finally thanked all the shareholders for their continued confidence in ahlibank, which reflects its solid position in the market and strong investor confidence.



KEY DECISIONS APPROVED: The AGM took note of ahli Islamic's Sharia Supervisory Board's Report for the year ending on December 31, 2020. — Supplied picture

New beachfront resort to open by year-end in Salalah

Alila Hinu Bay is a stunning beachfront resort on an endless bay and private beach in Mirbat, Salalah offering serenity and exclusivity



EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY: The resort, designed in perfect harmony with the local landscape, will comprise 112 rooms including 96 guestrooms and 16 pool villas. —Supplied pictures



Ludwig Bouldoukian

cient houses, neighbourhoods and heritage sites will bring about positive change. "When borders reopen and travel to the country becomes more accessible, we expect a steady and sustained flow of visitors to our hotels across Alila Hinu Bay, Alila Jabal Akhdar and Grand Hyatt Muscat," he added. Elaborating further about the new project coming up in Oman, Bouldoukian said, Alila Hinu Bay will be the second Alila property in Oman, following the success of Alila Jabal Akhdar in the Hajar Mountains. The beautiful beachfront resort, designed in perfect harmony with the local landscape will comprise 112 rooms including 96 guestrooms and 16 pool villas. The resort, set to open in later this year is distinguished by its commitment to sustainable tourism, offering guests an unparalleled experience of nature and wellness in perfect harmony with the local environment. The resort will also have the opportunity to explore the beauty of the natural environment through bespoke Alila Experiences and also engage in unique cultural programming experiences. Three food and beverage concepts including Seasalt, The Orchard and The Lobby Lounge will provide guests with a variety of indulgent yet nourishing dining experiences utilising fresh, natural and locally sourced ingredients.



NBC signs incubation pact

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Business Centre (NBC), which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), has signed an incubation agreement with GreenBird 3D Company. It is a local company specialising in providing topographical survey, drone services, virtual reality, and 3D and voice over services. The company will benefit from a range of services offered by NBC that will contribute to its growth while having access to intensive training, coaching and mentoring sessions. It is worthwhile mentioning that NBC is an initiative launched by Madayn at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM) to offer promising Omani entrepreneurs a platform to develop their business ideas and advance them into growing ventures. The centre offers a premier platform for Omani entrepreneurs by providing business development support and guidance, training and mentoring, access to markets and industry experts, and state-of-the-art and fully equipped office space, meeting rooms and presentation facilities.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hyatt's Middle East is looking forward to welcoming guests later this year to its new exclusive property, Alila Hinu Bay, a stunning beachfront resort on an endless bay and private beach in Mirbat, Salalah offering serenity and exclusivity. "Alila Hinu Bay will immerse guests within the local community and provide unique experiences to be cherished as memories long after their stay. Where possible, we will work with local suppliers and craftsmen to further embed the property within the region and deliver a continuum of benefits over time," Ludwig Bouldoukian, Regional Vice President Development for the Middle East and North Africa – Hyatt, said in an

exclusive interview with *Times of Oman*. The hotel group has two additional properties in Oman, including Grand Hyatt Muscat and Alila Jabal Akhdar. **Oman an important market** "Oman is and will continue to be an important market as part of Hyatt's Middle East expansion plans, he said adding, "with unspoiled natural beauty and rich culture, the country has a lot to offer international tourists. One of Hyatt's primary goals is to grow with intent in places that matter most to travellers and it is evident that Oman is one such country that resonates with cultured and adventurous modern travellers." Regarding COVID-19 pandemic that hit the hotel industry badly how was the performance of the group in Oman and the Gulf Coop-

eration Council (GCC), Bouldoukian said, "Like most hotel brands, 2020 was a challenging year for Hyatt globally due to the many necessary COVID-19 restrictions that were enforced to curb the spread of the virus." "As we emerge from the pandemic in 2021, the GCC represents one of our stronger markets and we have seen a significant return to profitability in many of our properties across the region. The commendable government-led vaccination drives across the different GCC countries have permitted some of our properties to operate and remain open in a safe environment," he added. The group has seen a steady flow of guests from the domestic market, which has demonstrated great reliability in these unique circumstances. The Oman border

closure has inevitably created a challenge for us as we launch Alila Hinu Bay and strive to maintain a steady flow of visitors to our other properties Alila Jabal Akhdar and Grand Hyatt Muscat, however, once the situation alleviates we look forward to welcoming tourists again," he said. The group is looking forward to seeing a decrease in COVID-19 case numbers in the coming months and a return to a more buoyant tourist industry. Despite the fact the Oman tourist industry has experienced a drop in visitors in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Group is confident that the initiatives that have been put in place by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman to revitalise the industry such as the development of an-

NEW KASPERSKY REPORT

41% of employees consider changing jobs in light of pandemic



Times News Service

MUSCAT: In view of the global COVID-19 pandemic, 41 per cent of employees are thinking of shifting to a new job in the next 12 months, as revealed by Kaspersky's 'Securing the Future of Work' report. The two biggest drivers that people stated for this career change are both natural and understandable under the circumstances. These include the aspira-

tion of receiving a higher salary (52 per cent), and maintaining a fair work-life balance (41 per cent) Despite uncertainties in the job market, people still have their ambitions. While almost every second person would prefer to remain in their current position (44 per cent) many employees still feel emboldened to reconfigure their workdays to fit better around their personal lives. Amid lockdown and remote working, they have also

had more time to reflect on their future careers, upskill or learn something new. Whichever direction they choose, the biggest motivator for them to try a new job is to achieve a better salary (52 per cent). Creating a better work-life balance is the second most frequent reason, motivating (41 per cent) of respondents. The pandemic revealed the joy of spending more time at home with the family, as well as pursu-

ing personal interests and hobbies. Employees may want to keep this opportunity unlocked. "By rethinking their desires and capabilities, people will create a new working reality. Either changing job or staying in their current roles, they will strive to maintain the benefits of remote work and more comfortable settings. But to achieve this, employees need to apply the appropriate attitude, learn to be flexible, and work smarter,"

Sergey Martsynkian, Head of B2B Product Marketing at Kaspersky, said. "And of course, they need to organise their working environment and take responsibility for its reliability and security. After all, this can even become a competitive advantage in employers' eyes. To discover what the future of work will look like and how people fit into it, Kaspersky suggests playing its new adventure video game: "Own Your Future".

MSM index ends lower

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,684.27 points, down 0.45 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.79 per cent at 530.68 points. Oman & Emirates Holding, up 4.35 per cent, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 4.55 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 679 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2 million, with more than 17 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded stocks, 9 advanced, 12 declined and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR90,000

Industrial Index closed at 4,614.08 points, up 0.15 per cent. Galfar Engineering, Dhofar Cattle Feed and Al Anwar Ceramics were up 2.33 per cent, 1.12 per cent and 0.65 per cent respectively. National Aluminium Product and Al Maha Ceramics were down 0.90 per cent and 0.77 per cent respectively.

- United Securities

MAN STOCKS

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSM 30 INDEX	3,712.97	3,684.27	3,684.27	3,701.07	-16.80	-0.45
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,718.41	5,658.81	5,658.81	5,698.57	-39.76	-0.70
Services Index	1,534.98	1,529.76	1,530.64	1,530.56	0.08	0.01
Industry Index	4,615.98	4,610.55	4,614.09	4,607.21	6.87	0.15
MSM Shariah Index	533.75	530.69	530.69	534.91	-4.23	-0.79
MSM TR INDEX	4,367.61	4,333.85	4,333.85	4,349.23	-15.38	-0.35

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
16,946,059	2,173,143	679	20,439,414,574	9	12	20	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 29

ISIN _____ SECURITY NAME _____ VOLUME _____ TURNOVER _____ TRADES _____ OPEN PRICE _____ HIGH _____ LOW _____ CLOSE PR. _____ PREV. CLOSE _____ DIFF (RD) _____ DIFF % _____ LAST PR _____ LAST BID _____ LAST OFFER _____ PAR VALUE _____ MARKET CA _____

REGULAR MARKET

[illegible]

Parallel Market

MM00000001581	OMAN EMIRATES HO	160,000	7670	7	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.046	-0.002	4.348	-0.047	0.047	0.047	0.100	-5850,000	
MM00000003591	GALPAM ENGINEER	905,007	22,439	39	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.045	0.001	2.768	-0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	-2768,048	
MM00000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	24,702	1,330	4	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.187	-0.054	0.053	0.054	0.100	-38757,742	
MM00000001301	DHOFAF CATTLE	5,100	459	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	-0.001	1.194	-0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	-7276,500	
MM00000001301	AL ANBAR PETROCHEM	54,792	1,802	54	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.306	-0.030	0.030	0.030	0.100	-306,000	
MM00000001132	OMAN NAT. ENG.	417	38	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	-0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	-1170,000	
MM00000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,500	272	2	0.181	0.182	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.000	0.000	-0.182	0.181	0.181	0.100	-5430,000	
MM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	6,500	4,680	2	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.000	0.000	-0.720	0.720	0.720	0.100	-11340,000	
MM00000001400	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,070,885	159,618	107	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	-0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	-2404,000	
MM00000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,000	86	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	-0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	-10750,000	
MM00000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	7,463	3,717	2	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.000	0.000	-0.498	0.498	0.498	0.100	-44870,000	
MM00000001707	AL MADINA	5,099	223	5	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	-0.023	0.023	0.023	0.100	-245,000	
MM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,500	64	2	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	-0.042	0.042	0.043	0.100	-105310,210	
MM00000002549	BANK DHOFAF	1,012,547	106,317	12	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	-0.105	0.105	0.109	0.100	-3146,691	
MM00000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	100	5	2	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	-0.051	0.051	0.051	0.100	-10200,000	
MM00000004025	ABU ALMAH POWER	100,700	5,238	10	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	-0.092	0.092	0.094	0.100	-2094,000	
MM00000006912	ACHIA INSURANCE	2,000	700	2	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.344	0.344	0.000	0.000	-0.350	0.350	0.360	0.100	-34400,000	
MM00000007084	MCT DESALINATE	1,125	95	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	-0.084	0.085	0.084	0.100	-13237,784	
MM00000007084	AL LUMINUM PROD	114,870	12,671	11	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	-0.111	0.111	0.112	0.100	-2692,884	
MM00000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	50,000	4,950	4	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	0.100	-0.099	0.098	0.105	0.100	-198030,966	
MM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	18,331	1,727	3	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2.083	0.095	0.095	0.104	0.100	-141000,000	
MM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	280,000	15,950	17	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	-0.046	0.043	0.046	0.100	-67279,987	
MM00000005963	DHOFAF INV	871,490	155,611	87	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.287	0.287	0.287	0.	0.287	0.	0.287	0.100	-287,000
MM00000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	504,897	47,321	51	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.090	-0.003	-3.333	-0.088	0.088	0.092	0.100	-15225,000	
MM00000004776	TAKAFUL BANK OMAN	21,266	2,339	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.115	-0.005	-4.348	-0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	-11000,000	
MM00000002200	ABU ALBANK	18,900	1,800	8	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.110	-0.005	-4.545	-0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	-29474,000	
Total					4,859,921	620,110	244										

CALL FOR HIGHER WAGES

Amazon workers strike in Germany

Strikes were planned for Amazon locations in Werne and Rhineburg, which are both located in the western German

"Amazon is making a mint in the coronavirus crisis. For this reason alone, wage evasion must be stopped there," Verdi representative Orhan Akman said. Amazon's profits have skyrocketed

Akman has accused Amazon of not adhering to social distancing guidelines which are intended to keep employees safe from infection. The company has rejected the accusation, and said it has taken additional measures to protect workers. —DW

IND-RA RESEARCH

India's energy demand to rise in fourth quarter

In February, energy demand increased 0.2 per cent year-on-year to 104.6 billion units. The energy demand over April 2020 to February 2021 was lower by 2.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis. The short-term power price at Indian Energy Exchange continued its improving trend with prices breaching Rs 4 per unit in March for the first time since October 2018. In February, a 19.5 per cent increase (5,124 million units) in traded volumes was witnessed in the day-ahead market.

Electricity generation

The electricity generation increased 0.1 per cent to 101.1 billion units in February, supported by 1.9 per cent growth in thermal generation although hydro generation fell 14 per cent, said Ind-Ra in its latest credit digest. Electricity generation from renewable sources increased 2 per cent to 11.5 billion units in February with solar generation increasing 12.2 per cent. The renewable generation over 11M FY21 improved 5.8 per cent to 134.3 billion units. —ANI

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CONTACT 91913008 / 99314556

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Contact: 99657906 or 24702141

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JOB VACANCIES

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Technicians duct pi A/c. Contact 99723585, 97159292

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Wanted Lady Dentist in Ruwi. Contact 99357612

Needed urgently female Lab technician for a private clinic in Salalah. Contact 99082092

Urgently required Gynecologist with DGO/MD, Pediatrician, Specialist Orthopedic, Physiotherapist, Nurse for reputed clinic in Wadikabir Area. Email info@wmc.om

Wanted Female GP preferably with MOH license for a well established Medical Centre. Contact 98115439

MANAGER

General Manager for a reputed GCC logistics operator. Minimum 5yrs experience in logistics, at least 2yrs in similar capacity. Proficient in strategic thinking, team building, financials and operations. Email logsjobsom@gmail.com

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Urgently required building material salesman with minimum 2 year experience for shop in Duqm. Email: creativemarketingoman@gmail.com

Required young diploma Civil Engineer/graduate with Oman driving license for Sales in construction material. Having good contacts with consultants & contractors. Contact 92888337

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Indian male fresh MBA graduate in finance seeking entry level placement as accountant/admin. D/L available. Contact 91209360 Email: amxrsad@gmail.com

Finance / Accounts - Male M.com, CFA Level One, DTM with 24 Years of experience in Oman. Accounting, Finance, Banking, Insurance, Logistics, Taxation, ERP. Join shortly by release. Contact 99668649, Email pac_3rd@yahoo.com

Indian male B.com. MBA (Marketing & finance), 5 yrs experience (3 yrs in Oman) Currently on visit. Contact 79880058 Email naveelkhan524@gmail.com

Finance Manager/Chief Accountant. 15 years Oman experience. Knowledge of SAP, Oracle Tally. Contact krsansari18@gmail.com, 92975469

Indian MBA finance with 3 yrs Oman experience in accounting. NOC available. Contact 79396446. Email sherofsabu@gmail.com

Indian accounts & finance professional with 15+yrs of experience in Oman as Accounts Manager, Chief acct. Contact 78039524

Indian Male Accountant, M.Com 14 years experience in Oman with D/L & NOC seeks suitable placement. Contact 99757409

Indian Female PGDM (Finance & Marketing, worked as Associate with KPMG India, currently in Oman looking for a suitable opening. Contact 79629993

Indian male 23 yrs. Engineering graduate from NIT, experienced in investment banking / finance, sales & marketing, and entrepreneurial research. Contact 97045277, 92738367

Accountant with 3 years Oman experience (6 years total Experience), MBA Finance, well versed in VAT, NOC Available. Contact 92862265

Finance manager, qualified & well experience in Oman accounts, banking ERP, VAT, MIS projects etc. Contact 98571309

Indian male, 2 yrs accountant experience in Oman with NOC and 2 yrs admin assistant 2yrs accountant experience in India. Looking for appropriate placement in accountant, admin, clerical jobs. Master in commerce and PGDCA. Contact: +96891746925, +919744304725 Email: lenglev@gmail.com

Omani, 7 yrs experience in the field debt collection & PRO work looking for a suitable placement. Contact 99648284

Looking for part time accounting job. Contact 91019796

27 yrs male Sudanese Accountant 3 years experience MBA holder. Contact 94706138

Accountant, 4 years experience in Oman with DL # 95762756

26 yrs B.Com graduate with 3 yrs experience in accounts & logistics. seeking suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 91362146

Indian CPA 15+ years of experience in Oman & UAE as finance manager / chief accountant on visit and have NOC. Contact: 79007124 Email: shkkader@gmail.com

Accountant: looking for Accounts job, having more than 10 years experience, can handle up to Finalization, with Valid D/L, seeking suitable placement. Contact 92800781

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Indian Male, 12 years experience in Oman seeks job for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post. Holding Oman D/L & NOC. Contact vinrai99@gmail.com, M: 79734085

Commercial/Secretarial with Stenography/Documentation/Administration cum Basic Accounts 20+ years experience working in oman, with NOC & D/L looking for a suitable job. Contact 92925926, 97704828, Email ffrancis7@gmail.com

Indian female MBA (HR), PGDCA, BE, 7 yrs of experience in HR & administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 92474376

Indian/male (24)/BBA, LLB (hons) / experience in law firms, administration and operations in Den network Trivandrum. Contact 79896282, 78265859 Email: harisuneethan96@gmail.com

Business administration graduate MBA holder, with 3 years experience looking for suitable vacancy. Contact 968-79387444 Email m.mukhtar2t4@gmail.com

Filipino, Female with 12 years of experience in Oman as Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant in an Airline Company, customer service, inventory management, financing (claims & processing) having strong analytical skills. Contact +96899045640

Indian Male B.Com. 33 Years' experience in Oman, Worked as an Office Manager, Executive Personal Assistant, Accountant, Steno-Secretary, seeks Job, NOC & D/L. available. Contact 92558734

Bcom fresh graduate, 23, with good arabic speaking skill looking for an opening in assisting Administrative/ Accountant job roles. Available to join immediately. Mob: 78018480 Email: saadsakeer2009@gmail.com

Indian male - BE MBA, 12 years of experience in HR ADMIN & Logistics (incl. 3 yrs of Oman experience) on visit. Contact 79857135

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9 years experienced Female Architect/Master planner seeking for job Contact 96146645

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BSc Hospitality Management Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia. Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry. Contact 94575782 Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

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HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926. Email mubashirosmann89@gmail.com

10 Years experience in Plumbing, pipe fitter & camp boss assistant. Contact 93045800

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

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

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Property/Facilities Manager, 10+ years Oman UAE experience+DL, can Manage any Operation. Contact 71052703

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Indian female MCA, 4 yrs experience in TCS as a software testing engineer seeking suitable position. Contact 95249883 Email rejaaramdas@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) & Digital Marketing & Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272 Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com.

Indian 24 yrs presently in Oman, graduated in BCA, experience in Rent a car in Oman, airport & in Car showroom. Contact 79224987

8 yrs experience, Customer service, operations, logistics, secretary, trading, NOC available, currently in Muscat, D/L, Excellent communication in English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam. Contact 91116374

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Contact 99653715

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)
B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.
Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.
aminol2424@gmail.com 79417515

Sales & Marketing
Indian male, professional in media ad sales and marketing, experienced in business development and planning and rolling out offline & online product promotion campaigns, organising product launch events & other BTL programs, looking for a suitable opportunity.
Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

CIVIL ENGINEER
Indian Male, Degree in Civil Engineer, 24 yrs Exp, with 15 yrs Gulf experience in handling Grid stations, OHL, Hospital Buildings, Road, MEP. Worked with (Ray International, L & T, ONEIC), under , OETC, Mazan, Mazoon, DPC. Having Oman D/L. Looking for suitable position. Immediate available for Join, NOC available.
Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774 Wts - 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Logistics and Operations
Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.
Contact: 79639093 Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

Omani Information Technology Field
Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.
Contact: 71771213 Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

ENGINEER
Omani female looking for a job, BSc in Process engineering (Done four different internships in process engineering), marketing experience as well.
Contact: 95119284 alya_alsiyabi93@outlook.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER
Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.
Contact: +96871180492 allirod1975@gmail.com

Project Director / Senior Project Manager / Contracts Administrator
Indian National having 18 years of work experience, 14 years in Oman having master's in Construction Project Management & Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK Universities. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
Please contact – 78022980

ELECTRICAL MANAGER
Graduate Electrical Engineer & MBA (Project Management) with 28 years' experience in Industrial Projects & Maintenance looking for senior role. NOC Available and can join immediately.
Contact: 968-94029112 Email: sakhthiveljothi@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer
Indian Male 29yrs with 7 Plus years of Experience in handling High End Building Construction Projects, Infrastructure, MEP, Interior finish and Landscaping works looking for any suitable job in immediate. Having Knowledge of MS Project & Primavera P6. NOC & Oman D/L Available.
Contact/ Whatsapp No.: 95051103, Email: loyannavildsouza@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT
A certified VAT professional having Masters degree & 10 years of GCC experience in senior positions, is available to handle accounts & VAT compliance.
Contact 71990782

FINANCE
Indian Female (MBA Finance) having 15 years (Oman) of work experience in Banking / Finalization / Audit; seeks suitable placement.
Contact 94953826 / 92824146

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)
CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.
GSM: 78259755

IT PROFESSIONAL
With 15+years of experience. Currently working as Head Of IT Support for a reputed company in Muscat for last 7 years. MCSA, CNA, ITIL certified. Experience in IT infrastructure, IT project management, Resource Management & Service Desk seeks suitable placement as IT Manager/System Admin.
Contact 92514687 Email: hi.binu@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT
WANTED PART TIME OR CONTRACT BASIS ACCOUNTING JOB UPTO FINALISATION.
CONTACT: 91720776

Mechanical Engineer
Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 5+years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.
Contact 95434381 email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Civil engineer with more than 20 years of experience looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 968 95899628, prakashrathi7707@gmail.com.

MEP Mechanical engineer with 2 year exp. Contact 79027224

Sr. quantity surveyor - Civil / contracts with 14+ years of experience in commercial and residential projects in Oman, holder of D/L & NOC available. Seeking for suitable position. Contact no. 93249891

Construction engineer with 10 yrs experience in Oman consulting offices 7 experience in government project. Contact 86965100

Indian male, electric engineer 1 year experience in project coordination and MEP looking for suitable placement. Ready to shift location. Contact: 71148202. Email: Muhammadmuzammil878@gmail.com

B.E Civil engineer Male, with 2 years of professional experience in municipal house construction project. Equipped with a valid D/L. Fluent in English & Arabic. Contact 96749821 Email mhassan9610@gmail.com

Civil engineer with 9 years exp in Oman. Contact 97646908

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian B.Tech Electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience in construction field. Have DCRP licence, looking for job as an Electrical Engineer/ MEP engineer. NOC available. Contact 99873092 Email ranjithr17@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CIVIL ENGINEER

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

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

GIS Engineer

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

Contact: 99738614, deepitkotian14@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

Indian male, experience of 12 Years in Oman as a Purchasing officer and store manager. D/L NOC available looking for suitable job. # 97099785, maniugcc@gmail.com

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

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

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

TOUR / TRAVEL

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

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

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

Qatar Airways Holidays offers quarantine-free holiday packages

Travellers can choose to spend summer holidays in Athens, exploring unique archaeological areas, scenic neighbourhoods, or visit Mykonos, the island synonymous with fun and entertainment

MUSCAT: Qatar Airways Holidays, the leisure division of Qatar Airways Group, is delighted to announce the launch of quarantine-free holiday packages to Athens and Mykonos. Qatari citizens and residents who have completed the COVID-19 vaccination will have an opportunity



to travel safely and experience Greece's splendid summer. Travellers can choose to spend summer holidays in Athens, exploring unique archaeological areas, scenic neighbourhoods and beautiful beaches around the Attica peninsula, or visit Mykonos, the island synonymous with fun and entertainment and indulge in beautiful pristine beaches and picturesque views. Qatar Airways Holidays offers three-night packages with the option to extend and include daily breakfast, transfers and local assistance for sightseeing and excursions.

Guests visiting Mykonos can select their chosen accommodation from one of four hotels: three high-end, 5-star properties - Myconian Ambassador, Myconian Kyma and Myconian Villas Collection; and the 4-star Petasos Beach. Those holidaying in Greece's capital will enjoy their stay at 5-star NJV Athens Plaza. Travellers can benefit from the custom-designed packages, saving up to 40 per cent off the normal price at the two popular destinations. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Akbar Al Baker, said: "I am hugely excited

to announce the launch of the first quarantine-free holiday packages for citizens and residents who completed their COVID-19 vaccination. Last summer, due to the current global pandemic, international travel was limited, and many stayed home. With the gradual lifting of restrictions, Qatar Airways Holidays provide our customers with fantastic packages for a much-awaited summer vacation in two popular Greek destinations." H.E. Al Baker added: "Also, we are delighted to resume three weekly flights to Mykonos. Due to the global pandemic, last year we



had to suspend this route, which since 2018 proved very popular with our customers. It is great to return to Mykonos and help compliment Greece's efforts to restart tourism. We know the authorities in Greece are taking precautions to ensure public safety, and visitors will be required to adhere to public health measures put in place given the pandemic." The news has been welcomed by the Greek Minister for Tourism, Harry Theoharis, who said: "I'm proud to welcome Qatar Airways back to Mykonos. It's very pleasing for us to have our luxury

destination, including in the planning of the airline's new summer programme. In this difficult time, this development comes when all of our efforts have been put into the safe opening of Greek tourism. 'All you want is Greece' is our new motto, and with this, we invite friends of Qatar Airways, from all over the world, to visit us." Quarantine-free holiday packages start at QAR4,372 per person and available from travel between 14 May to 30 September. For more information, please visit www.qatarairways.holidays.com/summer-in-greece

LUXURY SPORTS SEDAN

New Genesis G70 to be launched soon in region

MUSCAT: Genesis Middle East & Africa headquarters on Monday revealed that The new Genesis G70 will be launching for customers in the region soon. Launched originally in 2017, the luxury sports sedan has an athletic design, dynamic driving performance and leading safety features. It attracted such achievements as the 2018 Good Design Award (Transportation Design Division), 2019 North American Car of the Year and Top Safety Pick+ recognition from the US Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). The new Genesis G70 features enhancements which focus on an athletic exterior design evolution, a driver-centered interior and state-of-the-art technology update leveraging features found within the Genesis lineup. The signature crest grille set even lower than the Quad Lamps which spread outward evokes a sprinter's pre-race posture and highlights the new Genesis G70's position, as the most athletic sports sedan by Genesis. In profile, side air extractors optimized for efficiency, show a form-follows-function mentality while the sensuous surface around the front wheels expresses the powerful muscles of a sports sedan. Rearward, Quad Lamp tail lights inspired by the soaring



wings of the Genesis logo, clearly identifies with a distinctive Genesis aesthetic. The full width G-Matrix mesh and body colored diffusers surround the oval exhaust tips add finishing touches to the exterior design. The interior leverages a driver-centred architecture resembling a fighter jet cockpit and adds the latest connectivity specifications. A launch date for The new Gene-

sis G70 in the Middle East & Africa will be announced soon, customers can find out more by visiting www.genesis.com/middleeast OTE Group is the exclusive dealer for Genesis in Oman offering excellent sales and after-sales service support, underpinned by a nationwide service network, that's on par with global standards. For more information please contact 800-50003

WOQAR BANKING PACKAGE

Bank Muscat improves financial inclusion with supportive measures

MUSCAT: Financial inclusion has been identified as a crucial enabler for a number of the Sustainable Development Goals for the global economy set by the United Nations in 2015. In line with its crucial role in the financial services sector in Oman and its pioneering achievements in social responsibility, Bank Muscat launched the Woqar Banking Package in 2020 after studying in great detail and understanding the needs of retirees who were earlier working in both government and private institutions. Earlier, the pensioner segment in Oman was not served by any bank for flexible-term finance or credit cards based on their pension. Bank Muscat became the first bank in Oman to extend a financing solution for pensioners in the country in 2020. It must also be noted that apart from Woqar, the bank also helped retirees adjust to the challenges by restructuring their loans. Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, Deputy General Manager - Institutional Sales & Products Development, Bank Muscat, said: "It is important for both individuals and businesses to have access to financial products and services that meet their needs like transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance, which are delivered in a responsible and sustainable way. This is all the more



important in the case of groups that traditionally fall short of the financial inclusion net. Through the launch of Woqar in 2020, Bank Muscat reiterated its commitment to provide innovative banking services to all members of society. The new banking package has been reinforcing the other supportive actions undertaken by the bank to help the retiree segment adjust to the challenges brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic." Flexible-term loans starting at 3.75 per cent and with tenors ranging from one to 10 years are a key part of the Woqar banking package. Loan facilities are available for pensioners up to 70 years of age. The bank has been encouraged by the large number of que-

ries and applications that have come from across the Sultanate after the launch of this new product. By addressing the financial inclusivity needs of this customer segment, the bank hopes to further improve living standards for all segments of society. Customers can get more information about Woqar products by visiting any of the bank's branches across the Sultanate or by contacting the call centre on 24795555 or going to <https://www.bankmuscat.com/en/loans/Pages/details.aspx#woqar>. The Woqar package and other measures to support pensioners including moratoriums on repayments and restructuring of loans is part of the bank's strategy to further improve financial inclusion in the country. Bank Muscat is continuously debuting new financial products and services targeting different sections of society in line with the changing needs of its customers and the nation's progress and development. As the nation's leading financial services provider, Bank Muscat attaches great importance to social responsibility initiatives in close alignment with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. The bank's strategies are aimed at sustaining the country's progress and development and improving financial inclusion for different segments of society.

WWF INITIATIVE

Mazoon Electricity Company observes Earth Hour 2021

MUSCAT: Mazoon Electricity Company, the leading electricity provider in Oman, observed Earth Hour between 8:30-9:30pm on March 27 as part of its Campaign. Earth Hour is an initiative launched by the international wildlife and environmental body WWF where citizens and organisations around the globe show their support for action on climate change by turning off lights and appliances for one hour from 8:30 pm. The 2021 Earth Hour theme focused on "Climate Change to Save Earth". In the build up to the day, Mazoon Electricity had encouraged its employees, customers, community and their families to take part in Earth Hour and commit to ongoing low-carbon habits in the workplace and at home. Shabiba FM, Be'ah, Diam, Sandan, GuTECH and Environment Society of Oman had joined Mazoon Electricity's Earth Hour 2021 Campaign as partners. More than 45 entities including Omani Women Associations, sports clubs, and many others from the local community participated in the campaign.



Social media platforms The campaign involved sharing of relevant content on all social media platforms, participating in a special video, taking part in a radio interview conducted by Shabiba FM and participating live via social media accounts to promote Earth Hour activities.

Said Juma Said Al Busaidi, Manager Communication and Sustainability of Mazoon Electricity said, "With millions of supporters across the globe, the annual 'Earth Hour' initiative has emerged as one of the largest global campaigns to combat climate change. We were delighted to participate by

turning off the lights for one hour at our premises. Our staff too participated in the Earth Hour event by switching off lights from their homes." He added, "The purpose of Earth Hour was to persuade people to embrace a responsible lifestyle in using electricity to

support the country's efforts to decrease carbon emissions and safeguard natural resources to guarantee their availability for future generations." "During the Earth Hour 2021, Oman recorded a reduction of 3.15 MW in electricity in the country, equivalent to a reduction of 111.2

tonnes of carbon emissions. Mazoon Electricity is always in the forefront of using sustained business environmental excellence practices. It recently won the 'Environmental Upgrade of the Year' honour at the 2020 Asia Power Awards' in recognition for its successful environmentally friendly electrical transformers." Mazoon Electricity Company SAOC (MZEC) is a closed Omani joint stock company registered under the Commercial Companies Law of Oman. The company is primarily undertaking regulated distribution and supply of electricity in Al Dakhiliya, South Al Sharqiya, North Al Sharqiya, South Batinah governorates and Suwaiq in North Batinah governorate under a license issued by the Authority of Public Services Regulation, Oman (Previously known as Authority Electricity Regulation - AER). The establishment and operations of the company are governed by the provisions of the Law for Regulation and Privatisation of the Electricity and Related Water Sector (the Sector Law) promulgated by the Royal Decree 78/2004.

ROUND-UP



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The redesigned new IS has attractive looks, which is complemented by its balanced, linear and confident driving signature. Owners



can choose from two engine options; a 2.0-litre, turbocharged and intercooled inline four-cylinder engine delivering 241 hp and 35.7 kg.M of torque, and a sophisticated 3.5-litre V6 engine that produces 312 hp and 38.5 kg.M of

torque. The two engines paired with an eight-speed sport direct-shift automatic transmission that offers superb drivability, together with outstanding fuel efficiency and quietness even at high speed. The Lexus ES line-up includes

the ES300h, a Hybrid Electric model, which combines two power sources consisting of a petrol engine and electric motor producing a combined system output of 215 hp. The ES300h offers an impressive 24.1 km/L mileage.

The ES350 is powered by a 3.5-litre V6 engine that is designed to deliver commanding acceleration along with an invigorating sound. Aided by the D4-S fuel injection system, the impressively smooth engine produces 298 hp and 36.3

kg-m of torque, while the ES250 is powered by a high-efficiency 2.5-litre 4-cylinder engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg-m of torque.

Three engine options
The LS is available in three engine options; a 3.5-litre V6 Multi Stage Hybrid System that combines the internal combustion engine with the electric traction system to produce 354 hp, a 3.5-litre V6 naturally aspirated Atkinson-cycle producing 311 hp and 38.7 Kg.M of torque, and a 3.5-litre twin-turbo V6 engine producing 415 hp and 61.2 Kg.M of torque, both mated to the first-ever 10-speed automatic transmission for a premium passenger car.

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

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Khimji's House of Travel extends its ties with Amadeus

MUSCAT: Khimji's House of Travel, one of the leading travel companies in Oman, has extended its partnership with Amadeus to build momentum around its digital transformation and the development of integrated travel services. Since 2012, Amadeus has worked with the agency to strengthen its position in Oman's travel and tourism market as well as helping it expand across the region.

In addition to a growing team of travel experts, the agency's recent diversification strategy can be seen with the introduction of cutting-edge travel solutions for travellers and travel partners. These new developments include the corporate platform khimji-corporate.com, the platform for local travel agents khimjiconnect.com, and the global B2B hotel and leisure platform tripsnstay.com.

The agency's partnership with Amadeus will see it tap into Amadeus Web Services and its low fare search technology. This provides a single point of access to the entire range of Amadeus' comprehensive content and a cost-effective way to build and update the agency's customized travel booking applications. Khimji's House of Travel is also benefiting from leading digital so-

lutions within Amadeus' flagship portfolio. Most notably, Master-Pricer travel board and Amadeus Online Corporate Traveller. Cashio Vettom, General Manager of Khimji's House of Travel, said: "One of the pillars of our success has been an unwavering focus on digital transformation and innovation. We have developed state-of-the-art service platforms with the support and expertise of Amadeus

- a pioneer of the global travel industry. Our experience means we can completely trust Amadeus to offer solutions that ensure we exceed our customers' expectations. This is especially important considering the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as we strive to give confidence to the local travel market." Ernesto Sanchez Beaumont, Managing Director of Amadeus

Gulf, said: "Our priority in Oman has always been on maintaining strong, long-lasting relationships with our customers. Khimji's House of Travel is an example of how trust built over time brings dividends to customers and travellers serve. We are determined to keep delivering digital solutions that enable the agency to offer its customers a rewarding and seamless, travel experience."



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INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT

Al Mouj Muscat and Oman Towers Company sign connectivity pact

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat has entered into a partnership with Oman Towers Company (OTC) for new telecommunications towers to be installed at the leading leisure and lifestyle destination, improving internet speeds as well as mobile phone services coverage. The exclusive infrastructure agreement means people and businesses are set to benefit from reliable, high-speed internet access as well as enhanced mobile phone connectivity.

OTC's new tower works on an open access network basis meaning it can accommodate all service operators with different technologies which will be a great boost to the telecommunications infrastructure within the Sultanate.

Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat says: "Signing this important agreement allows us to add to the excellent telecoms infrastructure already in place at Al Mouj Muscat to the benefit those who live, work and run businesses here in our community."

"We are constantly exploring ways to make our community experiences better and next generation connectivity is another important feature of that improvement. Open access networks encourage competition between service providers with different technologies, lower-

ing both the costs for subscribers and making it possible for new service providers to enter the market.

Eng. Majid Al Kharoosi, Managing Director of Oman Towers Company, says: "We are proud to be collaborating with Al Mouj Muscat in an initiative that will play an important role in the Sultanate's fast paced telecommunications sector."

"As a company, we aim to contribute to the development of the sector by providing sustainable telecommunication towers and related equipment, and by working together with licensed operators to help put in place infrastructure which can be used by multiple customers, and which we know will have a positive impact by supporting Oman's knowledge society."

Life Inspired

Al Mouj Muscat is a destination without an equal. It has redefined urban living in the region with an impressive portfolio of oceanfront residential properties, luxury and authentic hospitality, elegant Business Parks, award-winning architecture and well-designed landscapes.

A warm and diverse community at the heart of Oman's capital, Al Mouj Muscat created a sense of belonging for over 6,000 residents from 85 nationalities who now call it home. With a vibrant dining and retail district, residents and visitors alike are able to enjoy a wide range of culinary experiences in a lively oceanfront setting.

Al Mouj Muscat provides an exclusive lifestyle that urges families and individuals to live life to the fullest, do better, see

more and live richer. For work or leisure, residents and visitors can stay, dine or relax at seven luxury hotels, including Kempinski and The St. Regis, experience boating in Oman's largest Marina, or awaken their sense of play at an 18-hole championship golf course that's listed in the world's top 100.

Oman Towers

Oman Towers has been established in 2018, for the purpose of building, operating and leasing telecommunication towers and associated infrastructure and services (including greenfield towers, rooftop towers, distributed antenna systems, shelter space, power equipment, etc., the Towers) to mobile network operators (MNO) and other telecommunications operators, and has been authorised to operate by the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (the TRA) under the rules and regulation of the Sultanate of Oman.

Oman Tower Company provides various infrastructure solutions such as greenfield towers, rooftops, in building solutions, and other innovative structures for the 4th industrial revolution. Moving ahead with the upcoming technologies like 5G, IOT and others, OTC is working with suppliers of street furniture to accommodate future ICT equipment.



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