

HM SENDS GREETINGS TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Zeljko Komsic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Komsic and his country's friendly people. - **ONA**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETED PRESIDENT OF SURINAME

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Chan Santokhi of the Republic of Suriname on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Santokhi and his country's friendly people. - **ONA**



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FAHD RECEIVES ASSAD'S POLITICAL, MEDIA ADVISER



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, on Wednesday received

Dr. Bouthaina Shaaban, Political and Media Adviser to the President of Syria and Chairperson of the Wathiqat Wattan Organisation. Dr.

Bouthaina Shaaban conveyed greetings of President Bashar Al Assad of Syria to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. **>A5**

RENEWED RENAISSANCE

Sayyid Theyazin announces establishment of Youth Centre

MUSCAT: In accordance with His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik's attention to youth and his Royal directives to listen to them and empower them to effectively contribute to the comprehensive development march and Oman's Renewed Renaissance process within the context of Oman Vision 2040 and the 10th Five Year Plan, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, has announced the establishment of a new facility to be named "Youth Centre".

HH Sayyid Theyazin underscored the importance of the role of youth in nation building. He affirmed that the Youth Centre will serve as "a pool for developing youth talents, discovering their talents and mentoring their innovations".

The Youth Centre is launched in association with the Sultanate of Oman's celebration of the glorious 51st National Day. HH Sayyid Theyazin is keen on making the Youth Centre a facility that aligns with the aspirations that youth have envisaged within Oman Vision 2040. HH Sayyid Theyazin



pointed out that the new centre figures among the Ministry's initiatives to develop a composite system of modern youth facilities in all governorates of Oman—facilities that, he hopes, are capable

of responding to the expectations of youth, groom their talents and champion their innovations.

The Ministry will later unveil the details of the Youth Centre. **-ONA**

IDENTITY OF OMR385MN HAYY AL SAHIL PROJECT IN QURIYAT LAUNCHED

Located in the Wilayat of Quriyat in the Governorate of Muscat, Hayy Al Sahil project aligns with the government's plans to enhance tourism as one of the sectors of economic diversification



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The commercial identity of the over OMR380 million Hayy Al Sahil project has been launched by the Qurayyat Development Company.

Located in the Wilayat of Quriyat in the Governorate of Muscat, Hayy Al Sahil project aligns with the government's plans to enhance tourism as one of the sectors of economic diversification programme within the 10th five-year plan.

While the total cost of the project is estimated at OMR385 million, the first phase will cost OMR40 million.

The identity launch ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Yahya Sulaiman Al Nadabi, Wali of Quriyat. He stressed the importance of the project in reviving tourism and economic activity in Oman.

He added that tourism is one of the promising sectors. He pointed out Oman Vision 2040 targets optimal utilisation of the rich tourism potentials enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman.

Sheikh Hilal Khalid Al Maawa-

li, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Qurayyat Development Company, said that the project will be developed in three phases due to its large size.

He added that it will constitute a valuable addition to the infrastructure of Omani tourism. He pointed out that the project will position the Wilayat of Quriyat as an attractive destination for mega projects that will benefit everyone, especially citizens of Qurayyat.

Eng. Khamis Mubarak Al Kiyumi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Madina Real Estate Company (the main developer of the project), said that the basic designs of the project were envisaged to combine modernity

and the original Omani architectural touch. Hence, visitors and tourists will enjoy the Omani authentic features while touring the 1.3 million-square-metre project.

Hayy Al Sahil project will enhance the utilisation of the fishing port by developing a floating dock for yachts, which will facilitate visitors' movement across Muscat's tourist ports and other tourist ports in Oman.

The first phase of the project includes preparing the infrastructure for the project, building 400 housing units, and establishing a 4-star hotel with 220 hotel rooms, including 100 chalets, as well as a residential commercial district (boulevard) on an area of 53,000 square metres. **>A2**



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MUSCAT



OMANI PRODUCT

Chocolates made with natural alternatives to sugar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Phoenix Chocolate Bar is an Omani product made from several ingredients in addition to dates and Omani honey as an alternative to sugar.

Made by students of Sultan Qaboos University of the Department of Food Sciences and Nutrition, it is healthy for all ages and good for people who are sensitive to lactose and gluten as there is no added sugar in it.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Ruzaiki, in-charge of sustainability of the food system and manufacturing, and the supervisor of the product says, "The Phoenix industry project has used raw materials available in Oman and beneficial to the local environment."

Scientific process

He added, "The students took into account several scientific process while the manufacturing this product, including studying of consumer behaviour in the markets, identifying competing products, making a graphic analysis of the extent of the product's success,



determining the appropriate strategy in manufacturing and entering the markets, examining the final product both in the laboratory and in the markets, as well as identifying the launching strategy."

Amna Al-Maimani, one of the students in charge of the project, says we decided to produce a new healthy product that suits all ages and is suitable for people who are allergic to lactose and gluten. It



has no added sugar and is suitable for vegetarians. It contains Omani ingredients that are abundantly available. It is a healthy chocolate bar containing dates, Omani honey and hazelnuts.

The name is derived from the scientific name for the date or palm tree: *Phoenix dactylifera*. They have worked to make this product with the developments of times, with the so-called (ready to eat foods).

Reasonable

The price of the product is reasonable and is competitive with similar products. The use of appropriate and attractive packaging can withstand different storage conditions, such as heat, moisture.

Al-Maimani said, "Many people

showed interest in our product and gave us recommendations to develop the product to appear in the final and appropriate form, especially Dr. Muhammad Al-Ruzaiki, who served as a link between us and these parties, some of which were linked to the university and some from outside the university."

"From the parties that we presented the product idea to: the Innovation and Technology Transfer Center (ITTC), the Oman Makers Centre and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Muscat showed great interest in this product."

Al-Maimani said the most important challenges faced while making this product was its production under the current circumstances (the coronavirus pandemic). **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Warning against swimming in wadi

1 The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDA) has warned people against swimming in wadis or pools. **>A3**

WORLD Wisconsin parade death toll rises to six

2 With another victim succumbing to injuries, the Wisconsin parade attack death toll is now six. **>A6**

MARKET Muriya beachfront phase 2 project

3 Following the successful sell-out of Phase 1 of The Beachfront project at Jebel Sifah, Muriya has announced launch of Phase 2. **>B1**



Dhuhr.....	11:59pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:09am

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES

Oman determined to stop trafficking by all legal means

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman affirmed that it is resolute in its war against human trafficking which, it said, contradicts its noble humanitarian goals.

Dr. Mohammed Awadh Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman at the United Nations (UN), who delivered Oman's speech at the UN meeting convened here, said that the Sultanate of Oman accords special importance to the issue of human trafficking. For that purpose, Oman formed a specialised body, which is the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT), founded in 2008 to implement various programmes, workshops, symposiums and conferences to raise awareness about the phenomenon and propose ways of addressing it and eradicating it by legal means.

Al Hassan added that despite the global hurdles posed by coro-

navirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government of the Sultanate of Oman never wavered in combating human trafficking. "Here, I would like to point out that Oman's 3-year National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (2021-2023) focused on a set of goals, among them "training frontline workers" and "raising social awareness".

Al Hassan spoke about successful initiatives launched by the government of the Sultanate of Oman in cooperation with the private sector and civil society institutions to combat human trafficking. The programme included "Insan" (or "human being") initiative, aimed to raise public awareness about human trafficking by educating workers and employers about the phenomenon and means of reporting its perpetrators. "In addition to these efforts, the government of my country joined a number of global treaties and regional

and international agreements on combating human trafficking. The pacts included the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention against Torture that resists all forms of mistreatment, severe or inhuman or unprofessional penalties, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Arab Protocol for Prevention and Combating Maritime Piracy and Armed Robbery.

Concluding the speech, Al Hassan said that the Sultanate of Oman is committed to the UN Plan for the Eradication of Human Trafficking, by all legal means, to eliminate the phenomenon and keep society clear of all its perils.



INSAN INITIATIVE: Dr. Mohammed Awadh Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman at the United Nations (UN), who delivered Oman's speech at the UN meeting. - **ONA**

Top priority is welfare of people: Al Harrasi

The minister said that the country was founded on noble principles that aided in its development, and it is these tenets that also serve as guidance for His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to take the country forward



RENEWED RENAISSANCE: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information during an address to take stock of the progress made by the country over 51 years.

sumed power in 1970," he said.

"The rein of the renewed Renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has also met challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn, and tropical cyclone Shaheen," explained the minister. "These challenges represented consecutive tests for the Omani citizen."

The Minister of Information explained that the top priority for the country was the welfare of its citizens, and attempts to boost Oman's economic rating internationally are guided by this objective.

A new media law is currently being drafted by the Ministry of Information. Oman's balanced media has stemmed from the country's cultural experience and history, which helped building a vision for the nation's media, wisdom and reasonability.

"We are well aware of our history and our values from which we learn the truth," explained Al Harrasi.

"A balanced media was established based on the various aspects of our civilisation and culture, when the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour assumed power. Such values have been further cemented, as it is important for media to be both reliable, and reasonable in its judgement, according top priority to the country's national interests.

Standard values

"The media has to take into account the standard values and principles established throughout Oman's history in order to properly addresses the causes and concerns of the youth," he said.

"The concerns of youth, communicating with them, and according due attention and care to their employment has dominated each and every meeting with His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. His Majesty the Sultan has directed officials to spare no efforts for the development of the national economy and to create

opportunities for the youth to contribute to nation building."

A key effort currently being undertaken by Omani media is the promotion of what the country has available to foreign investors, so that they can contribute towards the country reaching its potential and harnessing its full capabilities.

What lies ahead for the Ministry of Information is aligning the voice of the media with the objectives of Vision 2040, Oman's ambitious economic diversification and social investment plan, so that more coverage is provided to areas such as economy and investment. These will help make more investors aware of Oman, now that His Majesty the Sultan has pushed for the removal of many constraints towards foreign investors setting up operations in the country.

"In terms of regulation, we must make sure that media discourse reflects actual conditions, and keeps abreast of the latest developments," explained Minister Abdullah Al Harrasi.

"The media must communicate facts in accordance with the values and ethics of the Omani people, besides presenting the future prospects of the country. The new media law is still undergoing discussion in order to cover and facilitate all forms of media work."

"We developed the media law because media has developed at a global level and taken massive strides, especially when it comes to the use of technology," he said.

"We have a strong presence in both traditional and social media, which prompts the need for new legislation. We have attempted to address this issue by making two public decisions last year, towards the regulation of electronic media."

MEETING

Assistant Grand Mufti meets WHO delegation



MUSCAT: Dr. Sheikh Kahlan Nabhan Al Kharousi, Assistant Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman, received here on Wednesday a delegation of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) who are specialised in organ transplantation.

Organ donation
The two sides explored medical

issues related to organ transplantation and donation, as well as the level of global need for them.

They also discussed the role of Sharia rulings and fatwas in addressing such issues and the importance of the active role that the Iftaa Office can provide at the local and international levels in relation to diverse Sharia issues.

- **ONA**

OMANI PRODUCT

< FROM A1 Female students of SQU in team

"We faced some difficulties, the most important of which are: the lack of some components, inability to accurately determine the validity period of the product and lack of ability to accurately calculate the quantity of ingredients to be mentioned in the food label of the product because we are not able to do the laboratory analysis of the product. The prices of some ingredients are high, perhaps due to the scarce stock of these ingre-

dients in the Sultanate. We need a direct link and partnership with one of the sweets makers in the Sultanate."

The team are female students from Sultan Qaboos University, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences - Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences: Amna Al-Maimani, Sheikha Al-Naqbi, Anwar Al-Lahouri, Rahel Al-Waeli, under the supervision of Dr Muhammad Al-Ruzaiki.

41ST CONFERENCE

Oman at UNESCO event

PARIS: The Sultanate of Oman concluded on Wednesday its participation in the 41st session of the UNESCO's general conference.

Oman, represented by several national departments concerned, was tasked with UNESCO's missions and functions, namely the Ministry of Information was granted a four-year long membership in the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth was also granted a four-year long membership in the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS).

The UNESCO Education Committee's membership comprises the Oman National Committee for Education, Culture and Sciences, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The Sultanate of Oman, during the current session of the UNESCO general conference, has succeeded in adding the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi to the list of influential world personalities.



The listing was recognised within the UNESCO's International Programme of celebration of historic events and influential persons in celebration of the 600th birthday of the Omani navigator.

Moreover, on the sidelines of the general conference, the 16th edition of the UNESCO-Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation was awarded jointly to Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and University of International Cooperation, or "Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional (UCI)," represented by the Latin America School for Protected Areas or "Escuela Latinoamericana de Áreas Protegidas - ELAP" - Costa Rica. - **ONA**

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Ministry of Labour signs pact to train Omani jobseekers in defence sector

MUSCAT: An agreement on co-operation between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Labour was signed on Wednesday.

National jobseekers

The agreement is related to training for national jobseekers comes within the efforts of the Ministry of Defence for employment of jobseekers and implementation of employment initiatives.

The cooperation agreement is also concerned with on-the-job training of a number of Omanis at the Ministry of Defence as well as with specialised training at a number of institutes and colleges within and outside the Sultanate.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Mahad Said Baawain, Minister of Labour and Dr. Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence. - **ONA**



HAYY AL SAHIL PROJECT

< FROM A1 Phase II to add 1,600 residential units

The second phase, which is the largest in the project, will add 1,600 residential units and a large mosque on a 10,000 square-metre area, in addition to a 3-star hotel housing 150 rooms. The second phase will also include expanding the first 4-star hotel on the waterfront by adding 120 rooms and suites.

As for the third and final phase, it will include constructing 3000 different housing units ranging between apartments and villas and 36 luxury villas on the waterfront of the project, in addition to adding 180 new rooms to the 3-star hotel, and establishing another 5-star hotel with 200 rooms.

- With inputs from **ONA**





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‘Do not swim in wadis and pools after rains’

The warning comes after an Omani citizen and his daughter drowned in a pond in a wadi in the wilayat Bidbid in the governorate of Al Dakhiliyah

Times News Service



NOTE OF CAUTION: The four most common areas where drowning can occur are dams and ponds, beaches, wadis and waterways, wells and springs, and locations prone to flash flooding according to the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority.

MUSCAT: The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) has warned people against swimming in wadis or pools left by the rain. The warning comes after an Omani citizen and his daughter drowned in a pond in a wadi in the wilayat Bidbid in the governorate of Al Dakhiliyah. Although the two were rushed to hospital, they could not be saved. “The authority calls on citizens and residents not to swim in water collected in wadis, so that lives can be preserved,” advised the CDAA. Meanwhile, the authorities have also asked adults to keep an eye on children attempting to swim in beaches and tourist areas, for the same reason. “Please watch your children while enjoying the beaches and tourist attractions,” said the CDAA. According to an advisory issued by the body, the four most common areas where drowning can occur are dams and ponds,

beaches, wadis and waterways, wells and springs, and locations prone to flash flooding. The CDAA also provided safety precautions for people to avoid potential situations involving drowning. “Comply with the directions and warning signage, don’t swim outside the designated areas, and do not swim in pools of water left behind by the rain,” said the advisory. “Do not swim in the dams and water springs, and do not jump into rescue anyone in a situation that may lead to the drowning of more people.” Guardians and parents are requested to keep watch over children even when they are walking alongside bodies of water, and while they are swimming in designated areas so that paramedics and first responders can provide even better care to people rescued from an emergency. Personnel

from the CDAA took part in a first aid training course. “The two-week course included many theoretical aspects such as evaluating the patient’s condition and how to deal with various emergency medical conditions, in addition to the practical aspects related to examining and diagnosing the patient, and providing emergency medical care, according to medical protocols of the ambulance service,” said the organisation in a statement. The training was part of a series of refresher courses held by the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority for its emergency medical technicians, to ensure the readiness of ambulance crews to deal with various emergency medical concerns. People can dial 9999 to call the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) in case they require immediate assistance in an emergency.

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BOOK

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

27,800 REACH

man

International flight operations in India are expected to return to normal soon.



Story on India opening international flights

A story on India opening international flights reached 27,800 people and had 3,043 engagements on Facebook.

VIDEO

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

263 VIEWS

Oman to host Legends League Cricket in January



Video on Cricket Legends League

The Morning Minute video on Cricket Legends League had 263 views and 28 likes on Instagram.

VIDEO

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

4,700 VIEWS

जुमान से बचने के लिए दिसंबर तक बकाया टैक्स का भुगतान करें



Maghrib Minute video in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi had 4,700 views and reached 19,900 people on Facebook.

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OMAN'S UNSUNG HEROES

HOW TELEMEDICINE HELPED PROVIDE TREATMENT TO PATIENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC: **DR MOHAMMED LAMKI**



Times News Service

MUSCAT: With many hospitals and clinics closed to all but COVID patients during the peak of the pandemic, telemedicine helped doctors reach out to their patients who were in urgent need of medical care for other ailments, as well as those suffering from chronic illnesses.

Dr Mohammed Lamki, a senior consultant endocrinologist in Oman, shed light on how telemedicine helped bridge the gap between doctor and patient during the pandemic, and called it a sustainable way to take medicine forward in the future.

"We had to shut down most of the services during this period, especially clinical services related to elective patients," he said, referring to the peak of the pandemic in Oman. "The doctors came up with a sustainable and clever idea to set up telemedicine services. This is a very new idea to the Ministry of Health, so it did have a lot of challenges."

He added: "we had to come up with a system to reach the masses both outside and within Muscat. We did have the support of the telecom companies, but they could not fulfil most of the facilities we wanted, so we had to use a landline, without visual capabilities."

The biggest challenge in the way of telemedicine services in which doctors and patients could see

each other through videoconferencing came in the form of legislation: Audio-visual access requires legislation to protect patients' rights, as well as those of doctors, in case misdemeanours occur.

"What we did is to come up with a format in which a doctor introduces themselves to patients who require follow up," explained Lamki. "We would say our names as well as where we were working, and ask the patient for which hospital they wanted to connect with, while asking them to provide their ID card details. This helped secure medical confidentiality."

"We found that we were able to help more patients this way, as compared to conventional processes," he went on to say. "Yes, it was tiring, but this looks to be a sustainable way to help patients, especially since we were able to provide them results in 24 hours. Such a platform, if maintained, with visuals, will make our work even better."

Dr Lamki added that a document recently put up by Deloitte spoke about the state of hospitals in 2040 and beyond, and telemedicine, if used correctly, can definitely provide the way forward.

"If you put one pound into this investment, you will get back five pounds," he explained. "Not only that, you can also reach out to patients in their homes, without requiring them to come to the

hospital. For patients who are in pain, coming to a hospital can be torture, because they need to wait for the doctor, wait for their x-rays, wait for the medicines, and so forth.

Telemedicine also helped pregnant women do tests at home, without them requiring to come to the hospital.

"Can you imagine that I have pregnant women who do their tests in the comfort of their houses, and then send me the results electronically?" said Lamki. "Doctors here have a call centre, where they receive data from patients and provide diagnosis in a timely manner, saving the patient a lot of money and time."

"Not only that, we can also learn from security and banking systems by updating telemedicine services, using the chip in our ID cards, or providing a barcode along with our reports that can be viewed by any doctor around the world."

"Instead of investing a lot of money in cement, building humongous hospitals, which are sometimes very difficult to sustain, putting money into technology to help streamline healthcare will improve medicine and diagnostics," he said.

"COVID has had its downfalls, but it has also brought us many lessons from which we can learn, and many ideas with which to engage."



COVID-19 TAUGHT US THE LESSON OF HYGIENE, UNITY AND LOVE: **DR BASHEER ALIKA**

MUSCAT: Dr. Basheer Alika is the Head of Department of Internal Medicine and the Medical ICU at Badr Al Samaa Hospitals. Speaking to Times TV, he says, "Covid-19 has been a major challenge for all healthcare workers globally. The very first challenge was the mystery surrounding the disease, its treatment and the outcomes."

"We were not sure initially what to tell relatives, employers about the possible recovery of patients. We were dealing with a new disease and had a tough time trying to console relatives, explain the problems to caretakers in the absence of much informa-

tion. On the other hand, we were also worried about how to protect others who had been in touch with these patients."

As a physician who has seen many cases ranging from mild to serious, Dr. Basheer said, "Though we lost a few, we were able to save a lot more lives, thanks to the tireless efforts of healthcare workers all around the world. We took this challenge to heart and are now seeing success."

On what kept him and his team motivated, Dr. Basheer says, "We created a Covid-19 response team, with doctors, care providers, staff nurses and others in the hospital."

We analysed each case and provided specialised treatment. One day I asked my staff to look at a patient and imagine if they were there, what they would expect. They took that message seriously to heart and worked hard with every patient to help them recover."

He also had a warning and a heartfelt message to end the conversation with. "Probably Covid-19 is on its way of exit. My impression is however that this is not the end. It has given us all a good lesson, of hygiene, unity and love. We can defeat any disease that comes up with this lesson. I wish everyone a Happy National Day."

WE ENSURED OUR QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE DID NOT SUFFER: **BINDHU VARGHESE, GROUP NURSING HEAD**



MUSCAT: Speaking to Times TV for the Unsung Heroes series on the 51st National Day, Bindhu Varghese, Group Nursing Head at NMC Healthcare Oman, recounted her team's journey so far during the pandemic.

"As nursing head, my job is to make decisions and implement guidelines that protected my team and the patients and their relatives

from health risks. It was a tough time for all of us and left us with mixed feelings," she said.

"All our nurses would be exhausted but would still take all precautions, check their PPE kits and other measures, to ensure that at the end of the day, they did not take the virus home to their loved ones."

"Though I didn't work directly with patients, I had to ensure that

my team had the facilities and whatever was required to provide quality care. Many patients would be alone and without relatives and we were their sole point of human contact," she said.

To end with, Bindhu wished everyone a happy national day and said, "There were many new things that we learnt as a team. We also know now that we are the best."



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CABLES

HM the Sultan receives more greetings cables on 51st Glorious National Day

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received more cables of greetings on the occasion of the 51st Glorious National Day.

His Majesty received cables from Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, King of Malaysia, President Ilham Heydar Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyz Republic, King Carl XVI Gustaf of the Kingdom of Sweden, President Armen Sarkissian of the Republic of Armenia, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

of Ukraine, President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic, President Zuzana Caputova of the Slovak Republic, President Borut Pahor of the Republic of Slovenia, President Julius Maada Bio of the Republic of Sierra Leone, President Aleksandar Vucic of the Republic of Serbia, President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic, President Nicolas Maduro of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon, President Egils

Levits of the Republic of Latvia, Duke Henri of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, President Andry Rajoelina of the Republic of Madagascar, President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh of Mongolia, President Katerina Sakellariopoulou of the Republic of Greece and Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.

In their cables, they wished His Majesty good health, happiness and long life. They also wished the Omani people further development and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership. — ONA

FRIENDLY COUNTRIES



Sayyid Badr, Honorary Consuls discuss ways to boost cooperation

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister held a meeting on Wednesday with the honorary consuls of the Sultanate of Oman in Turkey, Germany, Czech, Finland, Lithuania and Uganda.

The meeting discussed means of boosting cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the countries represented by the consuls. The meeting also reviewed investment opportunities of interest with these countries.

The meeting comes within the framework of the visits programme being organised by the Foreign Ministry for the Sultanate of Oman's consuls to the friendly countries.

The honorary consuls ex-



pressed their thanks for the Foreign Ministry's initiative of organizing the visit programme, particularly conducting meetings with Omani government and private officials with the aim

of closely familiarising with economic policies within the framework of Oman Vision 2040.

The honorary consuls also visited Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai during which they attended Invest in Oman Forum. They also took part in the pavilion's celebration of the 51st Glorious National Day.

The honorary consuls commended the civilized heritage and future vision of the Sultanate of Oman showcased at the pavilion, especially in the fields of sustainability, environment and economic and tourism diversification.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashil Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department at the Foreign Ministry. — ONA

COMCEC MINISTERIAL SESSION

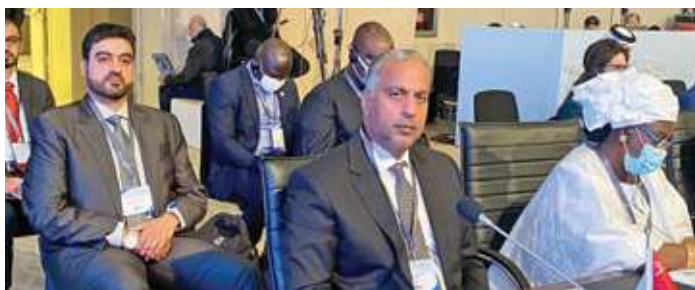
Implementation of OIC's executive programme discussed at meeting

ISTANBUL: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Economy is taking part in the 37th ministerial session meetings of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held in Turkey.

Oman's delegation in the two-day meetings is headed by Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Ma'awali, Undersecretary for Economy.

The meeting discussed the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and OIC's executive programme.

It also reviewed international economic developments which affect OIC member states, reports and recommendations from vari-



ous institutions of the OIC and the COMCEC work teams.

The reports and recommendations touched on various topics, such as two-way trade, boosting the role of the private sector in economic cooperation, improving transportation and communications, developing the tourism sec-

tor, poverty alleviation, financial cooperation and sustaining agricultural security.

This year's main topic is centered around exchanging views on the role of Islamic funding in supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in facing the COVID-19 pandemic. — ONA

BILATERAL MEETING



< FROM A1 Syria hails Oman's progress

HH Sayyid Fahd expressed his best wishes for the Syrian leadership and the Syrian people further progress and growth.

He affirmed that "The Sultanate of Oman accords full attention to heritage—being the nation's historical memory, so that upcoming generations could consult and benefit from this civilizational reservoir on a regular basis".

The meeting touched on cooperation between Oman and Syria, with emphasis on the conserva-

tion of heritage and the consolidation of intra-Arab relations. The two sides also reviewed major developments in the regional and international arenas.

Dr. Bouthaina Shaaban expressed her delight at visiting the Sultanate of Oman. She commended the progress Oman made in different fields, notably the Omani experience in management of national records and archives and its keenness on promoting historical studies.

She also valued her talks with Omani officials, noting that the outcome would reflect positively on bilateral cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Dr. Hamad Mohammed Al Dhoyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority, and Dr. Bassam Al Khateeb, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Sultanate of Oman.

— ONA



Ministry of Defence
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Al Hosni elected as President of Airports Council International

Al Hosni was selected at the 64th annual meeting of the world's airports held from November 21 to 24 in Cancun, Mexico

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a new Omani achievement added to the leadership of Oman's civil aviation sector in the region and in recognition of Oman's position in the international map, the General Assembly of the Airports Council International voted to select Sheikh Aimen Ahmed Sultan Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, as President of the Airports Council International in its new round which will start on January 2022 till the end of 2024.

Al Hosni was chosen at the 64th annual meeting of the world's airports held from November 21 to 24 in Cancun, Mexico.

He will succeed the former President of the Council, Martin Urenician, CEO of Corporation America Airports, in culmination of his continued contributions across the boards of directors of the Airports Council International in Asia and Pacific Ocean while he was the vice-president of the



Board since 2018, in addition to his valuable achievements in developing the performance of the seven airports, operated by Oman Airports, in Oman at the administrative, operational and financial level, which contributed to highlighting the great potentials of Oman Airports and the tremendous development of Sultanate of Oman aviation sector before, during or after overcoming the direct effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This specialised global consensus confirms that the Presidency of Al Hosni of the Airports Council International comes as a new global certificate in addition to the prestigious international position reached by the Sultanate by strengthening its competencies in various sectors. It is a great chance to strengthen the bridges of the international cooperation and close relations in supporting the progress of the aviation sector at the regional and global level, thus proving Oman's airports to prove its prominent regional and

global role in the civil aviation sector, based on its international prestige, seeking to establish its distinguished position on the international map.

The CEO of Oman Airports served on the Board of Directors of the Asia-Pacific Airports Regional Board in 2016 before being selected shortly in 2016 as a member of the Global Board of Directors of Airports, and then he is recommended as Vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Airports Council International in 2018 to work alongside his colleagues on the former Board of Directors and in a period considered one of the most difficult periods on the world's airports during the Coronavirus pandemic to find solutions and work side by side to find international consensus visions within the new travel requirements imposed by the pandemic.

In a statement on his election to this prestigious international position in the world's airport sector, Sheikh Aimen Ahmed Al Hosni,

said: I am pleased and honoured to begin my tenure on this position which coincides with my assignment and our dear country Oman celebrates the 51st National Day - to raise the highest congratulations and blessings for His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and all of Oman on this blessed occasion, Asking Allah to perpetuate the joys of Oman as it revels under his wise rule with success and prosperity.

"It is an honour and a responsibility to represent the Council and the aviation sector on behalf of the Sultanate of Oman with all the aspirations and hopes that this stage brings. This responsibility comes as an extension of the role of the Sultanate of Oman in supporting the Council through its active membership in the past years. Today, I look forward to working with members of the Council in promoting cooperation between airports, international aviation organizations, and our various partners in finding innovative ways to enhance efficiency in the airports and aviation sector."

Al Hosni added: I am also pleased to confirm that the great confidence that our wise government, represented by the Omani Investment Authority, has placed in us is to move on the continuous endeavor to enhance what we have achieved in the period before the presence of Oman's airports in the Airports Council International; and to continue consolidating the Sultanate's position and great role in the civil aviation sector regionally and globally. We achieved it for Oman in this prominent international forum."



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CONFLICT ESCALATES

Germany, France and US urge their nationals to leave Ethiopia

BERLIN: Germany on Tuesday urged its nationals to leave Ethiopia as soon as possible.

It follows similar calls for foreigners to flee the country as Tigrayan rebels claimed to be edging closer to the capital, Ababa.

What Germany and the UN said about Ethiopia

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that German citizens could still use Addis Ababa Bole International Airport for transit and said they should board the first available flight.

France and the US also advised their citizens to leave the country immediately, as the conflict in the east African nation appears to be escalating.

The UN also said it had ordered the immediate evacuation of family members of international staff in Ethiopia. "Given the security situation in the country

and out of an abundance of caution, the United Nations has decided to reduce its footprint in the country by temporarily relocating all eligible dependents," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

What is the state of the conflict in Ethiopia?

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on Monday that he would head to the battlefield to lead his soldiers in what his government described as an "existential war," after the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) claimed to have taken a town just 220 kilometers (135 miles) from the capital.

"We are now in the final stages of saving Ethiopia," Abiy said.

Officials in Addis Ababa have tried to portray confidence, saying during a briefing to diplomats that security forces were working to keep the city safe. **DW**

LATEST CASUALTY

Wisconsin parade attack toll rises to six

WISCONSIN: Another victim of Sunday's deadly attack on the Waukesha parade in the US state of Wisconsin died on Tuesday, prosecutors said, bringing the death toll so far to six.

The latest casualty was an eight-year-old child. More than 60 people were injured in the incident.

The news of the death came as the suspect Darrell Brooks Jr made his first appearance in court, charged with five counts of intentional homicide. The charges had been announced before the most recent death, and he is now likely to face a sixth. The court commissioner set bail at \$5 million (€4.5 million).

What do we know so far?

The 39-year-old suspect had been released on bail days earlier after being arrested for intentionally striking a woman with his car. Police had also received a domestic disturbance complaint on the day of the attack but did not manage



DEATH TOLL RISES: The news of the death came as the suspect Darrell Brooks Jr made his first appearance in court, charged with five counts of intentional homicide.

to track him down before the incident. Authorities said that he had intentionally broken through a police barrier that was closing the road off for Sunday's parade. Witnesses said that the driver made no attempt to slow down af-

ter plowing into a group of people. The oldest victim in the incident was 81, with several members of the "Milwaukee Dancing Grannies" among those lost.

At least 18 children were injured, with some left in critical

condition. The driver was arrested near the scene of the crime and police ruled out terrorism saying that Brooks acted alone.

How have people reacted?

Pope Francis sent a message of

condolence to the Roman Catholic bishop of Milwaukee on Tuesday, commending "the souls of those who died."

President Joe Biden called Sunday's attack "horrific."

The Dancing Grannies group posted a message on Facebook saying that "our hearts are heavy over the loss of our grannies and volunteers." Some of their members were also among the injured, but they added that at least one had been released from the hospital.

Republican State Representative Cindi Duchow condemned the \$1,000 bail set for the suspect's earlier alleged vehicular attack and called for a constitutional amendment in the state to allow judges to set bail based on the risk posed by the defendant and not just their flight risk. "He tried to run over his girlfriend with his car — that's attempted murder," Duchow said. "If you're a danger to society, you should have to work hard to get out." **DW**

WON BY JUST ONE VOTE

Sweden picks its first female prime minister

STOCKHOLM: Magdalena Andersson, 54, became the first female prime minister of Sweden on Wednesday following a parliamentary vote putting her in the top job.

The result on Wednesday was as tight as it could have been, with the leader of a future minority government clearing the winning post by just one vote.

Andersson previously served as finance minister and took over as leader of the Social Democrats earlier this month. Late Tuesday, she secured an agreement with the Left Party to increase pensions in exchange for the party's support in Wednesday's vote in parliament.

Andersson told public broadcaster SVT on Tuesday the deal would "strengthen the finances of the poorest pensioners."

— DW

DROUGHT

UN says 2.6mn affected by severe drought in Somalia

MOGADISHU: About 2.6 million people, or nearly 22 per cent of the population, in 66 out of 74 districts across Somalia are affected by worsening drought, the United Nations humanitarian agency said on Wednesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said nearly 113,000 people are displaced by drought across Somalia. "The lack of access to safe and potable water coupled with poor hygiene and sanitation facilities have heightened the overall risk of water-borne diseases, with an increase in suspected cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and measles," UNOCHA said in its latest update on the drought situation.

Somalia is experiencing a worsening drought following three consecutive failed rainy seasons, and is at risk of a fourth one in a row in 2021, according to the UN.

The Somali government on Tuesday declared a state of emergency over the severe drought situation in the country.

The UN projects that 7.7 million people in Somalia will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022 due to conflict in various parts of the country, recurrent climatic shocks, particularly drought and floods, disease outbreaks including COVID-19, and worsening poverty

Prime Minister Mohamed Roble, who made the announcement after chairing a cabinet meeting in Mogadishu, appealed for urgent humanitarian assistance for people affected by the severe drought in some parts of the country.

Both the government and humanitarian partners are scaling up responses and reprogramming activities to address critical emerging needs, but their efforts are constrained by funding and access concerns in some of the affected areas.

The UN has warned that some 3.5 million Somalis already face acute food insecurity and that

without urgent and scaled-up support, the situation will likely deteriorate further.

It said food insecurity and acute humanitarian needs have been reported across all sectors, with more than 5.9 million people currently in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.

The UN projects that 7.7 million people in Somalia will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022 due to conflict in various parts of the country, recurrent climatic shocks, particularly drought and floods, disease outbreaks including COVID-19, and worsening poverty. **ANI**

BORDER REOPENING

New Zealand to gradually open border from January 2022

WELLINGTON: Fully vaccinated New Zealanders will find it easier to come home from January 2022, with foreign nationals to follow from April onwards, as the government removes the requirement for managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) for most travellers, COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins said on Wednesday.

Fully vaccinated Kiwis and other eligible travellers can travel to New Zealand from Australia without staying in MIQ from 11:59 p.m. local time on January 16, 2022, according to a plan announced by Hipkins at a press conference. Fully vaccinated Kiwis and other eligible travellers can travel to New Zealand from all other countries from 11:59 p.m. local time on February 13, 2022, Hipkins said, adding all fully vaccinated individuals will be able to travel to New Zealand from April 30, 2022, onwards, with the reopening staged over time.

"Closing our border was one of the first steps we took to keep our country safe from COVID-19 and



it'll be the last thing we open up, following our transition into the traffic light protection framework system and lifting of the Auckland boundary," he said.

The MIQ policy is replaced by a mandatory seven-day self-isolation, he added.

All travellers not required to go into MIQ will still require a negative pre-departure test, proof of being fully vaccinated, a passenger declaration about travel history, a day 0/1 test on arrival, a requirement to self-isolate for seven days, and a final negative test before entering the

community, according to the government's reconnecting strategy.

"It's very encouraging that as a country we are now in a position to move towards greater normality," Hipkins said, adding the strategy will continue to be reviewed against the risk posed by travellers entering New Zealand.

"The border is our biggest risk for new cases," Hipkins said, adding the current outbreak which now has more than 7,000 cases associated with it, stems from a single traveller travelling from Australia to New Zealand. **ANI**



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Ronaldo leads Man United to Champions League last 16

There weren't many opportunities in the first half of this game, apart from wasted free-kicks from Ronaldo and Dani Parejo

MADRID: Manchester United may have several problems, but they will be in the knockouts of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, thanks to a 2-0 victory away at Villarreal. Late goals from Cristiano Ronaldo and Jadon Sancho ensured Michael Carrick earned a win in his first game as interim coach.

There weren't many opportunities in the first half of this game, apart from wasted free-kicks from Ronaldo and Dani Parejo.



Into the second half, David de Gea made a tremendous save from Manu Trigueros, while Arnaut Danjuma fired a shot over as well.

But, Manchester United finished strong and were the better side in the final 20 minutes, with Sancho giving Villarreal goal-

keeper Geronimo Rulli some work to do.

Rulli then tried to play a ball out from the back, but good work from Fred provoked a loose ball and Ronaldo was right there, able to chip the Argentine goalkeeper for the opening goal in the 78th minute.

After Marcus Rashford drew another Rulli save, the Villarreal goalkeeper then couldn't do anything about a 90th minute Sancho blast into the top corner.

Fred did well to win the ball back again, allowing Manchester United to seal the three points on the counter. **-ONA**



Barcelona on thin ice after Benfica draw

BARCELONA: Barcelona's hopes of advancing from Group E of the 2021/22 Champions League are on thin ice after a 0-0 draw with Benfica at the Camp Nou.

While the Catalans are still second place in the group and two points ahead of the Portuguese club, Barcelona must now travel to Munich to face nemesis Bayern on the final matchday, while Benfica will take on Dynamo Kyiv.

Xavi went with a starting XI that saw Yusuf Demir start up top in attack, while Clement Lenglet was given the nod at centre-back with Gerard Pique.

Barcelona started strong and had a trio of chances in the first half hour, including efforts from both Demir and Jordi Alba that were saved by Odisseas.

Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen also had to be on his toes to deny Roman Yaremchuk later in the half, followed by

a stinging effort from Demir that rang off the crossbar.

The rain only got heavier as play drifted into the second half, in which Memphis Depay had the first opportunity of the second stanza to break the deadlock, but was cut off by Benfica defender Nicolas Otamendi.

Ousmane Dembele was brought on for Demir to spark the attack midway through the second half and nearly crafted a goal with a cross that floated to Frenkie de Jong, who spun a header that was tipped over the crossbar by Odisseas. Moments after a Ronald Araujo volley was annulled due to offside, Sergino Dest and Eric Garcia were brought on for Lenglet and Araujo, as Barcelona made one final push for a goal.

A Dembele effort had to be cleared off the goal line, while a stoppage time Gerard Pique header sailed wide. **-ONA**

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

All eyes on Rahane, Pujara as India look to avenge WTC defeat

KANPUR: When the two-match series against New Zealand starts, hosts India would look to avenge the defeat of the World Test Championship (WTC) final, however, the task would not be easy as the upbeat Kiwis will come out all guns blazing at the Green Park Stadium in the opening game, starting Thursday.

India is expected to enter the contest with confidence having beaten New Zealand 3-0 in the recently-concluded T20I series, but an injury to KL Rahul has now meant that the team will be without the services of three top-class batsmen in Rahul, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Kohli and Rohit have been rested with an eye on their workload in recent times. In the first Test, Ajinkya Rahane will be leading the



side in Kohli's absence and with Rahul now missing, it will be all about Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara rising to the challenge in the middle-order.

India has also given rest to the likes of Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, and it needs to be seen what combination head coach Rahul Dravid

feels comfortable with. The spin department is well taken care of as Axar Patel, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Ravindra Jadeja are all available for selection.

Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav are expected to be the first choice pacers, looking at the experience they have and Kanpur wicket is also expected to offer some reverse swing as the game progresses on.

When it comes to the batting scheme of things, Mayank Agarwal is set to have Shubman Gill at the top. This series will be extremely important for Rahane and Pujara looking at how eyeballs have been on their performances in the past.

Coming to New Zealand, Kane Williamson will mark a return in the Test series, having taken a break from the T20Is. Pacer Trent Boult would not be available for selection, but the pace bowling department is taken care of with Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee, and Neil Wagner.

One needs to see how spinners Ajaz Patel, Rachin Ravindra, and Mitchell Santner perform in the series as the heavy workload will fall on their shoulders looking at how Indian pitches deteriorate as the Test progresses.

Squads: India: Ajinkya Rahane (capt), Suryakumar Yadav, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Wriddhiman Saha, KS Bharat, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Md. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (capt), Tom Blundell, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Will Somerville, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, Will Young. **-ANI**



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by January 2022 reaching \$81.93, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$3.07 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$78.86. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,106.62 points, up 1.37 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.65 per cent at 546.67 points. Oman United Insurance was the top gainer, up by 7.10 per cent, while Majan Glass, down 9.50 per cent, was the top loser.

Muriya launches Phase II of beachfront project

During an exclusive launch event, guests were given a glimpse into the new neighbourhood, which presents the epitome of luxurious waterfront living

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Following the successful sell-out of Phase 1 of The Beachfront project at Jebel Sifah, Muriya, Oman's largest and most diversified real estate developer, has announced the highly anticipated launch of Phase 2.

During an exclusive launch event, guests were given a glimpse into the new neighbourhood, which presents the epitome of luxurious waterfront living. Potential buyers are able to view the unit of their preference at the first phase, seeing first-hand the unspoiled sea views from every home and graceful, modern architecture that comes with every townhouse and villa. With delivery in two years, family residency for all nationalities and other amazing homeowner benefits, it's the ideal way to experience the dream beach lifestyle amongst Jebel Sifah's thriving multicultural community.

Seif El Khouly, Chief Development Officer of Muriya, said, "The



UNSPOILED SEA VIEWS: Potential buyers are able to view the unit of their preference at the first phase, seeing first-hand the unspoiled sea views from every home and graceful, modern architecture that comes with every townhouse and villa. - **Supplied picture**

rapid sell-out and the ongoing delivery of Phase 1 of The Beachfront project underscore the confidence our clients' place in our destination and the success of the development. The Beachfront properties have been designed and constructed with luxury and passion in mind, keeping true to Jebel Sifah's low-density approach, and maintaining the highest standards of development."

The latest addition to Muriya's growing portfolio of resort-style developments, The Beachfront offers a range of beautiful homes layered upwards from the beach with unobstructed sea views, protected by the Al-Hajar mountains, and surrounded by nature. From

one-bedroom twin villas, two- and three-bedroom stand-alone villas, to spacious townhouses and one-bedroom simplexes, each property boasts unique architecture, panoramic sea views, and plenty of room to breathe. Villas also feature a generous garden, private pool, spacious rooftop terraces, making them both a private home and lavish entertainment space.

Alongside all the benefits of owning a property at The Beachfront in Jebel Sifah, homeowners will gain access to a range of community amenities including a kids' area, beach promenade and infinity pool. Whether relaxing by the poolside in the sun, making the most of family time on the colourful playground, or

enjoying a sunset stroll, there's time to appreciate and reconnect with the natural world. Meanwhile, at their doorstep, they are connected to modern-day living at Jebel Sifah marina, with an abundance of indoor and outdoor activities to enjoy.

Located a 40-minute drive from Muscat, Jebel Sifah is nestled between the towering peaks of the Al Hajar Mountains and the tranquil crystal waters of the Arabian Sea. With a Harradine designed golf course, a modern marina with superyacht berthing, boutique hotel, restaurants and an incredible choice of freehold residential properties, Jebel Sifah offers all the elements of leading healthy and rewarding lives.

STRATEGIC RESERVES

Oil mixed, investors sceptical about effectiveness of joint reserve release

TOKYO: Oil prices largely held gains Wednesday, with investors sceptical about the effectiveness of a US-led coordinated release of stocks from strategic reserves and turning their focus to the next step by oil producers.

Brent crude futures slid 7 cents, or 0.1 per cent, to \$82.24 a barrel by 04:32 GMT, having risen 3.3 per cent on Tuesday.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose 10 cents, or 0.1 per cent, to \$78.60 a barrel, following a 2.3 per cent gain in the previous day.

"Investors were disappointed by the small size of the joint oil release by the United States and other countries," said Satoru Yoshida, a commodity analyst with Rakuten Securities.

"Also, the coordinated efforts by oil-consuming countries raised fears that OPEC+ may slow their output increase pace," he said, adding that the market's attention is now turned toward the next OPEC+ producer group meeting on December 2.

The United States said on Tuesday it would release millions of barrels of oil from strategic reserves in coordination with China, India, South Korea, Japan and Britain, to try to cool prices after OPEC+ producers repeatedly ignored calls for more crude.

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Wednesday his government would release some oil reserves, without giving details. The Nikkei newspaper reported Japan will hold auctions for about 4.2 million barrels of oil out of its national stockpile by the end of this year.

Analysts said the effect on prices of the coordinated release was likely to be short-lived after

years of declining investment and a strong global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The coordinated release may add about 70 million to 80 million barrels of crude supply, smaller than the more-than-100 million barrels the market has been pricing in, analysts at Goldman Sachs said.

"The threat of more supply in the short term certainly creates an artificially looser oil market for the next 1-2 month period," Louise Dickson, senior oil markets analyst at Rystad Energy, said in a report, according to Reuters.

"However, the move by (US President Joe) Biden and other leaders may just be pushing the supply issue down the timeline, as emptying out storage will put even further strain on already low oil stockpiles," he added.

All eyes are on how the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Russia and their allies, together called OPEC+, will react to the joint reserve release when they meet on December 2 to discuss policy.

The United Arab Emirates energy minister said on Tuesday he saw no logic in the Gulf OPEC producer supplying more oil to global markets when all indicators pointed to a supply surplus in the first quarter of next year.

Meanwhile, US crude and gasoline stocks rose last week while distillate inventories fell, according to market sources citing American Petroleum Institute figures on Tuesday.

Crude stocks rose by 2.3 million barrels for the week ended November 19, against an analyst expectation of a decline of about 500,000 barrels. - **BNA**

INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

'Indian economy has returned to high growth path'

KOLKATA: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Wednesday highlighted that the Indian economy has returned to the high growth path and India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by over 20 per cent in the first quarter of 2021-22.

Growth trajectory

The Foreign Secretary said this in his address at the Annual Session of the Indian Chamber of Commerce held in Kolkata titled 'Bharat@75: Empowering India: Today for Tomorrow'. Shringla emphasised India's economic growth trajectory despite challenging times.

"That India would have a role in world affairs would have been little more than an aspiration at the



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla - **ANI**

time this Chamber was founded. India was still a subject nation and independence, a distant dream. Independence, the trauma of Partition, and the struggles of emerging

nationhood were in the future," the Foreign Secretary said

Trauma of Partition

"That India would have a role in world affairs would have been little more than an aspiration at the time this Chamber was founded. India was still a subject nation and independence, a distant dream. Independence, the trauma of Partition, and the struggles of emerging nationhood were in the future," he added.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised that the post-pandemic economy that will differ significantly from the present one.

"These economic shifts are taking place in the midst of what has been described as "rebalancing." Very high growth rates in Asian

countries, including India, have moved the centre of economic gravity of the world towards Asia," the foreign secretary said.

Geopolitical consequences

"This has geopolitical and geo-economic consequences. The Indo-Pacific region, which extends from the shores of America to the east coast of Africa, and includes the Indian Ocean region, is now a major focus of global attention. It generates almost 60 % of the world's economic output. It also contributes 70 per cent of global economic growth."

The Foreign Secretary also highlighted India's expanding role in the Indo-Pacific including its role as a net security provider in the region. - **ANI**



DISAPPOINTMENT: Investors were disappointed by the small size of the joint oil release by the United States and other countries, said Satoru Yoshida, a commodity analyst with Rakuten Securities. - **BNA**

ONLINE SHOPPERS

Asyad Express offers 15% discount on Matjar's Black Friday shipping

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman United Insurance was the top gainer, up by 7.10 per cent, while Majan Glass, down 9.50 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,106.62 points, up 1.37 per cent from the previous close. The Shar-ia Index ended up by 0.65 per cent at 546.67 points. Oman United Insurance was the top gainer, up by 7.10 per cent, while Majan Glass, down 9.50 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,058 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.0million, with more than 28 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 22 advanced, 8 declined and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, Domestic investors were net buyers for OMR154,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR131,000 followed by GCC

& Arab investors for OMR23,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,521.56 points, up 1.56 per cent. Oman United Insurance, Sohar International Bank, Bank Nizwa, Muscat Finance and Global Investment Holding were up 7.10 per cent, 5.66 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 3.64 per cent and 3.23 per cent respectively. Al Madina Investment and Oman Arab Bank were down 5.00 per cent and 3.01 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,089.37 points, up 0.08 per cent. Services Index was up by 0.23 per cent before closing at 1,627.83 points. Phoenix Power, OIFC, Al Jazeera Services and Oman National Engineering were up 2.08 per cent, 1.43 per cent, 1.23 per cent and 1.09 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RU)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	17,500	5,800	3	0.330	0.340	0.330	0.332	0.310	0.022	7.097	0.330	0.312	0.330	0.100	33,200,000
OM000000398	SOHAR INT. BANK	6,996,500	740,011	122	0.109	0.114	0.109	0.112	0.106	0.006	5.660	0.111	0.111	0.112	0.100	334,886,976
OM000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	19,000	1,083	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.046	0.002	2.936	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.100	17,607,241
OM000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	130,000	15,690	5	0.119	0.121	0.119	0.121	0.118	0.003	2.542	0.121	0.114	0.120	0.100	35,324,156
OM000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	18,753	1,622	3	0.086	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.381	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.100	7,740,000
OM000001772	AL ANWAR INVESTMENT	448,310	42,701	25	0.094	0.096	0.094	0.095	0.093	0.002	2.151	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	19,000,000
OM000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	8,059,288	1,145,483	270	0.141	0.144	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.002	1.429	0.141	0.141	0.145	0.100	33,654,000
OM000002226	ALAZEEHA SERVICES	68,106	22,451	7	0.328	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.326	0.004	1.227	0.330	0.322	0.350	0.100	20,197,410
OM000002796	BANKE MUSCAT	548,050	277,005	40	0.500	0.506	0.500	0.506	0.500	0.006	1.200	0.504	0.504	0.506	0.100	18,908,884,245
OM000001160	NATIONAL GAS	13,000	1,690	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.100	11,050,000
OM000001333	OMINVEST	2,000	624	1	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.312	0.308	0.312	0.100	252,024,967
OM000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	16,790	6,548	3	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.380	0.390	0.100	85,800,000
OM000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	63,868	23,012	10	0.360	0.362	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.362	0.360	0.362	0.100	44,963,286
OM000002200	AHLI BANK	451,589	50,126	9	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	216,411,979
OM000002800	AI MAHA MARKTING	3,000	2,016	1	0.672	0.672	0.672	0.680	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.672	0.672	0.000	0.100	46,930,000
OM000003026	OMAN TELECOM	402,867	295,783	34	0.732	0.736	0.732	0.736	0.736	0.000	0.000	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.100	552,000,000
OM000003988	OOREDOO	498,000	170,260	30	0.360	0.360	0.358	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.358	0.358	0.358	0.100	234,339,923
OM000004620	VISION INSURANCE	1,060,000	100,428	34	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	9,300,000
OM000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	640,500	284,622	43	0.446	0.446	0.442	0.444	0.446	-0.002	-0.448	0.444	0.440	0.448	0.100	104,966,040
OM000000148	RATSUT CEMENT	12,000	2,880	2	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.244	-0.004	-1.639	0.240	0.240	0.250	0.100	14,900,000
Total		19,090,121	3,198,835	643												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	248,035	34,977	39	0.135	0.143	0.135	0.140	0.133	0.007	5.263	0.143	0.141	0.143	0.100	4,700,003
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	5,109,977	513,159	164	0.098	0.102	0.098	0.100	0.096	0.004	4.167	0.100	0.100	0.105	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	151,000	9,617	9	0.063	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.062	0.002	3.226	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	12,800,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	7,000	511	1	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.071	0.002	2.817	0.073	0.072	0.077	0.100	18,512,070
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	619,290	46,922	31	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.074	0.002	2.703	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100	15,426,970
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	55,200	5,134	4	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.002	2.198	0.093	0.092	0.095	0.100	186,029,089
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	296,588	14,831	12	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	2.083	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.100	16,607,472
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	51,000	2,733	5	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.053	0.053	0.057	0.100	18,853,286
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	199,409	13,752	22	0.068	0.071	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.069	0.073	0.100	8,409,375
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENGL.	407,548	37,839	25	0.094	0.094	0.092	0.095	0.092	0.001	1.187	0.094	0.094	0.096	0.100	12,060,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	150,880	14,235	14	0.095	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS.	9,493	1,139	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.001	0.840	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.100	12,396,199
OM0000001095	DHOFAIR INSURANCE	10,000	1,950	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.194	0.194	0.001	0.315	0.195	0.000	0.122	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASSES	4,000	652	1	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.163	0.165	0.100	4,890,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	2,500	4,250	1	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.750	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.700	1.700	0.000	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	495	95	1	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.194	0.194	0.000	0.000	0.192	0.192	0.194	0.100	315,435,563
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAIR	319,498	42,592	10	0.135	0.135	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.131	0.135	0.100	398,514,741
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	5,000	1,025	1	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.227	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.100	27,240,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	500	21	1	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.000	0.042	0.100	6,095,410
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	493,841	25,186	22	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	28,657	2,728	10	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	14,777,288
OM0000007407	DHOFAIR GENERATING	3,020	208	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.100	16,001,280
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	147,000	7,569	6	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.052	-0.001	-1.923	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	36,434,723
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	7,995	1,223	1	0.161	0.161	0.161	0.161	0.166	-0.005	-3.012	0.161	0.162	0.000	0.100	288,775,010
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	84,788	7,313	7	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.090	-0.004	-4.444	0.086	0.086	0.089	0.100	56,309,269
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	128,127	7,287	4	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.060	-0.003	-5.000	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	3,990,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	300,000	13,670	15	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.050	-0.004	-8.000	0.045	0.045	0.055	0.100	9,183,238
OM0000001855	MAJAN GLASS	100,000	16,200	4	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.179	-0.017	-9.497	0.162	0.162	0.164	0.100	6,807,775
Total		8,942,441	826,318	413												

DIGITAL CURRENCY

India announces bill to ban private cryptocurrencies

NEW DELHI: India's Parliament announced late on Tuesday that a government bill likely to ban private cryptocurrencies and create a framework for a central bank-backed digital currency will be put before the lower house in next week's session.

The announcement by a major emerging economy comes after China declared all cryptocurrency transactions illegal in September.

The bill, called Cryptocurrency

and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, "seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India," according to a bulletin of parliament's upcoming business.

It added that the bill would allow "for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses."

The bill would also "create a facilitative framework for [the] creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve

Bank of India (RBI)," it said.

This comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi framed cryptocurrencies — that are highly popular in India and beyond state control — as a domain that needs to be closely policed. He warned they present a risk to young people and could "spoil our youth" if they end up "in the wrong hands."

RBI has previously expressed strong views against the use of private cryptocurrencies. — DW

5G MODEMS

Apple reportedly switching to iPhone modem design in 2023

WASHINGTON: Apple is reportedly planning to partner with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. for the production of its own 5G modems for future iPhones.

According to The Verge, Apple is said to be planning to use TSMC's 4nm process node, which hasn't yet been deployed for any commercial product; the modem is apparently being designed and tested at 5nm before moving to mass production in 2023 at 4nm. Apple's switch to modems of its own design is widely expected to happen in 2023, and TSMC is the natural manufacturing partner.

Qualcomm, which is the dominant player in the industry and produces modem components for the entire iPhone 13 lineup, recently said that it expects to account for just 20 per cent of iPhone modem orders in two years' time. Apple bought Intel's 5G modem division in 2019, foreshadowing the eventual switch. Earlier that year Qualcomm and Apple agreed to end a costly modem technology patent dispute, with Qualcomm receiving more than \$4 billion as part of the settlement. TSMC is the manufacturer of all iPhone A-series processors and M1 systems-on-chip for Mac computers. —ANI

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Electrician with ITI certificate &
minimum 2 years Gulf experience.
VISA AVAILABLE.

PLEASE SEND CV TO:
get@omzest.com

DRIVER

Drivers for Light / SUV personal cars
required. 2-3 years of experience.
Interested candidates can email:
deosil03@gmail.com
or Call/WhatsApp: 92569177

ENGINEER

Test Engineer. B.Tech / Diploma in
Mechanical Engineering degree
holder with experience of minimum
1 year experience in Inspection &
Testing of products. Please send the
CV to hr@safetyoman.com

MEDICAL

Urgently required a **Pharmacist
(Omani National)** for handling regu-
latory affairs along with detailing of
pharmaceutical products to hospitals
& pharmacies in Muscat area.
Contact 93809755 E-mail:
rehim.ak@areenmuscatllc.com

SALES/MARKETING

Looking urgently for a well experi-
enced building material sales man
with computer knowledge.
Contact 92525406

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

JOB WANTED

MANAGER

**MANAGER (Accounts / Finance /
Real Estate /Admin & HR),
MBA (Finance), PG Diploma in HRM,
Bcom, 20yrs experience in Muscat.
Can join immediately.
NOC/RELEASE available.
Please contact: 91245950**

Senior Accountant

Indian male M. Com with PG in computers,
working as Senior Accountant in Oman
with over 12 years with advanced knowledge
in MS Dynamics, ODDO, Tally Erp/Prime
(Tally customising with developer),
looking for suitable position.

Contact on +96871551938

CIVIL ENGINEER

An Indian, Graduate Civil Engineer having 22+ yrs
Exp. in Construction Sector on Buildings, Infrastructure
& Electro-Mechanical Projects with Project Manage-
ment/Contracts Exp. looking for a Middle Management
Position in the Consulting/Contracting Firm. Valid
Engineer Visa & D / L, NOC available/Transferable Visa.

Contact No. 91996650

Mechanical Engineer

**Sudanese mechanical engineering
with 10 years experience,
Firefighting & alarm system,
Seeking a position as
Mechanical engineer.**

**WhatsApp and direct phone call
+968 94044896**

FINANCE

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

GSM: 92334161

Senior Project Manager / Project Director

Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate
Civil Engineer; Master's in Construction Project
Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution
from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims
Management. Experienced in Handling High End
Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from
initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients
or Consultants representative in Oman.

Call / WhatsApp +971543499629

SALES/MARKETING

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

Contact 95034204

FINANCE MANAGER

Finance Professional CA/CIMA/
MBA, with 18 years of GCC
experience, open to Immediate
Managerial Vacancies

Contact Number # 78556829

ADMIN/HR

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

Indian male graduate Executive
Secretary with Stenography/Oman
driving license and 20 years experi-
ence in Muscat available with NOC
for immediate joining.
Contact 79256679

Indian HR - Professional (MBA-HR
with 14yr exp) 8yrs oman Exp(HR/
SAP/Admin) with Oman DL& NOC.
Seeking openings in Human Re-
source & Admin jobs.
Contact: +968-78539053
Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

Looking for a Job: **"Office Clerk"
"Encoder"** Filipino Male, age 23 with
2 years relevant experience holding
a Bachelor's Degree, computer liter-
ate with good communication skills
& keen to details.
Email: abelgasjasper@gmail.com
Contact No: 9356 2783

Msc. Chemistry 1 year Exp as Quality
control chemist. Contact 95662771
Email: nijan19077@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7
yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in
HR / Administration & Purchaser
looking for suitable placement.
Contact 97914340.
Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

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

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

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

DRIVER

Looking for driving jobs, 3 year ex-
perience in Oman. Contact 94447012

Driver need job with own car.
Contact 94722609

An experienced Oman heavy duty
driving license holder seeking a job.
Contact 7830 8268

EDUCATION

MA in Clinical Psychology M.Ed in
Learning Disability B.Ed in Special
Education Looking for jobs in schools
as a main stream teacher
Contact: 96646771

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian, 18 yrs experience in driving,
sales, stores, aluminium fabricator
holding Omani D/L. # 99743709

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant seeking suitable place-
ment Experience 15 years in Oman
with Oman D/L. Contact 98895039

Accountant B.Com With 10+years
of Experience in Accounts/Stores in
Oman.Oman D/L available.
Contact:93483691
Email: mohamed.ali581@gmail.com

Part time Accountant, Vat Account-
ant looking for contract job.
Contact 98803439

Accounts Manager with MBA -
Finance having more than 25 years
working experience in various
countries and in different Industry.
In Oman 13 years, now seeking a well
paid job with Family Status. Contact
91085373

Indian male, 5 years experienced in
GCC,available for instant joining in
Accounts,IT & logistics or any other
suitable post.NOC available.
Contact 79817305
Email: faizal7586@gmail.com

Young Indian male - Seeking a
deserving profile in the Accounting
sector B.COM GRADUATE. (Degree in
Bachelor of Commerce from Madras
University (Polyglot Institute - Mus-
cat, Oman) now available in Muscat
till 28-02-2022. Contact 79925048
Email: abhileo63@gmail.com

ACCA part qualified, Masters and
B.com degree, 7+ yrs experience in
Oman. DL&NOC. Immediate availabil-
ity. Contact 78393180

With more than 13 years experience
in different financial sectors. Good
working knowledge in ERP softwares
& advanced excel. Can do audit and
consultancy work. Contact 92010947.
Email: vimal9kannoth@gmail.com

ACCA affiliate with 2 years experi-
ence. Currently in Muscat, having
NOC and D/L. Contact 96595067.
Email: farleymartyres19@gmail.com

28yr old male Accountant currently
in Oman with 4 yrs work experience
looking for job related to Accounting/
Finance. Contact 94038082

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

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

LOGISTIC

Indian male, MBA in International
Business, PG diploma in shipping
and logistics and BBA in travel
and tourism. 1 year experience in
logistics well known about logistics
documentation. Good in MS Excel,
word. Looking for a job in Logistics
coordinator, HR, Administration.
Contact 93887916,
Email: Mufidrahiman@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman.
11yrs 8months of experience. 6yrs of
Oman experience. Looking for a suit-
able placement.
Contact +968 9919 2490,
Whatsapp +91 8075337320
E-mail: tonymxx@gmail.com

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman.
11yrs 8months of experience. 6yrs of
Oman experience. Looking for a suit-
able placement.
Contact +968 9919 2490,
Whatsapp +91 8075337320
E-mail: tonymxx@gmail.com

Pakistani Male, 7 yrs Experience in
MEP AutoCAD draughtsman looking
suitable job position.Currently in
Oman. Contact 79711912, 98994156

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

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

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

MANAGER

Social Media Editor & Manager,
Indian male with 3 yrs experience
in every media platform with SEO
proficiency for channel growth. also
affiliated with the cryptoverse. Cur-
rently in Oman looking for a suitable
job and visa. Contact 94786582
Email: abdurahil310@gmail.com

Indian male graduate with D/L, have
15 years experience in Oman seeks
mid-management job in Sales, Mar-
keting, procurement, admin.
Contact 95454929

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

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

MEDICAL

Sudanese medical representative 3
yrs exp in Oman Market. # 93513927

PURCHASE

Indian male, 17 yrs exp in commer-
cial/Warehouse/inventory & procure-
ment field seeks suitable position.
Having D/L. Contact 98531104

Procurement engineer with five
years Oxy experience looking for
new opportunity.
Kindly contact +968 7827 7656.
hushbilhumsath@gmail.com

Indian male, 17 yrs exp in commer-
cial/Warehouse/inventory & procure-
ment field seeks suitable position.
Having D/L. Contact 98531104

Indian male (37), B.com 11+years of
purchase & procurement experience
in Oman with valid D/L & NOC looking
for a suitable position.
Contact 94038075

PROJECT ENGINEER

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

Contact 91731694

FINANCE

Indian Male(31), MBA-Finance, 7 years
experience as Sales Procurement Specialist,
specialized in electrical & lighting for residential
and commercial projects, Seeking suitable
position. D/L available.

**Email: qaisebukhari@gmail.com
Contact: 94560161**

SALES / BDM / ADMIN

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

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

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

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

Contact # 94953826 / 92824146

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

B.Tech Mech Engineer, 3 Month Exp
in India seeks suitable job.
Contact +968-92805874
Email: parasatan@gmail.com

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian Male (26)
5 years of GCC construction experi-
ence in an A grade firm with D/L.
NOC available, Immediate joining.
Contact +968 94781810

Project Manager, Construction
Manager Indian male BE civil 25
years experience in Buildings and
infrastructures handled Ministry &
private projects in Oman looking for
job DL available. Contact 79718146

Diploma in Civil Engg Looking
for a suitable job 4 yrs of Indian
experience good knowledge in Site
Engg,AutoCAD,Revit Arch & MS
office.Currently in Oman. Contact
95582716

Electrical eng 10 years experience in
O&M and projects , PMP, D/L looking
for job , Gsm 71543379

Approved DCRP Protection Engineer
level 4, BSc, Electrical Engineer,
seeks a full time job.
Contact 96670117

Experience civil engineer in Project
Management With 20 plus years of
experience in construction, served
as Project Manager for 4 yrs in Oman
available for immediate hiring. NOC
available. Contact +968 9284 4214.

Civil Engineer with overall 8 years
experience (6.5 years oman exp) is
looking for an job. Currently in Oman.
Contact 94274374

BE Mech Eng, 1 year Exp as CNC
operator. Contact 95662773
Email: ajith.m9642@gmail.com

ENGINEER (IT)

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

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. 10 Years of Business Development Manager Experience for
Medium to Large scale EPC Main Construction Companies.
2. Upto date Construction Market Intelligence.
3. Large Network in Private and Government Clientele in
Civil, Industrial, Infrastructure, O&G and Solar.
4. Very Good relationship with Major to Small Local and
International Engineering Consultants.
5. MBA (Int. Marketing) with Omani DL with NOC.

+968 79645179, bdomanconstruction@gmail.com

Electrical Engineer having 4 years
experience in oman with tanweer
looking for job in field of electricity
network maintenance, MEP, or pro-
ject's have D/L. Contact 98005485,
Whatsapp 78045691

Computer Science Engineering
graduate with knowledge in Java
and Django, currently on family visa,
seeking suitable placement. Contact
93357544

Diploma,Electrical Engineer,Indian
Male, 17 yrs of Oman Exp in 33/11KV/
LV Substation & OHL projects &
maintenance experience with NOC
& D/L. Contact 98049057

B.E civil engineer having 12 yrs
Oman Experience looking for sub
contracting jobs like plastering and
all. Contact 79813309

Civil Diploma Engineer, Indian
12+years experience (Building,
Roads & Dam) with D/L, Available
in Oman till 20th Nov. Seeking
Placement. 99107906, 97882917,
+91-9747519961

Project Engineer (HVAC) Mechani-
cal engineer graduate, Indian male,
having 3 years of experience in MEP
projects. Seeks suitable placement.
Currently in Muscat. # 78347383
Email: tomvarghese1911@gmail.com

Petroleum Engineer, MSc Mechani-
cal Engineering: Renewable Energy,
Seven Years O&G Experience.
Contact 79006704

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

HR / Finance

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

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

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JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

Indian Male having 20+ years' ex-
perience in UAE seek suitable jobs
in Sales & Management preferably
in pharmaceutical industries. GCC
Driving License available.
Contact 94289301, 95217432

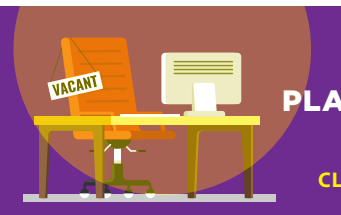
Pakistani Male (5 years experience).
M.Phil, Marketing and Sales Expert
in the oil & energy industry. Skilled
in Lectureship, Research, Business
Administration. Contact 91102995
fahadikram96@hotmail.com

Indian holding MBA with 7 years of
experience in Sales and Marketing
in Oman with valid D/L. Looking for
suitable job opportunity.
Contact +968 7902 4220

Indian male, BBA, 26 years, having
3 and half year experience in Sales
and Marketing, D/L, looking for suit-
able placement. Contact 96550844
Email: arshaqrajan000@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA, BCOM having
7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience
in HR / Administration & Purchaser
looking for suitable placement.
Contact 97914340.
Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

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



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Times of Oman

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PRICE BAIZAS 200



Photographs — Mohammed Mustafa

The Nation celebrates

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos speaks to the nation and fireworks light the night sky over Muscat—two scenes from the 12th National Day celebrations held throughout the Sultanate last week. Full reports and many photographs of the colourful ceremonies are given inside this week's issue.

Middle East: latest

Lloyds of London say that it is now known that an Indian bulk carrier as well as two Iranian vessels were badly damaged during an Iraqi rocket attack at the weekend on the Iranian port of Bushire, south of the Kharg Island oil terminal.

A number of crewmen are said to have been injured aboard the Indian ship.

Lloyds said that an Iranian oil tanker, the 69,360 dwt Shirvan, and a hotel ship, the 45,933 gross ton Raffaello, had been damaged.

On Sunday, the Iraqis said they destroyed five oil tankers near Iran's main oil terminal of Kharg.

ROYAL DECREE

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos issued a Royal Decree on Tuesday evening appointing Ambassador Mohammed Hassan Ali the Sultanate's Ambassador to France non resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Portugal.

Four in family die

Four people died and several were injured in an accident on the Quryat road on Friday.

A Buick car and a bus were in collision at a corner at Mandhria.

The car driver, Abdalla Ali Salem, his two daughters and his niece were killed and other members of the family and some bus passengers were taken to

Khoula Hospital.

Mr Salem's wife and another daughter were reported to be in a serious condition.

The family were on their way to National Day when the tragedy occurred.

Witnesses said railings at the side of the road prevented the bus plunging into a valley.

All new construction companies, commercial and light industrial establishments seeking to recruit expatriate workers must now fulfil stringent preconditions.

This is the result of two administrative decisions announced earlier this year. The first (4/82) deals with recruitment of workers in the construction field and was issued on July 7.

The second administrative decision (8/82) concerning commercial and light industrial establishments went into effect from October 5.



Mr. H.H.M. Mazar

year. Most of the labour disputes such as non-payment of salaries due to lack of funds, came from construction companies, he said.

Plans

According to the administrative decision 4/82, construction companies should first see that accommodation for workers is complete with all amenities.

The contract for the construction together with complete plans should be submitted to the labour

department before applying for labour clearance.

A three-month deposit should be kept in a bank by the sponsor. The deposit amount varies for the five grades. The bank will issue a certificate saying that the deposit has been kept at the bank for at least three months and guarantees it for a further three months.

The deposits for various grades are as follows: Fourth Grade RO 20,000; Third Grade RO 50,000; Second Grade RO 100,000; First Grade 150,000; and Excellent Grade contractors over RO 150,000.

Regarding commercial and light industrial establishments wishing to recruit foreign labour, it is necessary that the premises should be complete in every respect. They should also have a signed municipality rent agreement.

They should also keep a deposit of RO 5,000 with a bank for a period of three months, and see that accommodation for the expatriate workers is complete.

An inspector from the labour department will check the premises and submit a report. Only if the report is positive will a clearance be given to employ, at first, the minimum number of workers required.

by Fermin D'Souza

It had been found that many construction workers were not working under their own sponsors. Mr Hamed Hamid Mulla Mazar, Deputy Director of Labour for the Capital Area, told the Times of Oman this week.

As a result, no new construction companies were allowed from January 1, 1980 until July 7 this

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FEATURE



SAILING ARABIA – THE TOUR 2021 RETURNS THIS WEEK FOR 11TH EDITION WITH A STRONG MULTI-NATIONAL FLEET

MUSCAT: The 11th edition of Sailing Arabia – The Tour, Oman's premier offshore race, returns this week with teams representing Oman and Europe racing at four venues along the nation's coastline in a combination of coastal raids and in-port races. Organised by Oman Sail, Sailing Arabia – The Tour has become a favourite for Omani sailors to gain vital experience and teams from colder climates to test themselves in warm conditions as the season comes to a close.

Beginning on 24 November 2021 at Barceló Mussanah Resort, the route heads south to Sur then returns north to Marina Bandar Al Rowdha and then Muscat for the final leg. Each team poses a different challenge and the teams will have to contend with shifting sea breezes and a mix of short sprints and longer races to become the 2021 champion.

This year's fleet features six teams representing five countries. The crews of Oman Investment Authority and Oman Sail will proudly fly the Omani flag, while a mixed all-Omani crew sailing on board DB Schenker will race under the German flag on behalf of the Tour's official logistics partner. The mixed Omani-Spanish crew of Barceló Mussanah Resort, host venue for the opening

ceremony and first two races, will represent a joint team representing Oman and Spain, an all-Italian crew from Nastro Rosa will represent Italy and a mixed crew representing Team France will race under the French flag.

Saleh Al Jabri, Project Manager and Acting Head of Sailing Events & Commercial at Oman Sail, said, "Sailing Arabia – The Tour is one of the most beloved events in Oman's sailing calendar. For more than a decade we have welcomed some of the best teams to our waters to take on Omani sailors, share their diverse experience and learn from each other. This year's fleet is incredibly strong with both male and female sailors, competing together under a variety of flags. We're delighted to host The Tour once again this year and look forward to ten days of great sailing as we showcase the beauty of Oman's coastline and world class facilities at each venue."

The opening ceremony takes place at Barceló Mussanah Resort on 23 November, with the first coastal raid and in-port race at the same venue the following day. The second leg takes place in Sur, a city synonymous with boatbuilding and sailing, on 27 November, the third on 1 December at Marina Bandar Al Rowdha, and the final races will be held at Al Mouj

Muscat on 3 December with the prizegiving and closing ceremonies on 5 December.

Dermot Birchall, General Manager of Barceló Mussanah Resort says, "We are proud to be partnering with Oman Sail for this year's sailing tour, and take pride in promoting the rekindling of the Sultanate's maritime eminence as the premier international sailing destination in the region. The event will showcase the impressive wonders and cultural heritage of Oman and we as Barceló Hotel Group are honored to be a part of such an exemplary display of comradery, sailing sportsmanship and the breathtaking treasures of Oman."

Since its first edition in 2011, Sailing Arabia – The Tour has grown in stature to become the region's annual premier offshore race and a favourite winter destination for sailors around the globe. The 2018 event marked another milestone, with the introduction of DIAM24 as the official class, offering the race crews an exceptional experience.

Sailing Arabia – The Tour 2021 will be run in full adherence to the government of Oman's latest COVID-19 safety protocols. More information about the event and instructions on how to register are available on the official website <https://sailingarabiathefour.com>.



HIGHLY-PROFESSIONAL EVENT

100 days to go for the 2022 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships in Oman

MUSCAT: There are just 100 days to go until the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Muscat 22 and to ensure preparations are in place, the Local Organising Committee (Oman Athletics Association, Oman Sail and Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre) recently hosted a delegation from World Athletics to finalise all technical and logistical elements.

To mark the milestone in the countdown, the organising committee has unveiled the exclusive brand identity for the event which features iconic Muscat landmarks the Al Alam Palace, the Riyam Park monument and the Al Sahwa Clock Tower above a traditional Omani tile pattern motif, all set within the frame of the World Athletics symbol used for all World Athletics Series events.

Sheikh Salim Al Amri, President of the Oman Athletics Association, said, "Plans for the event are progressing rapidly. We have held work sessions together to narrow down the details and deliver a highly-professional, well-coordinated event for athletes, coaches and international media. This is a unique opportunity for Oman to enhance athletics within the country and establish ourselves as a viable host nation for future events and we are determined to make sure the 2022 Race Walking Team Championships live long in the memory."



Racing will centre around the pristine landscaped gardens of the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre in the heart of Muscat from 1 March to 6 March 2022. The venue offers a variety of elevations to challenge the racers and a viewing platform will be set up within the Spectators Village to offer a perfect vantage point for the live audience.

Eng. Said Al Shanfari, CEO of Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC), said, "This is a great achievement for Oman and we are incredibly proud to host the 2022 Race Walking Team Championships. OCEC has designed a challenging and inspiring course which will test the com-

petitors while showcasing the beauty of our location to the live audience. To take such a leading role in Oman's sporting evolution is a responsibility we are delighted to have, and hopefully this will be the first of many World Athletics events to visit our nation."

The week of racing in Muscat will be a celebration of athletics with a 1KM and 2KM Kids' Run and Park Run Festival event either side of the main competition with a health and fitness exhibition on site to inspire local athletes and visitors to become more active.

Participating squads for the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Muscat 22 will be chosen by national athlet-



Sheikh Salim Al Amri OAA President

ics federations. The Championships will feature a male and female 20KM race, U20 male and female 10KM races and Masters categories, scheduled for Friday 4th March 2022. The following day there will also be a 35KM combined race.

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, "We have had success hosting a wide variety of high-profile sporting events over recent years and this is the next step forward for our development as an attractive venue for major events. Oman has built a strong reputation on its authenticity and hospitality, and the benefits of hosting the 2022 World Race Walking Team Championships



will reach far and wide. Local SMEs will benefit, athletes of all ages can be inspired to realise their ambitions on home soil, and this is the ideal platform to showcase our capabilities to a new global sporting audience."

The World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships Muscat 22 are expected to attract over 1000 inbound visitors, including athletes, coaches, delegates, friends and family, which will provide a significant socio-economic boost for local businesses and suppliers.

Alongside the influx of visitors arriving on chartered flights through Muscat International Airport, training camps will be

established at various resorts in Nizwa to allow the competitors to acclimatise before embarking on the race, adding to occupancy rates of each destination.

This will be the first time the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships have been held in the Middle East and the first time outside of China that an Asian nation has hosted the event. The championships were originally due to be held in Minsk, Belarus, but the ongoing travel restrictions caused by COVID-19 forced the event to be rescheduled. Oman now has the opportunity to make history and usher in a new era for athletics in the Sultanate.

ROUND-UP

Renault Dokker combines best features of space and comfort

Created to be exceedingly functional, Renault Dokker is a harmonious and dynamic utility vehicle with great design



MUSCAT: A practical commercial vehicle, Renault Dokker combines the best features of space, comfort, and dynamic performance. Its functional utility vehicle and great design has found many fans in Oman. Created to be exceedingly functional Renault Dokker is a harmonious and dynamic utility vehicle with great design. Offering easy loading, quick access to objects, side door, on-board multimedia system, and more Renault Dokker combines the best

features of space, comfort, and dynamic performance. Pragmatic and spacious, functional utility vehicle Renault Dokker has found many fans in Oman. Renault Dokker Van has everything to make owner's work easier. Its 1.6 MPI 85 hp engine is efficient both in consumption and cost of usage. The engine allows for a very dynamic driving at a cost that is amongst the most frugal, 4 x 20 W radio, audio streaming and Bluetooth hands-free calling. A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles said, "Renault Dokker is a very efficient and dynamic vehicle. This is the reason why it loved so much." Abdulla Jabri says, "Renault Dokker Van proficiently rises to the task of meeting his day-to-day needs. Its 750 kg payload is invaluable for a businessman like me." Ghadeer Al Adi likes the easy loading feature of the Dokker Van. He says, "I find it functional

down to form a temporary desk. When fully removed, it frees up extra space, increasing the loading volume to 3.9 m3." Rizwan Abbas says the "best part of Renault Dokker is that it acclimates to all circumstances. Its features including ABS & BA, ESP, TPMS, dual airbags make it a top range car." He also adds, "The 1.6L 85hp Euro 4 engine that powers Dokker shows consumption levels among the lowest in its class, without having to resort to expensive and complex technologies or sacrificing performance." **Driving comfort** Renault offers you a vehicle up to 3.9 m3, equipped as a saloon car, as robust as a utility vehicle and as practical as a Dokker van. Accessibility, loading volume and driving comfort - the Renault Dokker Van is packed with benefits and nice surprises. **Practical storage** Renault Dokker Van has everything to make owner's work easier: cruise control with speed limiter, rear parking sensors, practical storage areas. To enhance efficiency, it provides with the Media Nav multimedia system and its large, 7-inch (18 cm) touchscreen, with navigation, 4 x 20 W radio, audio streaming and Bluetooth hands-free calling. **Practicality and versatility** Available, open and spacious, the Renault Dokker aims to please, with an innate sense of practicality and versatility. It can take all kinds of loads, assisted by XL sliding side doors (more than 70 cm wide) and two asymmetrical rear doors. Meeting the challenges of transport and delivery with ingenuity and panache, the Renault Dokker Van moves with the times: its economical engine, low CO2 emissions and respect for both the environment and budget make it a truly model employee. **Lashing rings** Exceed expectations, Dokker's loading area is equipped with eight lashing rings on the floor, ensuring that your most fragile items are firmly held in place. For added security, owners can choose between three types of partition: tubular, full glazed or pivoting wire-mesh (associated with Easy Seat). The side and rear doors can be either panelled or glazed. And for even greater efficiency, the Dokker Van is available with side panels and a robust, stylish boot carpet.

NEW PROMOTION



Nissan announces special offers on all models

MUSCAT: To deliver the best possible value with amazing offers and value propositions, Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), has launched a special offer on a range of its models as part of a new promotion. The offer includes 3 years/60,000 km periodic maintenance service, free first year insurance, free first year registration and more. The offer, which is available on all models purchased for personal use, will go on till January 9, 2022. A senior official of Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan

Automobiles (SBA) said, "We are delighted to launch the new scheme which gives customers the opportunity to own Nissan vehicles with a host of special benefits. As a customer-centric brand, we are committed to offer exceptional products complemented with innovative after sales initiatives." **Service package** Customers of Nissan models can enjoy free periodic maintenance service package for 3 years/ 60,000 kms except Nissan Civilian. This offer is valid for 10,000 km service intervals.

Free insurance Customers of Nissan models can enjoy free insurance in Oman & UAE for first year for private registration except for models Urvan and Civilian. **Free registration** Nissan patrons can enjoy free registration on Nissan models for the first year except for models Urvan and Civilian. **EMI for models** Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan Micra is OMR 87, Nissan

Sunny 1.5L is OMR 90, Nissan Sunny 1.6L is OMR 106, Nissan Sentra is OMR 125, Nissan Altima is OMR 170, Nissan Maxima is OMR 253, Nissan Kicks is OMR 118, Nissan X-Trail is OMR 183, Nissan X-Terra is OMR 206, Nissan Pathfinder is OMR 243, Nissan Patrol Super Safari is OMR 322, Nissan Patrol is OMR 376, Nissan Navara is OMR 159, Nissan Patrol Pickup is OMR 220, Nissan Urvan is OMR 156 and Nissan Civilian is OMR 271. These EMIs are calculated on basis 20% down payment and 3.25% rate of interest for 6 years loan tenure.

PARTICIPATION

Tanweer participates as gold sponsor for Women and Society Forum 2021 in Duqm

MUSCAT: In appreciation of the role of women and their contribution to community service and development and their participation in all projects to serve the country, the Rural Areas Electricity Company "Tanweer" - a member of Nama Group - participated as a gold sponsor for the Women and Society Forum 2021 in Duqm, Al Wusta Governorate. Under the slogan "Tanmiah Wa Atta'a" (Development and giving back), the Forum was organised on the occasion of the Omani Women's Day by Dar Al Mubadara for Press, Publishing, Advertising and Distribution. The event was in official partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and the exclusive strategic partnership of Tawasul Foundation, under the patronage of Her Highness, Dr Mona bint Fahd Al Said. The Forum aimed to highlight the talents and competencies of members of society and productive families in the Al Wusta Gov-



ernorate. And to create tangible partnerships between all sectors in the governorate. In addition to launching annual initiatives concerned with women and contributing to improving family income, economic and living standards, and stimulating the role of governmental and private institutions in supporting and encouraging programs for women and productive families.

Tanweer is keen to support community initiatives that enhance the cultural, environmental, knowledge and economic aspects of its concession areas in the governorates of the Sultanate and annually celebrate the Omani Women's Day and honour them in appreciation and gratitude for their efforts in serving the company's work system. The Forum coincides with the

Sultanate's Omani Women's Day celebrations, which falls on the 17th of October each year. The Forum included discussion sessions on the role of women in Oman's 2040 vision, ways to empower women, and the legal aspects that enhance their contributions. It also included honouring several community initiatives for women and productive families in Al Wusta Governorate.

RESEARCH MISSION

An unusual sight at Al Wusta Wetlands



MUSCAT: It was an unusual saddening sight when I noticed more than a dozen dead turtles within a stretch of 200 metres, along the Al Wusta wetlands of Oman. I was on my research mission to study the seaweed diversity across the southern governorates of Oman. The obnoxious smell in the wetland caused me to look around for its source. The Al Wusta wetlands that overlook Masirah, the largest island of the country, also serves as a spot for the nesting and feeding of Hawksbill, Loggerhead and Green turtles. It is interesting to note that five out of the seven species of marine turtles in the world are found in Oman. Four of them are nesting turtles namely Green Turtle (Sul Hafah Al Khuthera), Loggerheads (Rimani) and Olive Ridley (Al- Sherfaf) and Hawksbill (Al Zaytoon) and the other one called Leatherback (Al-Niml) which is a visiting turtle. Most of the dead bodies found there were of young turtles, which points to the fact that they were killed due to the pollution of either their food or habitat. This is disheartening and it needs to be seriously considered. Turtles play an important role in maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem. It has added value to Oman as it plays an important role in tourism. The Al Wusta wetlands are one of the biodiversity hotspots in the Sultanate of Oman. This place is noted as the main stopover site for migratory shorebirds during the winter in the Africa-Eurasian Flyway. Its complex ecosystems and unique biodiversity make it one of the most important and rare sites for the study of wetland ecology. This region which has been hidden from the tourist's eye is a relatively pristine coastal area of



global importance. According to the Ramson convention, 35% of the wetlands are lost since 1970 and a quarter of its endemic species risk extinction worldwide. By 2050, one-third of the world population is expected to struggle with excessive concentrations of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in wetlands and all other aquatic ecosystems. Further investigations and necropsies of these dead bodies may be undertaken by the authorities concerned so that they could reveal the exact cause of the death of these turtles. Corrective measures if taken at the right time could prevent further loss of these endangered yet highly significant genetic resources of Oman. Conserving the biodiversity of the land where we live is the responsibility of every person. The writer Dr Jackson Achankunju MSRB (Member, Royal Society of Biology, London) is the Asst. Professor of Biology & Researcher in Biodiversity, AlSharqiyah University, Oman



ROUND-UP

Alizz Islamic Bank conducts special National Day draw for 51 winners

With total prize money of OMR25,500 distributed among 51 Bushra Prize Savings account holders from various branches located across the governorates of the Sultanate whereby, 51 customers won OMR500 each



MUSCAT: As part of the bank's celebrations of the 51st National Day, Alizz Islamic Bank conducted a special draw for holders of the Bushra Prize Savings account. With total prize money of OMR 25,500 distributed among

51 Bushra Prize Savings account holders from various branches located across the governorates of the Sultanate whereby, 51 customers won OMR 500 each. Alizz Islamic Bank organised a number of activities to mark the

glorious occasion of National Day celebrated every year on November 18 and held a draw ceremony at the bank's head office in CBD in a festive ceremony that was held in the presence of Sulaiman Al Harthi, Chief Executive Officer, Alizz Islamic Bank and members of the bank's senior management.

This year the Bushra Prize Savings Account was designed to match changes in expectation and consumer behaviour. Bushra in 2021 is bigger and better, with an increase in the Bushra prizes from 'OMR 1.85 million' to 'OMR 2 million'. It also recorded a significant jump in the number of winners to 3,692 winners.

Alizz Islamic Bank is constantly working to ensure its products and services are structured to suit the expectations and requirements of its clients. In the past few years,

the bank has received a number of requests and suggestions from clients to double the Bushra account prizes. One of the requests was to make dedicated draws for men and women. Providing equal opportunities for both genders Bushra Prizes Savings Account 2021 conducts monthly draws for both female and male customers with one winner from each gender each month and from each branch with each winner winning OMR 500.

The Bank has also introduced a special draw for its Tharwa Customers in June and December where three lucky winners will get 10,000 OMR each.

This is in addition to daily draws of OMR 100 for 10 customers, weekly draws of 500 OMR for 10 customers and monthly draws of OMR25,000 for 3 customers alongside quarterly draws of 50,000

OMR for 3 winners ensuring that everyone has a chance to win.

Winning a large sum of money can be a life-changing event. This year, there will be 2 lucky winners that will experience this life-changing journey with mega draws that will be conducted, where one lucky winner winning OMR 100,000 in the half yearly draw and one winner of OMR 150,000 in the Grand draw that will held in January 2022.

To be eligible for any of these draws, customers need to open a Bushra Prize Savings account with Alizz Bank and maintain a balance of just 100 OMR in their account. The Bushra Prize Savings account is the first Shari'a Complaint Prize Savings account in the Sultanate that is based on the principle of Mudharaba, all the prizes are Hiba from the shareholders' funds.

SME INITIATIVE

Handicrafts House benefits from diversified economic growth at Al Mouj Muscat

MUSCAT: Through Al Mouj Muscat's support of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), hundreds of entrepreneurs are now located at Oman's premier lifestyle destination and benefit from the support that is helping them grow.

Handicrafts House (World of Handicrafts) is one Omani enterprise that has grown considerably since 2018 it began with a kiosk at Al Mouj Muscat. This year it moved to a unit inside the Al Mouj Muscat's Community Hub, a new facility serving 7,000 residents as well as the millions of people who visit every year.

The handicrafts business, which sources and sells traditional Omani items and is passionate about preserving and promoting the nation's heritage, in turn, supports around 800 artisans who live in the Sultanate and craft items by hand.

World of Handicrafts was founded by Zuwaina Sultan Al-Rashdi in 2012 when she saw a gap in the market for well-designed and packaged traditional products for tourists as well as corporate



markets. Now CEO of the company which has four units and a packaging workshop, she was crowned winner of the Best Female Entrepreneur Award for 2015 - 2016 and is a well-respected voice within the Omani business community.

Zuwaina's vision for World of Handicrafts when it first started was to become a platform to showcase Omani products around the globe but she says it has become so much more: "We consider our-

selves a development project and an independent crafters' forum rather than a business selling goods as we work closely with our designers to help them make the best use of their skills.

"From marketing and promotion and ensuring all items are of the highest quality and adhere to international standards, to advising them on how to explore new markets locally, regionally and internationally, we are here to help.

We have also put in place strategies designed to improve the production and sales methods associated with traditional crafts."

Commenting on World of Handicraft's success, Al Mouj Muscat CEO Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani says: "I would like to congratulate Zuwaina and her team and of course all of the talented craftspeople for their hard work and for being so passionate about preserving our nation's heritage and traditions. There is certainly a parallel between World of Handicraft's ethos for supporting others and our SME Development programme which aims to give those just starting with a step up onto the first rung on the ladder of business growth.

"The SME initiative is a system we are particularly proud of as whether kiosk or retail unit, at The Walk, Marsa Plaza, the Community Hub or the Marina, having a presence within Al Mouj Muscat gives entrepreneurs exposure from the 3 million visitors each year as well as the people who call our vibrant community home."

OFFER



Own Lincoln Corsair with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Lincoln Corsair redefines luxury with its range of advanced features, technology and luxury. Enthusiasts looking forward to owning a Lincoln Corsair can benefit with service 5 years / 100,000 km, 1-year registration and 3M Window Tint. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Lincoln showroom.) The campaign is valid until 30st December 2021.

Expressively designed and effortlessly nimble, the Lincoln Corsair is a spacious two-row SUV that combines refined power and a wealth of purposeful technologies in a sanctuary from the outside world. The Corsair is designed to give luxury customers technology to make their drive effortless, such as standard Lincoln Co-Pilot360™ driver-assist features.

The horizontal interior design lends a visual calmness to the space, which is crafted with supple, hand-selected materials. Breaking up the elements, particularly the cantilevered console, emphasizes volume and enhances practicality with additional front-row storage. A specially tuned 14-speaker Revel™ premium audio system is available for the Corsair. Placement, tuning, calibration and the number of Revel speakers are all unique to each Lincoln vehicle, designed to ensure audio quality and accuracy for each cabin size and

acoustics. Multiple power outlets are located throughout.

Additional technologies are seamlessly integrated through SYNC 3 with AppLink; users simply plug their mobile phone into their SYNC 3-equipped Corsair to access apps directly from an available 8-inch touch screen.

Staying true to its Quiet Flight DNA, Corsair is engineered to deliver the effortless drive experience and sensation of gliding over the road. Turbocharged four-cylinder engine options are available - a standard 2.0-liter with a targeted 250 horsepower and 275 lb.-ft. of torque. Each is mated to a new 8-speed automatic transmission for agile performance.

Corsair delivers a wealth of intuitive, customizable technologies that allow clients to personalize their driving experiences to exactly their liking.

Corsair, like all Lincoln vehicles, comes standard with a suite of driver-assist features known as Lincoln Co-Pilot360. It provides Pre-Collision Assist with automatic emergency braking and Pedestrian Detection, Blind Spot Information System, a Lane-Keeping System, rear backup camera and auto high-beam lighting.

Those interested in experiencing the Lincoln Corsair can visit a Lincoln showroom.

In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

NATIONAL DAY PROMOTION

Drive your ambition with Mitsubishi Xpander

MUSCAT: Experience true Japanese hospitality with the versatile 7-seat Mitsubishi Xpander, now available from General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, as part of their ongoing National Day promotion.

Under the promotion, you will enjoy a range of benefits when purchasing a brand-new Xpander, including cash gifts of up to OMR 3,047, free insurance, six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance, three years of free service, and an RO 51 gift voucher on every purchase.

Commenting on the Xpander, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, "With the Xpander's unsurpassed reliability and unprecedented comfort, the SUV continues to gain popularity across Oman; especially among those seeking style, functionality, and ruggedness in a practical family-focused vehicle. Now, with this new offer, we are able to make this incredible SUV even more affordable and accessible to a larger number of fans across the country."

For the duration of the two-



month promotion, which ends on 13th January 2022, customers purchasing the Xpander will receive cashback ranging from OMR 2,633 to OMR 3,047, depending on trim. In addition, it will also come with one-year free insurance, 3 years/51,000km free service, an RO 51 gift voucher, and a six-year unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance. As a bonus, every customer purchasing a vehi-

cle will also be entered into a draw for a chance to win 51 grams of gold.

The latest SUV to join the Mitsubishi family, the Xpander sports a futuristic look inspired by the Montero Sport. It features a chrome upper grille and incorporates auto LED headlamps as well as LED positioning lamps, together with Mitsubishi Motors' Dynamic Shield signature look. The stylish fenders and strong charac-

ter line flow into the rear quarter and L-shaped rear combination lamps, which then extend into the tailgate, completing the Xpander's strong sculpted look.

On the inside, the Xpander features a spacious cabin designed to reflect Japanese hospitality "OMOTENASHI" and provides comfort for all seven adult passengers thanks to supportive seating, convenient amenities, and high-quality materials.

Power is provided by a spirited and responsive 1.5-litre 16-valve Dual overhead camshaft engine with advanced MIVEC - Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control system - making it easy for the Xpander to carry seven adults uphill with ease. Excellent ground clearance for its class provides confidence on rough or flooded roads, while the reinforced suspension, coupled with high-performance shock absorbers and a rigid and lightweight body, ensure stability and comfort.

In addition to the Xpander, the offer is available on every model within Mitsubishi's range and will run until January 13, 2022.

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