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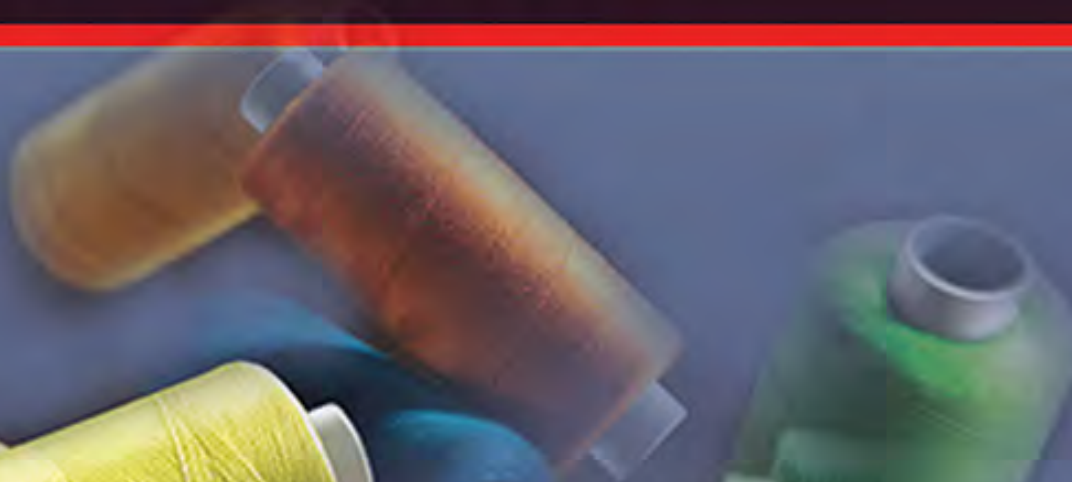
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>A4



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REOPENING

TO OFFER CONDOLENCES

PCR test for visitors to Oman at border entry points

MUSCAT: Travellers entering the Sultanate will have to undergo PCR test at the border entry points.

The Ministry of Health (MoH), Oman Airports and Supply International Company have signed an agreement to provide the test.

The agreement was signed by the MoH Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Planning Affairs, CEO of Oman Airports and the CEO of Supply International Company.

The signing event was held in the presence of CEO of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) along with a number of officials from the MoH, CAA, Royal Oman Police, Oman Airports and Supply International Company.

The MoH has signed a contract

with Medical Mushrif Company in order to register the travellers entering the Sultanate in Tarrasud+, as well as to provide them digital bracelets.

A medical lab has been set up at Muscat International Airport to accelerate the extraction of the PCR results. The lab is connected with Tarrasud+ application in order to follow up the travellers through health Mushrif that is responsible for tracking the person movement in the quarantine, as well as medical scout that is responsible for communication with the quarantined person by the artificial intelligence.

Another similar lab will be set up at the Salalah International Airport. **-ONA**



Honourable Lady returns from Kuwait

MUSCAT: The Honourable Lady, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, and her accompanying delegation, comprising women-folk from the Royal Family, next of kin and other Omani women of official high ranking status, returned home on Sunday evening after a short visit to Kuwait to offer condolences and sympathies to ladies of the Kuwaiti Ruling Family and the people of Kuwait on the demise of the forgiven, by the will of the Almighty Allah, the late Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah. **-ONA**

SMES, TOURISM TO HELP REVIVE ECONOMY



An expected 2.5% growth next year will help Oman mitigate the impacts of COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's commitment towards pursuing its economic diversification plans, with focus on SMEs and tourism even during challenging times, would help to revive the economy next year.

The economy is expected to grow by 2.5 per cent next year, helping it reduce the coronavirus (COVID-19) impact, the head of economic research at the Oman Chamber of Commerce

and Industry has said. According to the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook, which was released in April 2020, Oman's economy is expected to contract this year, before rebounding in 2021.

Conditions

Dr Ahmed Al Hooti, head of economic research at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the country could see better growth in 2021, provided certain

conditions are met, specially the revival of economic activity.

"We feel that by next year the COVID-19 pandemic will be over, and this means we could actually have some growth," said Al Hooti. "We expect there to be growth of 2.5 percent next year. From our side, we feel that if we all work in the same direction, the economy would revive," he added.

"If the COVID-19 pandemic stops, firstly, the whole economy starts working again, and the government and other structures can then generate more money. Without money, you cannot have growth."

Al Hooti added that while these conditions would see many sectors in the country experience positive change in the coming year, the rate of growth between one sector and

the next would not be uniform, with some areas of the economy taking more time than others to benefit.

"Most of the sectors could actually see growth, because many of them have lost business this year because of the coronavirus," he added.

Time factor

Citing the example of tourism as an industry that would take time to bounce back, he said, "Its return depends on the coronavirus. If the coronavirus remains or comes back stronger, then we cannot do anything about it, but according to the indicators we see, Omanis are actually travelling inside the country, and they are using the utilities inside the country, such as hotels and restaurants and such, but globally, it

might not be the same."

Al Hooti also called for more help to be given to small and medium enterprises, many of which provide innovative solutions and help solve problems faced by people in the country during the pandemic.

"There are problems faced everywhere, but we feel that SMEs need support and help, especially financially, because they don't have, right now, enough to finance themselves and recover from the virus," he added.

"We are now pushing the banking and financing sectors to pump some money and help the small and medium enterprises to do better than now."

The stimulus provided to the economy could have another positive spin-off: the jobs created

could employ many more Omanis in the future.

"This is one of the challenges we are facing. All the sectors will work together to do this, and they are focusing towards this," Al Hooti said in this context.

"All of Oman's regions are facing these challenges, so we are finding investors who can invest everywhere, to create job opportunities across the countries. For example, in Musandam, on which the government is focusing right now, if the job hunters there are not that many, job seekers from other areas can go there to work," he said.

"Similarly, in Wusta, we do not have many job hunters, but there are many developments underway over there, so people can travel there to work." **>A2**

PERSONAL CONNECTION

Late Emir of Kuwait leaves void in Omani village

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Citizens of an Omani village on the Dhofar coastline in the country's south have been particularly affected by the death of the late Emir of Kuwait, owing to the personal connection he had with them.

His Highness the late Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, who passed away at the age of 91 on September 29, had a palace of his own built in the village of Shuwaymiyyah, which he used to frequent when he came to the Sultanate.

The news of his demise was felt even more by the inhabitants of the village. "Gone is Sheikh Sabah, the man who stood for goodness," they chanted, to mark his passing. "His memory and our love for him will remain engraved in our hearts and minds."

People from the area, which is some 277 km from the regional capital of Salalah, and is about 100 km from the border that separates the Dhofar and Wusta governorates, had plenty of good things to say about the late Emir.

"The people of the area loved the late Emir because he was humble, and was not rigid when it came to observing formality and



protocols," said Mohammed Al Jenaibi, the Deputy Wali of Shuwaymiyyah. "Every time he visited the Sultanate, he was offered a motorcade and official protocols would be assigned for him, but he

would decline these and say 'let me by myself'. He always behaved the way any ordinary person would.

"Sheikh Sabah would arrive here after landing at the airport in Mar-mul," he added. "He would drive to

this area in the afternoon, take a walk on the beach, and talk to the fishermen, asking them about the conditions at sea, and about their lives. He was a political icon and a wise leader."

Sheikh Salim bin Suhail Al Mashani added that the death of Sheikh Sabah was a loss for not just his own people, but the entire Arab and Muslim world.

"He is an icon who represents love, peace and solidarity, and is a source of pride to the region and the world at large," he said. "The Gulf has lost a great leader who made his contributions and presence felt at all conferences and seminars attended by him, as well as in disputes in which he was asked to intervene."

Adding to this, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hathith Al Bathari, said, "Every time Sheikh Sabah came to Shuwaymiyyah, his purpose was to relax and enjoy fishing. He would make it a point to ask about the best times to go fishing and the conditions we faced at sea. We used to organise fishing trips on small boats for him.

"After the establishment of his palace, his visits to Shuwaymiyyah for the purpose of relaxation and unwinding became more frequent," he added.



NDC's eighth academic session inaugurated

A5

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ISG student tops after paper re-evaluation

1 A student from Indian School Al Ghubra has been confirmed the topper of her school's class X board examination, after she submitted two of her papers for re-evaluation. **>A3**

SPORTS Ons creates history

2 Ons Jabeur on Saturday created history as she became the first Arab woman to advance to the fourth round of the French Open. **>A8**

MARKET Oman's diversification

3 The Sultanate is executing a successful model of economic diversification, says a new report from Hong Kong. **>B1**



Dhuhr.....	12:00pm
Asr.....	3:23pm
Maghrib.....	5:55pm
Isha.....	7:05pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:45am

Honour for Omani woman photographer



AWARD: Photographer Marwa Al Yarubi bagged a place among the top ten slots of the international competition ‘stay at home’ organised by the FIAP. -ONA

Al Yarubi participated in a visual work that showcased the importance of taking necessary precautions to prevent COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: From among nearly 2,000 photographers from more than 90 countries, an Omani woman photographer succeeded in

winning a competition organised by the International Federation of Photography Art (FIAP). Photographer Marwa Al Yarubi bagged a place among the top ten slots of the international competition ‘stay at home’ organised by the FIAP. The Omani Association of Photography participated with a group of Omani photographers in this competition. Al Yarubi participated in a visual work that showcased the topic of the competition and the importance of taking necessary precautions to prevent COVID-19 pandemic. She said: “Through the photo, I wanted to express the current situation of the pandemic and the people’s keenness to wear masks while urging them at the same time to wear it to prevent the virus. I use the black and white technique to give aesthetics to the work through

the light and shade present in this technology.” She said: “I am happy about this achievement and raising the name of Oman at these international forums, hoping that I will get another honour soon.” “During the pandemic, I was able to complete five artworks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I also used the time of my stay at home to develop my skills and learn a number of photography courses,” Al Yarubi added. Early this year, Marwa won golden medals at New View International photography competition held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and she won a gold and bronze medal in a TOUR CIRCUIT 2020 photography competition in Serbia. Marwa Al Yarubi was honoured on Saturday evening at an online ceremony held by the FIAP.

12.4% rise in registration of SMEs

MUSCAT: The total number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) registered with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority at the end of August 2020 stood at 45,706, which is an increase by 12.4 percent compared to the same period of 2019, according to the data released by the National Centre for Statistics and information (NCSI). Among the governorates, Muscat topped the list with 33 percent SMEs registered till the end of August 2020, followed by North Al Batinah with 16 percent, Al Dakhliyah with 13 percent and Dhofar with 8 percent, and the rest of governorates with 30 percent. The Governorate of Muscat had 15,321 SMEs registered at the end of August 2020, followed by North Al Batinah with 7,229, Al Dakhliyah with 5,797, Dhofar with 3,825, South Al Batinah with 3,390, and North A’Sharqiya with 3,096 SMEs registered.

-ONA

OMAN’S ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO MUALLIM

Walid Al Muallim, Syria’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, received the credentials of Sayyid Turki bin Mahmoud Al Busaidi, the Sultanate’s ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic. During the meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister stated that Syria is proud of the Sultanate’s foreign policy and expressed his wishes of success to the ambassador in his duties and further boost to the bilateral relations between the two countries. -ONA



ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

< FROM A1 Hydrocarbons, gas reserves to help move economy forward

Al Hooti added, “Each governorate is different to the other one. Salalah is better at tourism, for example, while Al Batinah is focusing on industry and agriculture, while Ad Dhahirah is focusing on mining, because each region has its own resources. It will help them to focus on these, as opposed to opening sectors they don’t really need.” Adding to what Ahmed Al Hooti said, Ramanuj Venkatesh, a financial analyst in the country, said Oman’s dedication towards pur-

suing its economic diversification plans, even during challenging times, would provide benefits in the future. “Yes, hydrocarbons and massive gas reserves can continue to move the economy forward, but other areas are also being explored,” he said. **Farm** “Agriculture, for example, has a lot of potential, especially in areas like Al Batinah and Dhofar, where the soil is very fertile.

Oman’s strategic location also offers itself as a useful base for any trading partner. It does have the potential to develop trade routes with developing economies such as Pakistan, India, the Philippines, Malaysia, and many others, as well as more developed ones like China, Japan and Singapore,” added Venkatesh. “There are also many opportunities for renewable sources of energy, which Oman is looking into, particularly when it comes to solar energy.”

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The Ministry of Health has registered 2,685 new coronavirus cases and 42 deaths.



COVID-19
UPDATES

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2,685 new coronavirus cases, 42 deaths reported in Oman



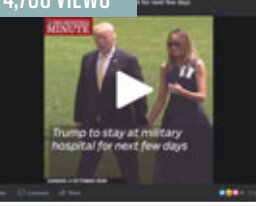
Update on COVID-19 situation in the Sultanate

Sunday's COVID-19 update gathered 11,708 engagements and reached 37,481 people on Facebook.



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Trump to stay at military hospital for next few days



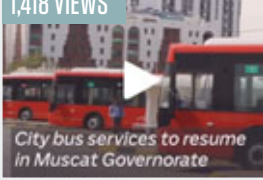
Morning Minute video on Donald Trump

The Morning Minute video on Donald Trump received 4,700 views and reached 12,400 people on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,418 VIEWS



City bus services to resume in Muscat Governorate



Post about city bus services in Muscat

The Morning Minute story on city bus services in Muscat got 1,418 views and 106 likes on Instagram

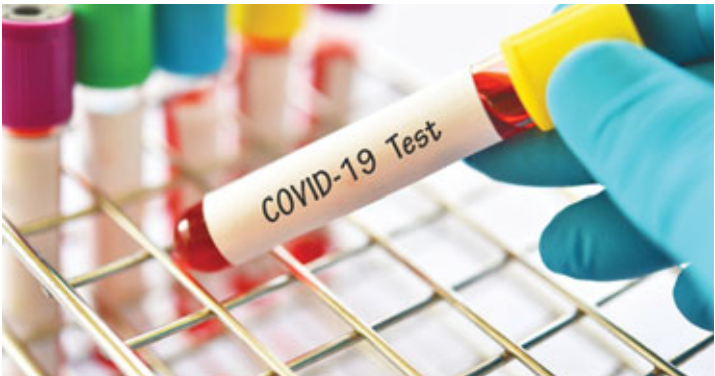
Muscat, Batinah home to 77% COVID-19 cases

Of the 101,270 confirmed cases of the disease in the country, 48,990 are in Muscat, corresponding to 48.3 per cent of all reported infections

Times News Service

MUSCAT: About 77 per cent of all confirmed COVID-19 cases in Oman are from the three governorates of Muscat, North Batinah, and South Batinah, according to government data.

Figures made available on the Tarassud+ coronavirus monitoring app launched by the country's Ministry of Health show that of



RECOVERIES: Of the 90,296 recoveries that have taken place in Oman, 49.2 per cent (44,510) are in Muscat.

the 101,270 confirmed cases of the disease in the country, 48,990 are in Muscat, corresponding to 48.3 per cent of all reported infections.

In North Al Batinah, 17,620 (17.3 per cent) people have so far been infected by the disease, a number that is lower in South Al Batinah, which has recorded 11,262 infections, or 11.1 per cent of all reported cases in the country.

Together, these three governorates account for 76.7 per cent of all reported infections of COVID-19 in Oman. The three also have re-

560 people required admission into healthcare centres in the country.

The Ministry of Health continues to provide COVID-19 prevention advice to locals and residents, as part of its efforts to spread awareness and reduce the rate of infection.

"Avoid group activities and gatherings, wear a mask and maintain a physical distance of at least two metres," said the ministry as part of its advisory.

"Regularly and thoroughly wash hands with water and soap, or clean them with a certified hand sanitiser.

"Avoid touching the face, nose, mouth and eyes, and avoid going out from home unless necessary," added the Ministry of Health. "Follow health habits while sneezing or coughing, and adhere completely to isolation if showing symptoms or have been in close contact with a positive case."

The ministry went on to say: "With our commitment to wearing masks and maintaining social and physical distancing, we will prevent ourselves, our families and our community from the spread of coronavirus."

AVIATION

Complimentary COVID-19 coverage on Oman Air

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the Sultanate's national carrier, is providing its guests with complimentary COVID coverage which will cover expenses incurred by medical treatment or quarantine related to the COVID-19 virus.

The coverage, which is effective for travel from 1 October 2020 until 31 March 2021, is provided to all guests who purchase tickets on

omanair.com, through the airline's Call Centre, at Oman Air's offices or through travel agents after 1st October 2020.

Coverage begins on the day Oman Air returns to scheduled service, with flights connecting Muscat with 18 cities in 12 countries.

Details about this complimentary COVID coverage programme are available at omanair.com.

The free coverage, for guests of all ages, is part of the airline's ex-

pansive efforts to ensure that its guests are safe at all times and fly confidently.

Oman Air will maintain its comprehensive safety programme throughout all elements of the travel journey. Masks are required when guests are on board the aircraft and in Oman's airports. Distancing is maintained while guests board and exit the aircraft, which are carefully cleaned after each flight and at the end of every

day. Cabin crew all wear a full set of personal protective equipment, meal service has been modified to further ensure safety and a number of other steps have been taken to ensure that the airline's guests and crew are safe at all times.

Guests who are planning to travel to Muscat should visit the Civil Aviation Authority website, paca.gov.om, to ensure they are prepared to comply with requirements to enter the Sultanate.

EDUCATION

ISG student tops school after paper re-evaluation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A student from Indian School Al Ghubra has been confirmed the topper of her school's class X board examination, after she submitted two of her papers for re-evaluation.

Nayaonika Vashishta's overall score was revised to 98.2 per cent, after she felt she needed to re-evaluate her English and social studies papers, as she did not know where she'd lost marks in those two subjects. A statement from the school said, "The improvement in her scores in English and social sciences, upon re-evaluation, made her take the lead from the previous two toppers of the school who scored 97.6 per cent. The management and staff of ISG are proud of Nayaonika for her outstanding performance and wish her many more superlative achievements."

Nayaonika credits her outstanding achievement to the support her parents provide, as well as the willingness to enjoy learning, rather than studying just for the sake of achieving high marks at school.

"I study for maybe five hours a day, but I don't do so continuously," she said. "I take a break for about 10 minutes after every hour of study. What is most important, apart from going through the lessons yourself, is to pay attention while the concepts are being



ACHIEVER: Nayaonika credits her outstanding achievement to the support her parents provide, as well as the willingness to enjoy learning.

discussed in class. That is where most of my learning happens, and it makes it easier to understand them later.

Important point

"I also make it a point to play sports so that my mind does not get burned out by focusing on only studies," added Nayaonika, who also represents her school's tennis team, and recently scored 100 per cent marks at the International French Language Olympiad held this year, an achievement that saw her place first in the Middle East zonal division.

"I am not sure about what I wish to pursue next, but I would

like to either study biotechnology or medicine," she added. "I am happy to have become the school topper, but my celebrations took place when the results were first announced, as I did pretty well back then as well. Now, I am in class XI and it is important to focus on the way forward."

Following her achievement, Nayaonika has asked others to not work blindly, but put in efforts in those areas where it actually matters. Hard work in the wrong areas, after all, can still lead to poor exam results, she feels, which in turn would demoralise a student who has spent many months preparing for his exams.

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MIRBAT

DHOFAR'S ICONIC TOWN

WHERE: The wilayat of Mirbat is an conic town of Dhofar region located on the plains of Jabal Samhan. It is about 74 kilometres from Salalah and is known for its historical sites, breathtaking natural beauty and Arabian horses.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: Be it the beaches, the old villages or the old historic places, Mirbat has several attractions for tourists. At the harbour you can see many wooden fishing boats or dhow heading out to the sea. Mirbat Harbour was once known to be a route for

the frankincense trade. One can drive atop the hill to visit Mirbat Castle. It is located facing the sea and looking out to the harbour. The castle showcases different traditional crafts and maritime artefacts along with utensils, pottery and tools of olden times. Restored in 1991 it was opened for the public as a tourist site in 1996. The anti-gravity point on the outskirts of the town, as well as Tawi Atayr, which is known for its baobab tree groves, are very popular among tourists.

While Jabal Samhan is one of

the most important mountain ranges in the Dhofar region with frankincense trees and wild animals, Hiyour Cave is located at the top of Jabal Samhan.

Tawi Ateer Sinkhole also known as "Birds Well", is another tourist attraction. Mirbat is also known for snorkelling.

The old souq of Mirbat, located near the castle, is one of the oldest historical markets where one can find dates, local products, Omani frankincense and more. Abalone and lobsters are abundantly found here.





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NDC’s 8th academic session inaugurated

The 8th batch includes a number of high-ranking officers from the Sultan’s Armed Forces, the Royal Guard of Oman, the Royal Oman Police, Royal Court Affairs, and others



FUNCTION: The event was attended by members of the NDC military and civilians teaching staff, a number of college’s employees, and participants of the 8th batch. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: The National Defence College (NDC) celebrated on Sunday the inauguration of the eighth batch, under the patronage of Maj.Gen Salim bin Musallam Qattan, NDC Commandant, marking the start of

the college’s 8th academic year. During the ceremony, a documentary film was screened about the college, its role in preparing strategic leaders, and the batch’s curricula, in addition to samples of theoretical and practical studies, and visits related to the batch’s program.

This batch comes within the framework of preparing and

qualifying strategic leaders (military and civilian) with the aim of providing them with the knowledge and skills that enable them to assume high-profile strategic positions.

Top officers

The 8th batch includes a number of high-ranking officers from the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF), the



Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), the Royal Oman Police (RPO), Royal Court Affairs, and other military and security units, in addition to a number of government civil institutions.

The event was attended by members of the NDC military and civilians teaching staff, a number of college’s employees, and participants of the 8th batch. - **ONA**

PEACE DEAL

Sudanese govt, armed groups sign peace deal to end conflicts

KHARTOUM: After a full year of negotiations, the Sudanese government and armed groups on Saturday signed a final peace deal in South Sudan’s capital Juba to end armed conflicts.

The signing ceremony, which was broadcast live by Sudan’s official TV, was attended by South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir, Chairman of Sudan’s Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and Sudan’s Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

The participants also included representatives from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Chad and Egypt in addition to regional and international organizations such as the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League and the European Union.

Deputy Chairman of Sudan’s Sovereign Council Mohamed Hamdan Daqlu signed the deal for the Sudanese government, while leaders of nine armed groups, under the Revolutionary Front Alliance, signed for the alliance.

ance, signed for the alliance.

Al-Burhan, addressing the signing ceremony, vowed that there will be no return to war, saying “we will not deviate from the peace. We reiterate our keenness to implement what has been agreed on.”

Meanwhile, Al-Hadi Idris, chairman of the alliance, urged the international community to support implementation of the peace agreement. The deal included protocols of security arrangements, power and wealth sharing, compensation for the displaced people and refugees, land ownership, and realization of justice and development. Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, Moussa Faki, reiterated the AU support for the peace deal in Sudan.

“Implementation of the deal is harder than its signing. The AU will support this deal,” he said. Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, addressing the signing ceremony, voiced Egypt’s support to Sudan’s peace deal. **xinhua**

CORONAVIRUS

With 75,829 new cases, India’s COVID-19 count tops 6.5mn

NEW DELHI: With a spike of 75,829 new cases and 940 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, India’s COVID-19 count crossed 6.5 million on Sunday, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

As per the MoHFW, the COVID-19 count is at 6,549,374, including 937,625 active cases in the country.

The count also includes 5,509,967 cured and discharged or migrated cases and 101,782 deaths, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Earlier yesterday, the COVID-19 death toll in the country had surpassed the 100,000 mark.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 78,992,534 samples have been tested up to October 2 for COVID-19 in the country. Out of these 1,142,131 samples were tested on Friday.

The MoHFW had said that increased pace of testing has led to “early identification, prompt isolation, and effective treatment of COVID-19 cases. These have eventually resulted in a sustained low Fatality Rate.”

“India has scaled up its testing capacity from one in January to more than 77 million in



ACTIVE CASES: The COVID-19 count is at 6,549,374, including 937,625 active cases in the country - **ANI**

October. With progressively falling positivity rate, testing has worked as an effective tool to limit the spread of COVID-19 infection,” a tweet by the MoHFW read.

Less than 1mn active COVID cases for 13th day India has maintained its steady trend of clocking less than 10 lakh active COVID-19 cases for the 13th consecutive day. The number

of active cases reported till Sunday was 937,625 -- 7,371 less than Saturday, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

As many as 82,260 people recovered in the last 24 hours,

Among the 10 States and Union Territories, Maharashtra contributed more than 14,000 to the new cases in the last 24 hours, while Karnataka and Kerala reported 9,886 and 7,834 new cases, respectively

against 75,829 new cases reported, along with 940 deaths, it added. “With this India’s total recoveries crossed 5.5 million on Sunday. The national recovery rate at present is 84.13 per cent... Also, the contribution of active cases to the positive caseload has reduced to 14.32 per cent as on date.” A release by the government said of the newly recovered cases, 75.44 per cent have been recorded in 10 States and Union Territories. Being the leading State with the highest number of active cases, Maharashtra has also

contributed the highest number to the newly recovered cases, followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, said the release.

It added that 10 States and Union Territories also account for 77.11 per cent of the active cases in the country. “Among the 10 States and Union Territories, Maharashtra contributed more than 14,000 to the new cases in the last 24 hours, while Karnataka and Kerala reported 9,886 and 7,834 new cases, respectively.” Even 80.53 per cent of the newly reported fatalities were from 10 States and Union Territories, of which 29.57 per cent was from Maharashtra with 278 deaths on Saturday, followed by Karnataka with 100, the government said. “Maharashtra’s contribution to the death toll, however, has been on a decline.”

It added that India tested more than 10 lakh samples each on Thursday, Friday and Saturday despite an extended weekend.

“There has been a commensurate dip in the positivity rate... Very high levels of testing lead to (an) early identification (of the disease), prompt isolation and effective treatment of COVID-19 cases. These have eventually resulted in a sustained low Fatality Rate,” said the release by the Central government. **ANI**

SUICIDE ATTACK

Deadly truck bomb kills 13 Afghanistan civilians

KABUL: At least 13 people, mostly civilians, were killed on Saturday in a vehicle bomb attack that targeted an Afghan government building in the Ghani Khel district of the eastern Nangarhar province.

Attallah Khogyani, a spokesman for Nangarhar governor, told a news agency that it was a

suicide attack. The bomber detonated an explosives-laden truck at the entrance of a government building that also housed some military facilities.

“As a result, 13 civilians including one woman and four children were killed. Two members of security forces were also killed,” Khogyani said. **bw**

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Contact GSM:
91313515 (AVP Admin) & 98189866 (Accounts)

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited from competent insurance companies for providing the following insurance services to the school.

1. Accident, Fire, Money and Property insurance.
2. Staff medical insurance with COVID/pandemic cover.
3. Group Accident Insurance for Staff & Students.

Last date for submission of tender/s is 20 October 2020.

For more informations, please contact the AVP - Admin of the school at "avpadmin@isnizwa.org"

The completed tenders shall be send to the following address in a sealed envelop (by Courier/registered post or submit directly in the school office).

The Principal, Indian School Nizwa,
P B 598, P C 611,
Thymasa, Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman.

Note: Respective tenders shall clearly mention the "Name of the service quoted for" on the envelop, by the bidding party.

BELARUS PROTESTS

Police fire water cannons, detain Minsk demonstrators

MINSK: Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Minsk on Sunday, demanding that all political prisoners be released.

Several people were arrested shortly after the march began and police used water cannons mounted on armoured vehicles to disperse groups of demonstrators from the city center.

The Belarusian journalists' association said at least three media

representatives were taken into custody by police.

Belarus withdrew accreditation of all foreign reporters on Friday.

Observers in Minsk reported to a news agency that mobile internet had been turned off to prevent protesters from organising routes through the city and that subway stations were closed to prevent access to the city centre.

More than 70 'political prisoners'

According to the Belarusian rights group Viasna, there are 77 "political prisoners" currently detained in Belarus.

Notable opposition figures behind bars include blogger Sergei Tikhanovsky, who was not allowed to run for president, and opposition leader Maria Kolesnikova, who destroyed her passport during

an attempted forced deportation to Ukraine.

Kalesnikava faces up to five years in jail on charges of endangering national security.

"These are people who have suffered for their convictions, and are still suffering," Lukashenko's election opponent, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, said in a statement ahead of the protest Sunday. "Our task is to set them free." **bw**

Official sources offer contradictory accounts of Trump's health

In the video, posted on Trump's Twitter account, the president added that his wife Melania was "really handling it very nicely"



WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump tried to allay supporters' concerns about his health on Saturday evening by releasing a four-minute video saying he felt much better after treatment following his positive test for COVID-19, and that doctors at the Walter Reed Medical Center were "working hard to get me all the way back."

In the video, posted on Trump's Twitter account, the president add-

ed that his wife Melania was "really handling it very nicely," after her own diagnosis with the virus.

The video came after a day of mixed messages from official channels about the president's health, as well as confusion about when exactly he had been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus.

The president's physician, Dr Sean Conley, told the press outside

the Walter Reed military hospital on Saturday morning that the 74-year-old's symptoms had abated, that his fever had gone down and that he was not being given extra oxygen.

But Conley refused to say whether the president had ever needed supplemental oxygen, despite repeated questioning, and declined to say how high a fever

Trump had been running before it came back down to a normal range.

But Conley's optimistic account was contradicted within minutes by a press pool reporter, who passed on a statement from White House chief-of-staff Mark Meadows saying that Trump's "vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care."

"We're still not on a clear path yet to a full recovery," Meadows said.

There had also been numerous reports that Trump had indeed been given oxygen at the White House, before the decision was made to move him to the hospital. The mixed messages were not helped by another statement made by Conley during his press briefing, when he said that Trump had begun exhibiting "clinical indications" of COVID-19 on Thursday afternoon, earlier than previously known.

Conley also said "we're 72 hours into [Trump's] diagnosis," which would have meant that the president had carrying out his regular duties for more than a day before making his test result public. **bw**

FLOODING

Rescue crews step up search efforts as floods hit France, Italy

PARIS: Rescuers stepped up search and rescue efforts on Sunday in the wake of massive flooding in southeastern France and northwestern Italy.

Rescue efforts were concentrated on the Roya Valley in France near the Italian border, where some 1,000 firefighters resumed their search hoping to find survivors. Eight people are missing on the French side and two on the Italian side as of Sunday.

Storm Alex barreled through France's western coast on Thursday before making its way into Italy on Friday and Saturday. The amount of rainfall in parts of Italy hadn't been seen in some 60 years.

Many villages in both countries have been cut off, with rescue workers needing to provide food and fresh water.

"What we are going through is extraordinary," Bernard Gonzalez, the prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes region in France, told the AFP news agency.

"We are used to seeing images of such disasters on other continents, sometimes with a lack of



concern, but this here is something that affects us all."

French Prime Minister Jean Castex said the army has been deployed to help in rescue efforts. France has declared the region a natural disaster zone.

In Italy, cities in the Piedmont region were hit especially hard. The mayor of Limone Piemonte, a village in the Cuneo province, spoke of a "catastrophic situation" in his city due to the flooding.

In Venice, the Mose flood barrier faced its first real test and seemed to have worked, keeping St. Mark's Square stayed dry despite high water levels. **bw**



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200,000
Al Shabiba



116,203
Electronic direct mailers



240,486
APP downloads

117,335
Whatsnews

123,151
Whatsuloom



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

MEDC AWARENESS SESSION

Muscat Electricity Distribution Company (MEDC) recently concluded the awareness sessions on career development programme for its employees. The sessions discussed promotions, and other topics associated with hierarchical positions.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSM index closed at 3,595.11 points, down 0.54 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.20 per cent at 513.66 points. Al Anwar Ceramic, up 2.44 per cent was the top gainer on Sunday while Arabia Falcon, down 6.52 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman is pursuing successful economic diversification path

The government has taken initiatives to modernise the economy, raise spending and direct foreign investment, said the Hong Kong institution report

HONG KONG: The Sultanate of Oman is executing a successful model of economic diversification, notably the country's trade liberalisation in goods and services, says a new report published by Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

The report pointed out that the Sultanate pursued an active plan of development that focuses on diversification, manufacturing and privatisation to diminish the contribution of the oil sector to the Gross Domestic Product to 9 per cent. It noted that tourism and hydrocarbon industries have become the main components of the government's economic diversification strategy.

HKTDC report added that the Sultanate showed strong commitment to trade liberalisation

through its membership at the World Trade Organisation, in addition to a number of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

The government took initiatives to modernise the economy, said the Hong Kong institution, noting that increased government spending and direct foreign investment lead to the development of a broad range of non-oil industries.

The report explained that special economic zones in the Sultanate, particularly in Duqm, focus on incentivising economic transformation by combining organisational incentives and strategic geographic location outside the globally tension-prone Strait of Hormuz.

Investment in infrastructure continues to pour into economic zones in Salalah, Duqm, Sohar and Al Mazyouna said the report, adding that this goes in line with domestic development plans (aimed at limiting GDP reliance on the oil and gas sector).

The report noted that, since 2017, the Sultanate attracted a variety of mega investment projects, most of them focusing on export-oriented industrial operations located in special economic zones.

The report indicated that no banking restrictions are imposed on foreign investment transactions or financial transfers. It added that, in terms of portfolio investment, no restrictions are imposed on the flow of capital or profits and those foreign investors are permitted to invest in Muscat Securities Market as long as they do that through a licensed broker. - **ONA**



NEW REPORT: Hong Kong Trade Development Council report added that the Sultanate showed strong commitment to trade liberalisation through its membership at the World Trade Organisation, in addition to a number of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. - **File picture**

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Ministry to start receiving transactions of customers through investor services halls

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will start receiving investors at its headquarters, starting from Tuesday, October 6.

The ministry said, "It will begin receiving customer transactions through the investor services halls in the ministry's general building and its directorates and departments in the governorates, starting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, based on the decision of the Supreme Committee of dealing with COVID-19, and the ministry will take a number of precautionary measures to ensure the safety of employees and investors."

The ministry encourages auditors to complete their transactions electronically, which contributes to the speed of completion of transactions and saves time and effort, as the ministry affirms that it continues to provide its electronic services to investors



PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES: The ministry will take a number of precautionary measures to ensure the safety of employees and investors. - **File picture**

through the Invest Easy portal, which provides 89 electronic services to investors that can be completed by themselves around the clock and on holidays.

According to the ministry, 62,073 self-completed transactions have been done through the online portal 'Invest Easy' by

investors from January 1 till September 28, 2020, including commercial registry transactions such as creating a new commercial registry, updating data, and renewing the registry.

Commercial, request and renewal of commercial agencies, requests for certificates of origin,

etc, in addition to licensing transactions, such as requesting and updating licences, and adding places to practice activities.

"Investors can also continue to complete their transactions through service delivery centres, including, Sanad centres and law offices," the ministry added.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Online event held to discuss global market trends

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing to gather global expertise on influential industry topics, National Bank of Oman (NBO) recently hosted an online conference with State Street Global Advisors (SSGA) entitled Global Markets - Outlook for 2020 and beyond.

Led by Altaf Amirali Kassam, SSGA's Head of Investment Strategy & Research for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), the event discussed the current market scenario, trends and forecasts from around the world, part of a series the bank is delivering to support knowledge sharing and financial empowerment.

Yaseen Hassan Al Lawati, Head of Investment Banking Division at NBO, said, "We are delighted to be spearheading these online events, which show that, even with restrictions in travel and in-person meetings, we will continue to gather the industry's most influential minds and provide valuable information while looking to the future of banking. This is part of our commitment to promoting the development of the industry and empowering our clients on their financial decisions, no matter the circumstances."

The conference discussed several key topics including earnings expectations, valuations, macro-economic scenario and forecasts, coverage on the relative attractiveness of different asset classes, and ESG focused investments. A Chartered Financial Analyst and published researcher, Kassam is responsible for developing thought leadership and executing custom projects for clients across EMEA in the fields of asset allocation and portfolio construction, as well as working with global portfolio managers and strategists to develop multi-asset investment solutions. He holds an MSc. in Finance from London Business School, and a first-class joint honours degree in Engineering and Computing Science from St. John's College, Oxford.



“

This is part of our commitment to promoting the development of the industry and empowering our clients

Yaseen Al Lawati
Head of Investment Banking Division at NBO

NBO has organised a line-up of similar events on a wide range of topics from post-COVID-19 economies to bond markets and real estate, aiming to support its clients' financial lives. Through such initiatives, the bank aims to promote knowledge dissemination throughout the industry and contribute to the continued development of the Sultanate's economy.

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

GCC Audit Bureaus discuss sustainable growth



VIDEO-CONFERENCE: The meeting, which was held through video-conferencing from the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General was convened with the participation of member SAIs, Assistant Secretary-General for Legislative and Legal Affairs along with SAI specialists. - **ONA**

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the State Financial and Administrative Audit Institution (SAI) on Sunday took part in the 21st meeting of the Deputy Chairmen of the GCC Audit and Accounting Bureaus.

The Sultanate was represented in the meeting by Ahmed bin Salim Al Rujeibi, Deputy Chairman of SAI for Financial and Administrative Audit on State Administrative Apparatus.

The meeting, which was held through video-conferencing from the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General was convened with the participation of Member SAIs, Assistant Secretary General for Legislative and Legal Affairs along with SAI specialists.

At the onset of the meeting, the participants expressed their most sincere condolences to Kuwait, its leadership, people and Arab and Islamic nations for the late ruler Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, may Almighty

have mercy on him and rest his soul in peace.

A number of topics listed on the agenda were discussed, mainly; a report on following up resolutions issued by the 16th meeting of the Chairmen of SAIs which was held last year in Muscat, as well as discussing the proposal for raising awareness and knowledge on the practice of auditing sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In addition, the joint comprehensive audit was discussed along with reviewing proposed topics for the 5th GCC competition for Research and Studies in the field of Auditing and Accounting.

The meeting was concluded by viewing minutes of the 28th meeting of the training and development committee, reviewing recommendations and views contained therein and preparing the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Chairmen of SAIs, which is expected to be held on 20 October 2020. - **ONA**

MARKET

MSM index ends lower

The top gainer was Al Anwar Ceramic which closed up by 2.44% while top loser was Arabia Falcon which closed down by 6.52%

MUSCAT: The MSM index closed at 3,595.11 points, down 0.54 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.20 per cent at 513.66 points. Al Anwar Ceramic, up 2.44 per cent was the top gainer on Sunday while Arabia Falcon, down 6.52 per cent, was the top loser. Muscat Finance was the most active in terms of number of shares traded and Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 281 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR0.488 million, with more than 3.5 million shares changing hands. Out of 31 traded stocks, 4 advanced, 15 declined and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR52,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR40,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR12,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,802.53 points, down by 0.04 per cent. Arabia Falcon Insurance, Muscat Finance, Bank Muscat, Al Anwar Holding and Al Madina Takaful were down by 6.52 per cent, 4.26 per cent, 1.66 per cent, 1.49 per cent and 1.35 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 3,951.15 points, up 0.04 per cent. Al Anwar Ceramic was up by 2.44 per cent. National Aluminium, Galfar Engineer and Oman Cement were down by 3.26 per cent, 2.08 per cent and 1.74 per cent respectively. Services index was down 0.17 per cent before closing at 1,561.22 points. Al Jazeera Service, Phoenix Power, and Al Maha Petroleum were up by 2.34 per cent, 1.85 per cent and 1.80 per cent respectively. OIFC, National Gas, Al Suwadi Power, Ooredoo and Sembcorp Salalah were down by 2.25 per cent, 1.90 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.03 per cent and 0.92 per cent respectively. - United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSM30 Index	3,617.26	3,595.10	3,595.11	3,614.64	-19.53	-0.54
Financial Index	5,838.31	5,802.53	5,802.53	5,833.24	-30.71	-0.53
Industrial Index	3,951.15	3,940.91	3,951.15	3,949.44	1.71	0.04
Services Index	1,568.32	1,561.22	1,561.22	1,563.89	-2.67	-0.17
MSM SHARIAH INDEX	515.15	512.96	513.66	514.70	-1.04	-0.20
MSM TOTAL RETURN	4,118.14	4,092.90	4,092.92	4,115.15	-22.23	-0.54

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
3,511,009	488,192	281	19,860,057,743	4	15	12	31

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	51,643	16,317	3	0.316	0.316	0.314	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.314	0.312	0.316	0.100	74,705,560
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	19,329	1,847	4	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	233,712,647
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION	51,721	32,396	10	0.624	0.632	0.624	0.628	0.632	-0.004	-0.633	0.624	0.624	0.632	0.100	471,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	42,291	16,241	16	0.384	0.386	0.384	0.384	0.388	-0.004	-1.031	0.384	0.384	0.386	0.100	249,962,584
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR HOLDING	92,420	6,100	10	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.100	13,200,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	378,340	134,912	38	0.360	0.360	0.354	0.356	0.362	-0.006	-1.657	0.356	0.356	0.364	0.100	1,156,830,024
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	9,826	2,221	2	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.230	-0.004	-1.739	0.226	0.226	0.232	0.100	74,777,232
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	24,250	3,762	4	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.155	0.158	-0.003	-1.899	0.156	0.156	0.164	0.100	13,175,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	24,300	2,114	3	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.089	-0.002	-2.247	0.087	0.087	0.089	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	603,646	27,000	26	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	0.047	-0.002	-4.255	0.044	0.044	0.045	0.100	13,821,585
Total	10	1,297,766	242,909	116												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC TILES	526,276	88,503	35	0.164	0.172	0.164	0.168	0.164	0.004	2.439	0.169	0.169	0.172	0.100	49,763,859
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	322,664	56,348	18	0.175	0.175	0.173	0.175	0.171	0.004	2.339	0.173	0.172	0.174	0.100	10,710,748
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	108,601	6,012	5	0.057	0.057	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.001	1.852	0.054	0.054	0.057	0.100	80,443,080
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAR	5,500	3,740	2	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.668	0.012	1.796	0.680	0.604	0.680	0.100	46,920,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	100,198	9,218	4	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.100	184,028,777
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	450	189	1	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.450	0.100	38,571,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT	382,800	9,187	10	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.025	0.100	4,971,633
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	305	43	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.129	0.135	0.100	222,703,758
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,000	908	1	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.908	0.908	0.900	0.100	85,500,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	14,600	11,330	2	0.776	0.776	0.776	0.776	0.776	0.000	0.000	0.776	0.000	0.776	0.100	47,549,400
OM0000002820	GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	84,560	5,567	6	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	3,883,652
OM0000004925	AL BATINAH POWER	115,044	6,098	12	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.053	0.054	0.100	35,769,034
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FU	15,780	1,452	2	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.101	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	43,171	4,318	8	0.102	0.102	0.099	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	150,000,000
OM0000004768	AL MADINA TAKAFUL	25,000	1,825	2	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	12,775,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	82,456	4,381	10	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.053	0.055	0.100	37,863,536
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON	120,110	5,645	13	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.048	-0.001	-2.083	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.100	13,629,090
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	40,160	4,270	9	0.109	0.109	0.106	0.106	0.109	-0.003	-2.752	0.106	0.106	0.119	0.100	101,184,627
OM0000001319	NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS	131,108	11,721	14	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.092	-0.003	-3.261	0.088	0.085	0.088	0.100	2,987,859
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INSURANCE	86,400	7,468	9	0.088	0.088	0.085	0.086	0.092	-0.006	-6.522	0.085	0.000	0.090	0.100	8,883,943
Total	20	2,206,183	238,223	164												

REVERSE REPURCHASE FACILITY

Philippine central bank keeps key policy rate unchanged

MANILA: The Philippine central bank decided to maintain the interest rate on the bank's overnight reverse repurchase (RRP) facility at 2.25 per cent. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) also said that interest rates on the overnight deposit and lending facilities were likewise kept at 1.75 per cent and 2.75 per cent, respectively.

"The Monetary Board's deci-

sion is based on the assessment that prevailing monetary policy settings remain appropriate," BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno told a virtual media briefing.

Baseline inflation

The latest baseline inflation forecasts show a slightly lower path within the government's 2-4 per cent target range. "This reflects

the lower-than-expected inflation in August, the moderation in global crude oil prices, and the appreciation of the peso," he said.

Looking ahead, Diokno said the BSP stands ready to deploy its full arsenal of instruments as needed in fulfilment of its mandate to maintain price and financial stability conducive to sustainable economic growth. - Xinhua

GOVERNMENT REPORT

South Korea's export rebounds on global demand recovery

SEOUL: South Korea's export marked the first rebound in seven months in September on recovering demand from major economies, a government report showed. Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, reached \$48.05 billion last month, up 7.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It was the first turnaround since February, posting the fastest increase in 23 months since October 2018.

After rising 3.6 per cent in February, the country's outbound shipment fell 1.7 per cent in March, 25.6 per cent in April, 23.8 per cent in May, 10.9 per cent in June, 7.1 per cent in July and 10.1 per cent in August respectively.

Import added 1.1 per cent over the year to 39.17 billion U.S. dollars in September, sending the trade surplus to 8.88 billion US dollars. The trade balance stayed

in black for five months in a row.

The export rebound was mainly attributable to more business days. The daily average export shrank 4.0 per cent in September from a year earlier amid the lingering economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak.

Locally-made products

Global demand for locally-made products recovered from major economies. Shipment to South Korea's four major export destinations all recovered for the first time in 23 months.

Export to China, South Korea's biggest trading partner, gained 8.2 per cent last month, marking the first turnaround in two months on demand for semiconductors, general machinery, computers and steel products.

Shipment to the United States and the European Union (EU) grew in double figures on the reopening of businesses after

shutdowns to contain the virus spread. Shipment to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations increased 4.3 per cent, recording the first rebound in seven months. Export to India jumped 28.2 per cent last month, but those to Japan, the Middle East and Latin America diminished 6.0 per cent, 9.7 per cent and 27.6 per cent each.

South Korea's three major export items, including semiconductors, general machinery and automobiles, rebounded for the first time in 23 months.

Chip export advanced 11.8 per cent in September from a year earlier, keeping an upward trend for the third straight month. The semiconductor shipment topped \$9 billion for the first time this year.

General machinery shipment added 0.8 per cent in September, turning around in seven months. Automotive export jumped 23.2 per cent, marking the first rebound in six months. - Xinhua

AWARENESS SESSIONS

MEDC concludes programme on career development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Electricity Distribution Company (MEDC) recently concluded the awareness sessions on career development path programme, the company created for its employees.

The sessions aimed to introduce the employees to the programme and explain how they can benefit from it to improve one's position within the hierarchical structure by meeting the required and desired criteria to move from one position to another. The sessions also aimed to inspire employees to exploit the various training activities and programmes and advised them on how to manage between those development programmes and their current tasks and responsibilities.

The sessions tapped on raises, promotions, and other topics associated with hierarchical positions, as well as answered the employees' questions and queries on the programme.

Muscat Electricity continuously works towards enabling Omanis to join the company in various administrative and technical positions.

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Planning Engineer currently working in Muscat, having a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering with 11 year's experience in Civil Construction. I'm looking for a well-established Company to gain a competitive edge in Oman. Valid GCC Driving License holder. Contact 91007054

Experience HVAC Engineer facility maintenance around 20years experience.Contact 94307181 Email minhaj.mohamed@gmail.com

Indian male 23 years mechanical engineer with one year experience in manufacturing sector, presently on visit visa looking for a suitable opening. Contact 94683565. ms001suhail@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

AutoCAD Draftsman, Experienced draftsman looking freelance job. Contact 99718163

ACCOUNTANT

Indian male 31, B.Com & Diploma in Islamic banking & Finance, 8 years exp in Oman, looking for Accountant jobs. Can handle up to finalization. D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 98195964

MEP Engineer 15 Yrs, EXP. Arabic/ English D/L. Contact 95752101

BE-Electrical + MBA (TQM), 37yrs/M, 14yrs of product management, QC & Sourcing experience in Oman, seek suitable placement. M: 78180988, anju48@hotmail.com

Civil Site Engineer/Inspector, total 12 yrs of experience out of which 6 yrs in consultancy firm supervision. looking for suitable opportunity.more preferably in a Consultancy firm with Oman DL.NOC available. # 78368484

Civil Site Engineer, Indian male 34.diploma Civil engineer experience 12 yrs(9 years in Oman)(5.5 yrs in consultancy field).Looking suitable job with Oman DL. # 93746877

BSc.Survey Engineer 5 years experience in construction, Pipeline, Infrastructure and road works. Contact 96047403

Indian male, 18 years experience in Electrical engineering & Procurement.Seeking projects & operation field Willing to joint immediately with NOC Posses driving licence. BE E.E.E, MBA. Contact 72324160. Email globaleng360@gmail.com

Electrical engineer 7 years experience, CEP, Safety courses, Duqm Refinery experience, D/L, # 79474387

Project Engineer 14 yrs experience in EPC.Currently available in Muscat having NOC.Ready to join with 30 days. Contact 94051915. Email tabish.alam@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY

Assistant Manager in customer service / 4 plus years experience in hospitality /oman / DL / Female seeks job. Contact 79864612

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Mechanical engineer, male (25 yrs) qualified in MEP, NEBOSH, Autocad (Revit) seeking job. Contact 79165700, 92015294. Email melvinsolomon16@gmail.com

MEDICAL

General Physician 15 yrs experience, with MOH license need locum/ permanent or contract job preferably in Sohar region. Experienced in dealing paediatric, Geriatric, gynae & Obs, infectious diseases, diabetic, respiratory & cardiac illness. Contact 93231964

Sudanese Pharmacist, Female, 4 years experience in community pharmacy, pharmaceutical industry. GSM: 94533602

IT

Indian female having 8 yrs experience in the field of software testing and administration looking for a suitable job. Contact no : 91711326

Professional programmer in web, server, mobile & networking experience more than 7 yrs with 15 big projects developed innovation IT strategies & solutions by analysing business needs. Contact 97598800

Smart Indian Female with 7+ years experience in IT Sales (Hardware & Software) having valid Oman DL. Looking for a suitable opportunity as IT Sales and Business Development in a reputed company. Contact 968 78368961

PURCHASE/LOGISTICS

Indian Male (MBA, Age-36 years), Procurement Specialist, having over 10 years of experience in Oman, is seeking for a suitable placement. NOC and valid Oman Driving license available. Contact 96135707

Senior Procurement Engineer, M.tech-Civil, Looking for a job, NOC Available, Immediate Joining, Indian Male, 38yrs, have over 16+ years UAE& Oman experience. E. syedkamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Whatsapp +96871144578, Contact +917766019519

Procurement specialist/logistic coordinator, 8+ yrs experience in Oman with MNC Oil & Gas co.D/L & NOC available. Contact 96095376

18 Years of experience in Purchase/stores/Admin & Inventory in Food & Beverage in Oman, looking for a placement in Wholesale, Retail or Hospitality Industry. Kindly contact me on 96010598

Indian M.com graduate holding Oman DL, 05 Years plus experience in purchase / Supply Chain in international restaurants / Franchisees looking for a suitable job. NOC available. GSM: 90197061 Email shakeeb77721@gmail.com

Indian Male 45 yrs with 16 yrs exp in Oman as Logistic Supervisor, seeks a job in Warehouse/Distribution/FMCG companies, GCC D/L. NOC can be arranged. Mob: +968-71689224. Email truefails@rediffmail.com

Procurement Officer 20 years experience in Oman looking for suitable position. Contact 97903411

Procurement officer with 19 yrs experience in construction. Email u.bati307@gmail.com

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ENGINEER

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MANAGER

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Indian, Finance Manager 20Yrs Experience, Tradefinance - MIS - Budget - Planning - Auditing - Finalisation - Banking: 90473368, devan801@gmail.com

General manager / Sr.PM, 25+ yrs Indian professional (BE) MBA, PMP, INTD construction projects & organisation management, 5+ yrs in Oman. D/L, NOC available. Contact 94634053

20Yrs experienced Indian commerce graduate, 3 Years of Fleet management in FMCG sector, 7 years of Contracts, Transportation at Oil & Gas sector in Oman, and 10years of Administration in India. D/L & NOC available. Call/Whatsapp 94777651

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Senior Sales & Business Development Specialist from Morocco with 5 years' experience in Oman looking for a suitable opportunity and can start immediately. Contact 71744819

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Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with Driving License looking for suitable placement. Contact 92085257

Indian male, 18yrs of experience in outdoor sales of FMCG and electronics is seeking suitable placement. DL and NOC available. # 91290046

Indian Male 37 Years, Graduate in Finance Management . Oman 10 Years Experience . Interested in Sales & Marketing . Driving Licence Available . Looking for a Suitable Position. Contact No. 78312303

Salesman/office driver, 15 yrs experience. Valid D/L. Muscat area. Contact 79818772

B.E Civil/Indian M 24 Y Sales Exp in Sales/Marketing/Team Lead/ Manager/Business Development. Available in Oman with NOC. Looking for Any Job. Contact 78186546

Indian Male 32, having over 9 years of oman exp in sales & Marketing ls seeking for a suitable placement. NOC & Valid Oman Driving license available Gsm 92460904

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Sales associate, customer service, administrative office, real estate, rent a car, purchaser and Logistics with driving license. Contact 97761075

Housemaid required for a Keralite family at Darsait. Should have experience in household work, baby care. Contact 97332392

Urgently required experienced South Indian male cook (Veg/ Non-veg) cum houseboy for Senior company official residence at Ghubra Area. Interested medically fit candidate. Candidate with Omani DL preference. # 99273774 / 99202278

Accounts and Finance Manager with MBA Financial degree, 13 yrs in Oman & 15 yrs. in other countries seeking immediate job with Family status. # 99883983 or uthayakumaransaravanan@gmail.com

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Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of Civil Construction, interior fit- out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. Contact 95206259, 98857994

Civil engineer 12 years experience in oman NOC available # 98047527

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs of experience.5yrs & 10 months of Oman experience. NOC available seeking suitable placement. Contact 968 91226236 Email: tonymxx@gmail.com.

Electrical engineer 6+ years HV/ LV experience, Duqm Refinery exp. IOSH+6 Safety courses D/L, Contact 79474387

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of civil construction, interior fit-out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. Contact 95206259, 98857994

Accounts Manager working in a reputed company in Oman for 13 year's looking for immediate job. Release available. Contact 99883983

Mechanical Engineer (B.tech) having 5 years Oman experience as Sr Production And Procurement Engineer is seeking suitable job in Oman. Also have Oman D/L and NOC is available. Contact 92138450 WhatsApp +919544074049

Senior Copywriter with 21 years Oman experience seeks placement in Ad Agencies/Corporate Communications. Call 95234657.

Smart Indian, Professional with integrity, Arabic speaker, double Masters, excellent English, commercial acumen, strategy, 15 years rich Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC.99283938. NOC



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IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job.On visit .Contact 93674784

23 Years Indian Male, Diploma In Mechanical Engineering. 1 Years work experience in Oman. Available on family join visa. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 968- 79121923, 99224057

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately.IELTS: 6.5-Bands.Phone / WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job. NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

Diploma in Electrical Engineer (8 years Experience in Installati on of LT line, Vendor Coordination, Arrange Quotation from supplier for Tender/Work). Contact 91-9771492886

Filipino male w/ release. , with 8 years exp. in OMAN: ADMIN, accounting, purchasing, Knows Tally ERP 9 and microsoft's excel, 97890657, email: hernandezjanlouis27@gmail.com

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher(trained for 5 months)seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434.Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Draftsman with 8 years of Oman Experience, Architecture & Structural drafting. N.O.C available Contact: 78253720

HSE OFFICER, 15 years experience.Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact What-sApp-968-99626821

Accountant Indian Male 28yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

A Technical Graduate with around 2 Years' Experience in HR-Admin, seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, Desktop-Support(IT), Data Entry or IT Teacher.IELTS: 6.5-Bands.Contact/ WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman. licence. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194. Email:suhailbs@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer - NIT Surat, Gujarat, India - Oman resident with DL - one year work experience - Contact: 91756930

Indian male M.Tech(ECE) 4 yrs exp. as a Sales Engineer in Industrial Automation, PLC, SCADA with a valid Saudi D/L. Looking for a good opportunity. # 98240758 mohdrashidali87@gmail.com

Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com ,ICWA9Inter) PGDBM head-ed Finance,logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

Electrical Engineer 4 yrs 6 months experience with NOC available. Contact 90863138. Email guntisiddharth@gmail.com

Smart Indian, Arabic speaker, Excellent English, Masters-Journalism, Finance, Oman experience in Corporate/Marketing Communications, Press Releases, CSR Programs, Marketing, Customer Relations, Events, Campaigns. #99283938. NOC

Indian male, 31 Age, Single, B.E (Civil), 10Years experience in the construction field (7 years in Oman & 3 years in India), NOC available, seeking job for the post of Project engineer. # 79218189, ganeshkumargk1188@gmail.com

IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job.On visit .Contact 93674784

23 Years Indian Male, Diploma In Mechanical Engineering. 1 Years work experience in Oman. Available on family join visa. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 968- 79121923, 99224057

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately.IELTS: 6.5-Bands. # 949773471 Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job.NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

Looking part-time housemaid job surrounding area of Ghobra / Aziba like cooking, washing & cleaning post-delivery support, baby care. contact 79293053.

Male, looking for a job in administration or office coordinator, extremely familiar with the Oman market Not looking into Sales or Marketing. Looking forward to hearing from potential companies. Having D/L. # 93264375 email: vpmandakishore@gmail.com

Draftsman 2 years' experience. Looking for suitable job (Indian male). Contact 968 93083224/919791452601. Email: elaison.c@gmail.com

Indian Female 10 years, experience As Cook, South Indian,Gujarati Special,looking For Part Time. Contact : 95795971

Indian Male (30), MBA-Finance, 6 years experience in electrical and lighting industry as Sales Executive-project sales (outdoor), specialized in lighting for residential and commercial projects. Contact 94560161. Email qaisebukhari@gmail.com

Situation Wanted* Mechanical engineer specialized in quality inspection with cswip 3.1 & ASNT LEVEL II certifications looking for an opening in oil & gas industry. currently in Muscat. # 96206400 or awrunedathil@gmail.com

Indian male Diploma (Cinematography) & BA English with 5 yrs of experience in sales and Marketing field Seeking suitable placement. currently in Oman on visit. Contact 78150989. Email: alexthomas927@gmail.com

B.Tech Electrical Engineer Indian male with 11 yrs of experience in contracting and consultant firms. Looking for job with Valid GCC driving licewnse available. Contact 968-94343694. Email: ymansoor2@gmail.com



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33 Year old Indian male With 12+ Years' Experience As Operation Supervisor Project Expeditior /Quality Control in Oil & Gas , Water Line Industry. Contact 596661571. nasir03ahmed@outlook.com

Filipino, female 41 B.Sc accounting mgt., with 10 years' experience in Oman: admin, accounting, finance, secretarial, ticketing. Knowledge with excel. 96901439 email lorelie_a@yahoo.com

B.Com Graduate with four years of experience in Sales & Marketing, two years in Oman, looking for suitable post. Contact 93568656

Diploma holder 5 yrs work experience Indian male 26, looking for Indoor slaes/merchandiser, office assistant. Contact 968-78093683, whatsapp-94158447

Indian male 29 yrs having 5 yrs experience in FMCG sales & marketing in Oman with D/L.Can join immediately. Contact 78057807. Email nazi70072@gmail.com

MA B.Ed in English language, Indian female, 5 yrs experience in teaching seeking suitable positions in schools. Currently in Oman on family visa. # 79716167, 24033571

HSE Officer, 15 years experience. Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact WhatsApp 99626821

Indian Male (30) 8 Year's Experience in Sales and marketing and Office Administration on visit ,seeking a challenging careers. D/L available. Contact 9412 2402 Email: shinto.samuelit@gmail.com

Indian male, 24years holding a bachelor's in management and Masters in finance, presently pursuing ACCA. Looking for relevant job, holding valid GCC driving license. Contact 98189064 Email shahahr806@gmail.com

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MUSCAT: Gold continues to reaffirm its prominence as an investment, asset and adornment even during the unprecedented situation we continue to face globally.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 250 outlets spread across 10 countries, is providing customers with the best opportunity to invest in gold, through the gold rate protection offer, be it for personal use or as an investment, at the best rates.

Customers can just pay 10 per cent advance for their favourite jewellery and block the gold rate until November 15 protecting them from the increase in gold rate during this period. If gold rate increases at the time of purchase, customers can avail the booked rate and if it reduces they can still draw mileage of the reduced rate i.e. a customer intending to buy gold jewellery worth OMR1,000 just needs to pay OMR 100 to avail



This offer has been designed in such a way that our customers are not affected by the increase in gold rates

Shamlal Ahamed
MD – International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds

paign is that the customer always gets the benefit of lower gold rate, during purchase,” said Shamlal Ahamed, MD – International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Gold being a reliable investment is one of the intrinsic reasons for people buying gold jewellery while also serving as an adornment. It is the ease to liquidate the metal for cash without losing much value during these difficult times that further increases its dependability. While all other assets like currency, oil, stock markets, real estate etc. have steeply declined in value, gold value has appreciated in the last year.

This consistent performance of gold as an appreciating and moveable asset has led to individuals with excess cash reserves beginning to acquire gold. Being the only investment to offer all these benefits, while also being a prestigious lifestyle article, gold jewellery is expected to attract new buyers in the immediate future.

the advance booking offer and in turn get protected from the increasing gold rates.

This offer will be valid across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in GCC, Far East & USA.

“Gold prices typically rise at times of uncertainty as it is considered as a safe haven by investors

across the globe. Hence, this offer has been designed in such a way that our customers are not affected by the increase in gold rates, by providing them with an option to block the rate, by just paying just 10 per cent of the value, and get gold rate protection until November 15. The main attractiveness of this cam-

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V for victory: The story of stylish Cadillac’s performance brand

The unveiling of the first-ever CT4-V and CT5-V marks one and a half decades of the launch of the first V-Series vehicle

MUSCAT: In just over 15 short years of existence, the Cadillac V-Series has altered how the world views American performance cars. The brand shattered stereotypes and delivered unprecedented dynamics, luxury and incredible value for money, going head to head with firmly established European rivals. It was a bold move, but one that paid off.

The first V-Series vehicle, the Cadillac CTS-V sedan, was launched in 2004. Powered by the GM LS engine V8, with a six-speed Tremec manual transmission from the C5-generation Corvette Z06, the CTS-V delivered the practicality of a refined, family sedan and yet offered blistering performance.

However, it was not merely a case of strapping on a sports car V8 to a sedan and hoping for the best – the depth of engineering in the CTS-V made it one of the most agile performance cars on the market and garnered critical acclaim. Cadillac knew it was onto something big.

The second car to join Cadillac’s rarefied lineup was the stunning and luxurious XLR-V hard-top



convertible. Its forward-looking angular design was head-turning; it sat low and wide, giving it a dynamic road presence. The exceptional styling was matched by equally evocative performance. Under the hood of the XLR-V were a supercharged Northstar Series engine developing 443 horsepower and a substantial 561 Nm of torque, making it one of the most powerful American cars in its class at the time.

Just two years since its founding, a third V-Series vehicle was introduced. This time it was the larger STS-V sedan. The STS-V was propelled by the XLR-V’s supercharged 4.4L V8, but with a bump of 26 horsepower and an additional 34 Nm of torque.

It was also the first V-Series

car to offer a driver-adjustable gearbox and bigger Brembo performance brakes for greater stopping power. However, despite its dynamic credentials, the STS-V did not compromise on hallmark Cadillac qualities of refinement and comfort. The STS-V offered the best of both.

By 2009 it was apparent that Cadillac’s V-Series had become a firm favourite with the enthusiasts and the second generation was launched with an all-new CTS-V. Unsurprisingly, the 2009 CTS-V took the market by storm. Featuring an evolution of Cadillac’s ‘Art and Science’ design language, the second-gen CTS-V was a striking reimagining of its predecessor. It was arguably the most influential V car with its ground-breaking

performance and superb design.

Equipped with 6.2L V8 developing 556 horsepower and a prodigious 747 Nm of torque, the CTS-V took on and beat its European rivals on their home turf. The CTS-V blitzed the legendary Nurburgring in 7:59.32, making it the fastest four-door sedan to go around the 20-plus kilometre track in Germany at the time. It was an extraordinary feat - Cadillac V-Series had the world’s attention. Predictably, and given the success of the giant-killing new CTS-V, Cadillac subsequently introduced two other body styles on popular demand, namely a wagon and a coupe version, which proved equally popular.

The current, third generation of V-Series saw the launch of the all-

new ATS-V, a compact premium performance sedan that despite a smaller V6 engine outgunned its main European competitors – and by quite a margin - with 464 horsepower. With its nimble handling and outright straight-line pace, the ATS-V received rave reviews around the world. The flagship of the range, however, continues to be the CTS-V, which, in its latest iteration churns out 640 horsepower and a gargantuan 850Nm of torque.

Recognising customer demand for greater choice, Cadillac then launched its VSport sub-brand, which was available on the top-trim XTS sedan making 410 horsepower. Later, the CTS was also available in VSport guise, albeit with power bumped up to 420.

Cadillac has recently expanded its V-Series lineup further, but with a new performance philosophy of downsizing. Using its latest turbocharging technology to deliver exciting performance, while cutting down on weight and fuel consumption, Cadillac revealed the 2019 CT6-V earlier this year. And now, the latest additions to the range, the CT4-V and CT5-V, are poised to shake up the segment.

Built on Cadillac’s award-winning rear-wheel-drive Alpha architecture, the new V-Series models are designed to deliver the ultimate blend of performance, presence and road-going refinement. Available in RWD or AWD, both share the latest standard V-Series performance technologies including Magnetic Ride Control 4.0, which is tuned specifically for V models to enhance comfort without sacrificing performance-oriented responsiveness.

The CT5-V packs a 3.0L Twin Turbo V6 engine delivering 355 horsepower, while the CT4-V is propelled by a 2.7L Turbo engine making a Cadillac-estimated 320 horsepower, with a near-perfect 50/50 weight distribution for exceptional balance and control. Crucially, they represent the renewed identity of V-Series vehicles, ones that do not compromise on efficiency for performance, or comfort for handling.

From the XLR-V that shook up the segment with its remarkable looks and performance to the record-breaking CTS-V, Cadillac’s V-Series cars have firmly established themselves in the upper echelons of American performance. And going by the lean and mean new duo of CT4-V and CT5-V, it’s safe to say that the story has just begun.

PARTNERSHIP

Suhail Bahwan Automobiles launches General Tyre in Oman

MUSCAT: Suhail Bahwan Automobiles unveiled the General Tyre range in Oman. General Tyre, with a reputation for producing some of the world’s best off-road and on-road tyres, and a history stretching back over 100 years, has now arrived on Oman’s motoring scene.

Renowned for its ‘Anywhere is possible’ slogan, the brand has been introduced to the Sultanate in partnership with Suhail Bahwan Automobiles and offers a new range of safe, reliable and high-value tyres for car owners in Oman.

Founded in 1915, and now owned by the premium tyre and automotive technology company Continental, General Tyre operates worldwide and manufactures a wide range of tyres for passenger cars, trucks and industrial applications. With its rich American heritage, the brand is best known for its robust and durable high-performance SUV and 4x4 tyres.

Karel Kucera, Managing Director, Continental Middle East, said, “General Tyre has been waiting for the right moment to introduce the brand to Oman, and this partnership with Suhail Bahwan Automobiles represents exactly such an opportunity. We can now offer Omani motorists a range of tyres designed to provide them with total confidence as well as an enjoyable and safe driving experience in varied weather conditions.”

Keeping in line with its business growth objective, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles partnered with Continental Group to launch General Tyres in Oman. Commenting on the occasion Sheikh Ahmed Bahwan, Chairman, Bahwan International Group (BIG) said, “We are delighted to enter into this partnership with General Tyre, a brand by Continental. Continental’s General Tyres are world-famous for their superior quality, heritage and performance. This range is surely going to complement the ever-increasing portfolio of automotive products and services that BIG is offering to its discerning customers.”

General Tyre - A brand by Continental

General Tyres are headquartered in Fort Mill, South Carolina, USA and has a long history of evolution spanning over 100 years since its foundation in 1915. From early on, the company has produced tyres



for all types of motor vehicles.

Based on the brand’s American Heritage, General Tyre has proven its ability to compete in the ever-changing tyre industry with manufacturing and technological advancements for more than 100 years. With manufacturing bases spread across Europe (Germany, France, Portugal, Romania, Czech Republic) and the USA, General Tyre continues the long tradition of being the customers’ choice when it comes to Quality, Value and Performance. The brand is driven by its core values - Performance, Reliability & American Heritage.

Today, General Tire has a large and interesting choice of patterns and sizes. Its range includes tough, durable and ultra-high-performance tyres for passenger cars, light vans, SUVs and Off-road 4x4 to meet customers’ needs.

Continental Group acquired General Tyre in 1987. Today, General Tyre delivers car, truck, and industrial tyres to customers all around the world. It also equips 4x4 vehicles with special tyres. Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles,

machines, traffic and transportation. In 2019, Continental generated sales of €44.5 billion and currently employs about 240,000 people in 59 countries and markets.

General Tyre range in Oman

SBA introduced two patterns of General tyres which are made in Europe and the USA – Altimax & Grabber. Altimax comes in 4 patterns Altimax One, Altimax One S, Altimax Comfort & Altimax Sport that primarily caters passenger and luxury car segment. General Altimax’s new Passenger Summer line provides reliable performance for everyday driving with outstanding grip in dry and wet conditions and significantly improved thread life.

Grabber offers 4 patterns Grabber GT, Grabber HTS-60, Grabber AT-3 & Grabber X-3 which are asymmetric state-of-the-art pattern design for fast and powerful SUVs/4x4 vehicles. General Grabber keeps the very good performance of the Grabber HP/UHP and offers improved performance in safety, handling and comfort. Grabber tyres are the tough highway terrain all-season tyres that provide the perfect synergy of comfort, durability and performance for light trucks, SUVs and crossovers.

Both the patterns Altimax &

Grabber comes with the RTM (Replacement Tyre Monitor) technology that provides the user with a warning when the tyre is worn and has to be replaced. Also, the VAI (Visual Alignment Indicator) technology allows the user to check wheel misalignment to avoid irregular wear of the tyres.

Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) is a flagship company of the Bahwan International Group and one of the top automobile distributors in the Sultanate of Oman. Employing over 1500 people throughout the country, SBA, over the years has emerged as one of the most reliable and one-stop sources for all automobile needs.

The name has been respected in Oman for decades for its adherence to strong values and business ethics. SBA has taken pride in its ability to embrace change and modern business practices while keeping core values and corporate culture at the foundation of business strategy.

Exercising the “Customer First” philosophy continuously, SBA is constantly thriving for customer satisfaction. To serve customers in the remotest parts of the country, SBA in a short period, has established a strong network of more than 60 retail points spread across the length and breadth of the country.

MEETHAQ



Great response to Hibati prize draws, over OMR1mn to be given away in 2020

MUSCAT: Meethaq, the pioneer of Islamic banking in Oman from Bank Muscat, has been seeing an excellent response from customers in Oman for its Sharia-compliant Hibati Savings prize account.

The exciting prize scheme, which was launched by the bank in line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and commitment to partnership in promoting a healthy savings habit in Oman, has been growing from strength to strength by helping customers realise their aspirations.

Hibati Savings account is based on the unrestricted Mudarabah contract. The cash prizes offered under Hibati’s 2020 prize draw scheme are ‘Hiba’ (gift) from Meethaq to its customers and are paid out of Mudarib’s (shareholders’) own sources. The cash prizes are in addition to the profit share of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in the General Mudarabah Pool as per the declared profit-sharing weightages.

With prizes including 100 weekly prizes of OMR100 each and 10 monthly prizes of OMR 1,000 each, the Hibati prize draws offer one of the biggest Sharia-compliant prize schemes in Oman. Special prizes to be given away during the year include 10 prizes of OMR1,000 each for the Omani Women’s Day. Mega prizes to the Hafawa segment are given away quarterly.

These include 6 prizes of OMR 5,000 each given away to customers and 5 prizes of OMR 10,000 each every quarter. A massive total of over OMR 1 million will be given away to 5,424 winners in 2020. An interesting highlight of

the Hibati scheme is that customers are also eligible for monthly Mudarabah Profit as per the declared profit-sharing weightage.

In keeping with Meethaq’s leadership position in launching innovative products and services focused on the needs of customers, the Hibati savings scheme is the first-of-its-kind aimed at helping customers realise their aspirations and thereby, boost the savings culture in Oman. The Sharia-compliant scheme encourages Islamic savings deposits by offering Mudarabah profit as well as chances to win cash prizes as Hiba or gift from the bank.

Ensuring financial inclusion, Hibati stems from Meethaq’s commitment to reciprocate in giving back to the community with a much broader savings scheme with cash prizes shared by the largest number of winners at a higher frequency. Customers who maintain a minimum average balance of OMR 100 are eligible to participate in the draws for 100 weekly prizes of OMR100 each and 10 monthly prizes of OMR 1,000 each.

The Hibati account benefits include attractive Mudarabah profit rates, cash prizes through draws, Visa debit card, no minimum balance charges and eBanking facilities. Initially launched in 2018, Hibati has been instrumental in improving awareness for Islamic Banking in Oman and has seen an excellent response from customers. Very importantly, every Meethaq product goes through the process of Shari’a compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.