

SHURA DISCUSSES REPORT ON STATE DRAFT BUDGET 2022

The Shura Council on Monday discussed the report of its Economic and Financial Committee on the state draft Budget 2022. The report was presented by the committee's chairman Ahmed Said Al Sharqi. **>A5**



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HM THE SULTAN GREETES UAE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President of the UAE while His Majesty was crossing the UAE's airspace on his way to the State of Qatar. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to Sheikh Khalifa, praying to Allah the Almighty to grant him good health, wellbeing and long life to continue achieving aspirations of further progress and prosperity for the UAE people under his wise leadership. **-ONA**



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**Best Wishes to our Great Leader
and the People of Oman**



RENEWED IMPETUS

HM's visit to
strengthen
historic ties

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to Qatar and his meeting with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, constitute a renewed impetus to strengthening the strong historic bilateral relations at various levels.

The visit will open wider horizons for the future of the two countries, especially in the economic field, one of the important pillars of Oman Vision 2040 and Qatar National Vision 2030, reinforced by legislative elements that stimulate investment with an attractive and encouraging infrastructure.

Both the countries have international ports, including Duqm, Sohar, Salalah, Hamad, Doha and Ruwais, through which they can enhance the existing cooperation between them in maritime transport services, loading, unloading and handling operations. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Citizen found dead

1 The body of a citizen who had gone missing was found in the mountains of Bahla in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. **>A3**

WORLD

Car rams into crowd

2 Several people were killed and over 20 suffered injuries after a car rammed into a holiday parade in Wisconsin on Sunday night. **>A6**

MARKET

Thumbs up for Oman

3 Oman successfully concluded its third World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Policy Review in Geneva on Friday. **>B1**

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HM, QATAR EMIR WITNESS SIGNING OF SIX PACTS



Cooperation pacts
cover military
fields, avoidance
of double taxation
and prevention of
tax evasion, labour,
investment, tourism
and transport

DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar on Monday witnessed the signing of six cooperation agreements covering military fields, avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion, labour, investment, tourism and transport.

The military cooperation agreement was signed by His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, and Dr. Khalid Mohammed Al Atiyah, Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs.

The agreement on avoidance of double taxation and income and capital tax evasion was signed by Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, and his Qatari counterpart Ali Ahmed Al Kuwari. The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of labour and human resources development. **>A2**

HM, Emir of Qatar exchange orders



DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar exchanged orders at the Amiri Diwan in the Qatari capital, Doha on Monday afternoon. His Maj-

esty the Sultan conferred the Oman Civil Order "Frist Class" on Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

The order is considered one of the loftiest Omani orders, which is conferred on kings and



presidents whose countries are bound by distinguished relations with the Sultanate of Oman.

Highest order
Meanwhile, the Emir of Qatar

conferred on His Majesty the Sultan the "Sword of the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani", the highest Qatari order. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from both sides. **-ONA**



Dhuhr.....	11:58pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:08am

HM, Sheikh Tamim hold official talks

Sheikh Tamim expressed his warm welcome to His Majesty the Sultan for accepting the invitation and wished His Majesty and the accompanying delegation a pleasant stay



to Sheikh Tamim for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Reviewed matters

During the session, the two leaders discussed areas of cooperation between their countries and means of promoting them in various spheres to meet the aspirations of their people. The session also reviewed other matters of common interest.

The talks session was attended from the Omani side by His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court,

Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Dr. Mahad bin Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour and Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Qatar.

It was attended from the Qatari side by Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Personal Representative of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Dr. Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Attiyah, Minister of State (Head of the Mission of Honour), Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chief of the Emiri Diwan, Dr. Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, Minister of Finance, Dr. Ali bin Said Al Marri, Minister of Labour and Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar to Oman.

The session was also attended by a number of officials. Afterwards, His Majesty the Sultan and Sheikh Tamim held a closed-door session. -ONA

Emir of Qatar holds luncheon in honour

DOHA: Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar hosted luncheon at the Emiri Diwan on Monday in honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on the occasion of His Majesty's

visit to Qatar. The luncheon was attended by the official delegations of the Omani and Qatari sides, sheikhs of the Qatari Royal Family and Qatari dignitaries. -ONA

VISIT

< FROM A1 Historic visit

The two countries agree in their foreign policies on a number of regional and international issues, including the Palestinian issue, maintaining international peace and security, combating terrorism, encouraging dialogue to resolve issues and renounce violence, in addition to keenness to strengthen the progress of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. It is hoped that the Omani-

Qatari Joint Committee headed by the Ministers of Finance of the two countries will work to activate economic activities, reinforced by this historic visit, especially since at a meeting in 2019 in Muscat, they emphasised "encouraging joint investments in the fields of agriculture, energy, communications, transport, and tourism, banking, and education". -ONA

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

< FROM A1 MoU signed

The MoU was signed by Dr. Mahad Said Ba'Owein, Minister of Labour, and his Qatari counterpart Dr. Ali Said Al Marri.

The cooperation agreement in the field of investment was signed by Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Au-

thority and Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mahmood, CEO of Qatar Investment Authority.

Al Murshidi and Al Mahmood also signed the agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism and hotels and the agreement on cooperation in the fields of maritime transport and ports. -ONA

EMIRI DIWAN

His Majesty arrives in Doha on a two-day state visit



DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik arrived here on Monday on a two-day state visit to the State of Qatar.

Upon His Majesty's arrival at Doha International Airport, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar led the welcoming party, which included Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Personal Representative of the Emir, Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, President of Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Attiyah Minister of State (Head of the Mission of Honour), Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chief of the Emiri Diwan and Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar to Oman.

When the Royal Jet entered the airspace of Qatar, it was escorted by warplanes from the Qatari Air Defence Force.

After a short rest at the Reception Hall, His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by the Emir of Qatar joined a motorcade that took them over to the Emiri Diwan. There, His Majesty the Sultan was accorded an official welcome. The protocols started when the vehicle carrying His Majesty the Sultan and Sheikh Tamim entered the yard, flanked by a cavalcade and a camelcade that had lined both sides of the street to welcome His Majesty the Sultan.

As soon as the motorcade arrived, Sheikh Tamim escorted His Majesty the Sultan to the Dais, where the Royal Anthem of Oman and the Qatari National Anthem were played. Then, His Majesty the Sultan inspected the honorary guard which saluted him.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan received members of the Qatari welcoming party and exchanged greetings with them, while the Emir of Qatar received the members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA





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Missing citizen’s body found after marathon search

Citizen Saeed bin Salem Al Hina’ai was reported missing in the mountains of the Wilayat of Bahla



SEARCH OPERATION: A Royal Oman Police helicopter was sent to retrieve the body and transport it to the hospital, after which it was to be transported for burial.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The body of a citizen who had gone missing was found in a mountain in the wilayat of Bahla in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, after three consecutive nights of searches. He was taken to the hospital by police aviation and the authority’s ambulance.

Mohammed bin Sulaiman bin Tamim Al Hina’ai, representative of the wilayat of Bahla in the governorate of Al Dakhiliyah at Majlis Al Shura, spoke exclusively to the *Times of Oman* about the details of the missing citizen in the mountains of Bahla wilayat last Friday.

“On last Friday afternoon, the citizen Saeed bin Salem Al Hina’ai was reported missing in the mountains of the Wilayat of Bahla. He left his family in the morning to search for honey but they lost contact with him after that, so that the competent authorities from the Civil Defence Department, the Royal Oman Police, and the Royal Oman Police aviation in the wilayat were notified.

“Immediately, these authori-

ties, along with the people of the wilayat, began searching for the citizen in the mountains.”

Mohammed Al Hina’ai spared no effort since the first hours of receiving the report of the missing citizen, so he moved directly with the volunteer citizens, forming teams for search operations in coordination with the competent authorities for three consecutive nights.

He added: “The voluntary teams of people spread among the mountains in search for three consecutive nights until the missing citizen was found dead by one of the voluntary civil teams in a very rugged mountainous area that only beekeepers who know the narrow corridors and roads between the mountains can reach.”

Al Hina’ai continued, “After the citizen was found dead, direct contact was made with the Royal Oman Police so accordingly, a Royal Oman Police helicopter was sent to retrieve the body and transport it to the hospital, after which it will be transported for

burial in the wilayat.”

He praised “the efforts of the Royal Oman Police aviation, as the area is very rugged and it is very difficult to land the helicopter in this area where the citizen was found.”

The citizen, who was found dead, was about 51 years old, and is a father of eight children, three boys and five girls. He is from the wilayat of Bahla, from Seih Al Ma’ashi area, and he is a fan of searching for honey.

Mohammed bin Sulaiman bin Tamim Al Hina’ai expressed his sincere thanks to the Royal Oman Police, the Civil Defence Department in the wilayat and all the voluntary civil teams from inside and outside the region, and about 500 volunteers who participated in the search operations.

He also expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased, asking God Almighty to inspire them with patience and solace and wrap the deceased in his vast gardens.

‘National Day babies’ add to the celebrations at NMC

Times News Service

MUSCAT: NMC Healthcare Oman, leading hospitals group in Oman welcomed four newborns on the 51st National Day of Oman. The first NMC National Day baby – a boy – was born at NMC Hospital Al Hail at the dawn of National Day and other 3 babies – one girl and 2 boys – were delivered at NMC Hospital Ghoubra.

“We’re all delighted”. The first NMC ‘Baby of the National Day 2021’ was born just at the dawn of the prestigious day in the Sultanate. – “It is an incredible feeling to have a baby on National Day”, Anish Menon Head – Operations NMC Hospital Al Hail said.

“It is a dream of every Omani to bring their children into this wonderful world on the National Day and I am very happy that my wife has delivered today,” said delighted father, Hisham Hamed Al Amri. Happy to welcome their baby boy on the special occasion, Omani couple named him Uday.

“Today is an unforgettable moment for our family. We are extremely pleased that Baby Uday shares his birthday with the National Day of our great nation. It is a double celebration for us from this year onwards,” said the proud father.

He added, “We are thankful to Dr. Addiba, and the medical team of NMC Hospital Al Hail for their dedication and care to safely deliver our precious gift.”

Whereas at NMC Hospital Ghoubra, three babies got delivered on the National Day – one baby girl and 2 boys. The deliveries were conducted by Sr Consultant Dr Abdul Rahman Al Farsi & Dr Maheswari, Dr Beena and Dr Reshma with the support of Dr Martin, head of Neonatology & Paediatrics.

The overjoyed Omani parents said they are happy and grateful to the Almighty for blessing them with a baby girl on this special day.

“We have been longing for this since Jaziya became pregnant. It is a blessing that the child has been born when the nation as a whole is celebrating the national day,” said Mohammed Nasser. “Big thanks to Dr Reshma, Dr Martin and the entire medical team at NMC Hospital Ghoubra for the wonderful service and dedication extended to make the special moments for us”.

Dr Reshma, Expert Obstetrics



and Gynaecologist at the hospital who helped to deliver the baby, expressed her happiness: “The couple was anxious in the entire period of gestation due to the pandemic, yet they followed the guidelines and practiced social distancing thereby keeping the baby and themselves safe until the time of birth.”

“It is an incredible feeling to have a baby on National Day and it’s great to see the happiness of families who have their children born on special occasions.” Dr Vinod, Operations Head-NMC Hospital Ghoubra commented. “It was a coincidence and not elective ones hence we feel more delighted for their joyous moments. We wish the very best and good health to all the three babies”.

“We are happy to have our precious gift on such a memorable day in a country which is our second home”, said the happy father Jithin, whose wife delivered a baby boy. We appreciate the dedication and care extended by Dr Beena and hospital staff for a safe delivery.

Excited at the birth of their baby boy, the thrilled father Shady Nas-

ri said: “I am so happy to have our precious gift on such a memorable day and it’s great that he will be celebrating his birthdays on the same day of Oman National day, a country which is our second home”.

“To be blessed with the baby on a special day is an incredible feeling. We wish the family a very happy and a healthy life,” Dr Abdul Rahman Al Farsi & Dr Maheswari, who safely delivered the bundle of joy for the parents.

“It was double bonanza for some Oman residents who were not only celebrating the 51st Oman National Day but also the birth of a child making this day extra special for them, said Dr Deep Makkar Country Head – NMC Healthcare Oman.

“Congratulations to the parents on the joyous occasion and in times like these when you hear such happy news, it warms the heart and makes one feel blessed. On the behalf of NMC Hospitals, I’d like to extend our best wishes to the parents and pray that these and all other children grow in a happier and safer world,” Dr Deep added.

Trending
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



21,731 REACH
f Oman
Omani mountaineer Nadhirah Al Harthy has set another record.



A story on Omani mountaineer Nadhirah Al Harthy
A story on Omani mountaineer Nadhirah Al Harthy reached 21,731 people and had 850 engagements on Facebook.



782 LIKES
Another peak conquered, another record for Omani climber Nadhirah Al Harthy



Picture post on Omani mountaineer
A picture post on Omani mountaineer Nadhirah Al Harthy had 782 likes on Instagram.



1,200 VIEWS
Sayyid Asaad meets Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi at Expo 2020 Dubai



The Maghrib Minute video
The Maghrib Minute video had 1,200 views and reached 8,200 people on Facebook.



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Announcement

Periodic Maintenance of the Desalination Plant in the Wilayat of Sohar

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company announces that it will carry out maintenance work at the Desalination Plant in Sohar and improvement works in the Sohar Reservoir, in addition to connecting new water lines to the Sohar-Al Dhahirah project. The operating company will carry out the periodic maintenance of the plant and will do some improvements in the main Sohar Reservoir and link water lines to the Sohar-Al Dhahirah Water Supply Project. This will take place on 24 November 2021 for a period of 24 hours.

The Company has taken all precautionary measures to ensure the continuity of water supply to the governorates of North Al Batinah and Al Buraimi during the maintenance period.

The Company urges all customers to take the necessary measures and to continue rationalization of water consumption.

For more information, please contact the call center at (1442)

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AL KHOR CITY



His Majesty the Sultan visits Al Bayt Stadium

DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik visited Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor city, Qatar yesterday.

Al Bayt Stadium is one of the venues that will host World Cup 2022 matches.

The visit comes as part of His Majesty the Sultan's state visit to Qatar. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, led the welcoming party that received His Majesty the Sultan at Al Bayt Stadium.

His Majesty the Sultan and Sheikh Tamim toured the stadium which comprised replicas of all playgrounds that will host FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

His Majesty the Sultan listened to a briefing about Al Bayt Stadium whose facilities are inspired by the design of the Arabian tent, while at the same time depicting top international designs. His Majesty the Sultan commended the unique design of the edifice and its facilities, noting that Al Bayt Stadium affirms Qatar's ability to present an exceptional model for hosting such a global sports event.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by the head and members of the mission of honour and the Omani official delegation. — **ONA**



HIS MAJESTY SEEN OFF AT ROYAL AIRPORT



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik left here on Monday heading to Doha, Qatar, on a two-day state visit during which he will meet with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

His Majesty's visit comes in response to an invitation from the Emir of Qatar. It also comes in affirmation of the distinguished relations binding the two countries.

His Majesty was seen off at the Royal Airport by His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al Said, Special Envoy to His Majesty the Sultan, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Salmi, Minister of Awaqaf and Religious Affairs, Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Health, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, Lt.Gen Has-

san bin Mohsin Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj. Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Ja'aboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF).

During the visit, His Majesty is accompanied by an official high-level delegation comprising His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Dr. Mahad bin Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour and Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Qatar.

May the Almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan wherever he might be and grant him continued good health and well-being.

— **ONA**





DISCUSSION

Shura Council discusses report on State Draft Budget 2022

MUSCAT: The Shura Council on Monday discussed the report of its Economic and Financial Committee on the state draft Budget 2022.

The report, presented by the committee's chairman Ahmed Said Al Sharqi, offered detailed recommendations on mechanisms of funding deficit, the government's plans on diversifying the national income and raising the contribution of industry, tourism and logistics sectors to the national income.

The recommendations also deal with the employment of jobseekers, the Job Security Fund and the situation of laid-off workers.

The deliberations took place during the Council's fourth ordi-



DELIBERATIONS: The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council. -ONA

nary session of the third annual sitting (2021-2022) of the 9th Term (2019-2023) held under the chairmanship of Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council.

Later, the Council reviewed other topics on the agenda, including the financial securities draft law forwarded by the government and a proposal to amend some provisions of the Documents and Archives Law as per the vision of the Media and Culture Committee.

The Council's fourth ordinary session also discussed the report of the Education and Research Committee about a mechanism to boost external scholarships. -ONA

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

National Finance to help repair centres damaged in cyclone

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Committed to contributing to local communities, National Finance has collaborated with Association for Children with Disability under the company's independent wing for sustainable initiatives - 'Imtidad'.

Financial support

The company has pledged to provide the financial support required to carry out maintenance work for the association's centres which were affected by the cyclone that hit Oman recently.

The signing ceremony took place at the company's headquarters and was attended by Tariq Suliman Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer of National Finance, Her Highness Sayyida Hujaija bint Jai-fer Al Said, Chairperson of the Association and other senior officials from both entities.

Healthy environment

"Through this initiative, we aim to create a healthy environment that enables children with special needs to continue their education and carry out their daily activities with ease. The aim is to support

the association and help them continue their programme, thereby stimulating children with disabilities and facilitate their integration into society. Seeking to add value to the society, National Finance will remain committed to its corporate social responsibility by delivering sustainable initiatives," said Tariq Al Farsi.

National Finance strongly believes that it has responsibilities not only towards its customers, employees, and shareholders but also to the communities in which it serves.

Therefore, the company launched 'Imtidad', an expression of the company's commitment to positively impacting various pillars that include education, community, health and environment.

Market leader

National Finance, established in 1987, has built a reputation as the market leader trusted by thousands of customers across the Sultanate. National Finance offers a wide range of products targeting both individual customers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through its 20 branches across the Sultanate.

OMAN CONNECTIONS FOR LUXURY TOURISM

Event showcases best luxury products

MUSCAT: Activities of Oman Connections for Luxury Tourism Event began at Al Bustan Palace Hotel yesterday.

The four-day event is hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. The event showcases

the best luxury tourism products with the participation of 30 international travel and tourism firms.

The event aims at enhancing partnership among international luxury travel and tourism companies with their counterparts in Oman, including hotels and tour-

ism experience providers through using innovative communication methods to facilitate long-term business relationships.

Haitham Mohammed Al Ghasani, Director General of Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said: "The Sultan-

ate of Oman is considered as a destination for luxury tourism for visitors from all over the world, therefore we are pleased to host the "Oman Connections" event to establish long-term business relationships and providing valuable opportunities for tourism. -ONA

COLLECTION OF PROSES IN MARINE SCIENCES

National Museum inaugurates manuscript of Ahmed bin Majid

MUSCAT: Within the cooperation between the National Museum and the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in Saint Petersburg in the Russian Federation, the manuscript "Collection of proses in Marine sciences" (Al-Safaliyah, Al-Mu'allaqiyah, and Al-Ta'i) by the Omani navigator Shihab al-Din Ahmad bin Majid Al Saadi, was inaugurated yesterday on loan from the Institute of the Oriental Manuscripts in St. Petersburg.

The event was held under the patronage of Salim Mohammad Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum, with the participation of Prof. Dr. Irina Fyodorovna Popova, Director of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in St. Petersburg, in the Maritime History Hall of the National Museum. After the inauguration of



the manuscript, the National Museum held a lecture titled "Some Pearls of the Arabic collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS" presented by Prof. Dr. Irina Fyodorovna Popova, Director of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in St. Petersburg.

It included a number of topics, most notably a historical overview of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts and its most

prominent founders.

Reference is made to the Arabic manuscripts preserved at the Institute, for example, the manuscript "al-Jawhara" and the poetic scrolls of the Omani navigator Ahmed bin Majid Al Saadi, as well as addressing the efforts to restore and preserve Arabic manuscripts, and shed light on the expansion operations in the Institutes, structure over the years. -ONA

WILAYAT OF SHALEEM AND AL HALLANIYAT ISLANDS

Agreement signed for fish landing centre, fish market

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources on Monday signed an agreement to establish a fish landing centre in the Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Hallaniyat Islands and a fish market in the Wilayat of A'Rustaq.

The agreement was signed with a local company, and funded by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO).

The agreement was signed by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Min-

ister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Eng. Mohammed Ahmed Al Ghareebi, PDO's External Affairs and Communication Manager, in the presence of Eng. Yaqoub Khalfan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Fisheries.

The fish landing centre will be established in Al Shuwaimiya (wholesale market - phase one) on an area of 1,320 square metres. It includes a sorting and cleaning hall, an auctioning

area, cold stores, a fish loading and unloading area, ice production unit, administrative offices, shops and other services.

The fish market in A'Rustaq will be established on an area of more than 1,490 square metres.

It will include 24 fish sale stalls, 12 fish cutting stalls, an ice production unit, a cold store and stores, administrative offices, shops, a fish loading and unloading area and other services. -ONA



Sultan Qaboos University

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University announces their desire to sell used furniture and their in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- Interested parties can view used furniture in auction stores and receive the bidding on Wednesday and Thursday 24-25/11/2021 from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.
- Deposit of (200) Omani riyals in cash as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the used furniture, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for selling used furniture, and put the envelope in bid box.
- The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- Those who win the bidding will be contacted. They must pay the remaining sum, and they are responsible for moving their items on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 30/11, 01/12 and 02/12/2021.
- The used furniture are sold in their current condition, and SQU is not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold material if the moving is not completed after the end of the sale, and (10) Omani riyals will be imposed for each day after 05/12/2021.

Notes:

- Prices are sorted according to groups and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through visa cards.
- Commitment to Precautionary measures and wearing a mask and only one person is allowed to enter auction's location with the buyer.
- Entering the auction stores through Gate No. (2).
- For more information, please contact 92907117 .





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Five killed as car rams into Wisconsin Christmas parade

Police have arrested a “person of interest” in connection with the attack in the city of Waukesha

WISCONSIN: A vehicle that sped into a Christmas parade in the US state of Wisconsin on Sunday caused five deaths and left more than 40 people injured, police said. Police have arrested a “person of interest” in connection with the attack in the city of Waukesha, which is within the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

What do we know so far? Live videos of the parade captured the moment the car broke through a barrier just after 4:30 p.m. and sped towards the parade at about 40 mph (64 kph), according to a witness. “The Waukesha Christmas parade was taking place when a red SUV broke through the barricades, westbound, headed down Main Street,” Police Chief Dan Thompson told reporters. “The vehicle struck more than 20 individuals, some of the individuals were children and there were some fatalities as a result of this incident,” he said. In another video seen online the car plows into a marching band, leaving injured people in its wake. A police officer had fired at the car to get it to stop, authorities reported. Authorities said 11 adults and 12 children were taken to hospital by the emergency services alone. He added that police had arrested a suspect. Thompson said it was unclear whether the incident was a terrorist attack. “Waukesha police department has recovered a suspect vehicle,” Thompson said. “It’s an ongoing investigation.” The FBI is also helping local law enforcement with the investigation.



MULTIPLE INJURED: Live videos of the parade captured the moment the car broke through a barrier just and sped towards the parade at about 40 mph.

Victims rushed to hospital Thompson said victims were transported to the hospital by ambulances, police cars and family members. “There were small children laying all over the road, there were police officers and EMTs doing CPR on multiple members of the parade,” local businessman Chris Germain said. He had come to the parade with 70 girls from his dance studio. Local official Angelito Tenorio said he was at the parade when the vehicle sped into the area. “We heard a loud bang, and just deafening cries and screams from people who were struck by the vehicle,” Tenorio said. “Then we saw people running away or crying, and there were people on the ground who looked like they’d been hit by the vehicle.” “They were pompoms and shoes and spilled hot chocolate everywhere. I had to go from one crumpled body to the other to find my daughter,” Corey Montiho, a Waukesha school district board member, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The Children’s Wisconsin hospital said it was treating 15 patients as of 8 p.m., with no reported fatalities. Other victims were distributed between six other hospitals in the area. “It was a very tragic incident, very chaotic. There are no other threats involved. The scene is now safe,” said Thompson. The White House was monitoring the incident and briefing US president Joe Biden. It is not known yet if the attack was linked to terrorism. Schools would not open for many children in the city, with extra counselors brought in to support students struggling with the events, the district superintendent of schools said. The attack occurred just 55 miles (88 kilometers) north of Kenosha where Kyle Rittenhouse was freed on Friday after killing two men. **Wisconsin reacts to ‘senseless act’** Top Wisconsin officials reacted in anger and sadness to the attack that rocked the city of just over

70,000 people. “What took place in Waukesha today is sickening, and I have every confidence that those responsible will be brought to justice,” tweeted the state’s attorney general Josh Kaul. “Kathy and I are praying for Waukesha tonight and all the kids, families, and community members affected by this senseless act,” Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers said on Twitter. “I’m grateful for the first responders and folks who acted quickly to help, and we are in contact with local partners as we await more information,” he added. Wisconsin US Senator Ron Johnson echoed Evers in a tweet, adding, “My gratitude for all law enforcement, medical personnel, and community members who are responding.” “The horrific violence at the Waukesha Christmas Parade is just heartbreaking,” tweeted Tammy Baldwin, another Wisconsin senator. “Please keep the victims in your prayers tonight.”



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Australia to allow fully vaccinated eligible visa holders from December 1



CANBERRA: Australia on Monday further relaxed its travel rules as it allows fully vaccinated eligible visa holders to enter the country without the need to apply for a travel exemption from December 1. Eligible visa holders include skilled and student cohorts, as well as humanitarian, working holidaymakers and provisional family visa holders. The additional changes have been announced as part of the National plan to safely reopen Australia. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, in a statement, said: “From 1 December 2021, fully vaccinated eligible visa holders can come to Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption. Eligible visa holders include skilled and student cohorts, as well as humanitarian, working holidaymaker and provisional family visa holders.” He said that these changes will ensure that “we continue to protect the health of Australians while reuniting families and securing our economic recovery by opening our border to skilled and student visa holders”.

Under these arrangements, Morrison said that the travellers must be fully vaccinated with a completed dosage of a vaccine approved or recognised by Australia’s Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), hold a valid visa for one of the eligible visa subclasses, provide proof of their vaccination status and present a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test taken within three days of departure. “The return of skilled workers and international students to Australia will further cement our economic recovery, providing the valuable workers our economy needs and supporting our important education sector,” Morrison said. Australia has reopened its border to quarantine-free travellers on November 1 after months of stringent pandemic restrictions. On March 20 last year, Australia introduced some of the world’s toughest border restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Strict restrictions were imposed by Australia from travelling overseas without permission for 18-months. **ANI**

15 people drown during temple festival in Myanmar

NAYPYIDAW: At least 15 people drowned after being swept away by a tidal wave during a temple festival in Myanmar, local media reported on Sunday. The incident occurred on an island in the southeast part of the country during the annual temple festival, Sputnik news agency re-

ported. The temple in Mon state is built on an island and can be reached on foot via a stone pathway that gets covered by water during high tide, or by boat, the report said. According to the Eleven Media news portal, scores of pilgrims crossing over to the island on foot

tried to climb into a nearby boat, causing it to collide with another boat, after which both of them sank and people got carried away by a tidal wave. A total of eight people were saved by the rescue services. They also took out of the water the bodies of fifteen victims.

Bulgaria’s President Radev set for election victory

SOFIA: Bulgarian President Rumen Radev is projected to win another term with nearly two-thirds of the vote, according to exit polls published after the Sunday election by Alpha Research and Gallup International. He was facing Anastas Gerdzhikov in the runoff round, after falling short of the required 50% support in the first round held last weekend. The 58-year-old president campaigned on an anti-corruption message. He is broadly aligned with other non-corruption forces in the country, including the newly founded “We Continue the Change” party which placed first at the recent general election. After casting his vote on Sunday, Radev said he wanted to continue his mission of change. “Let’s not give the past a chance to undermine our future,” he said. “Let us decide our destiny and our future ourselves, and not give others a chance to decide instead of us.”

Who are the presidential candidates? President Rumen Radev, a former fighter pilot, secured 49% in the first round and was considered the frontrunner entering the Sunday vote. Radev has the backing of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, and is a fervent critic of former Prime Minister Boyko Borissov. Borissov is the leader of the center-right GERB party which has battled allegations of corruption. Radev has in the past sought to maintain close ties with Russia, but he seems to have turned



around perceptions that he is pro-Russian. “Radev is no longer considered a Moscow man,” Gallup analyst Parvan Simeonov said. His rival, independent candidate Anastas Gerdzhikov, received only 23% of votes in the first round. Gerdzhikov is rector of the University of Sofia and is backed by Borissov’s conservatives. The academic is a strong supporter of the country’s Western alliances and supports reforming the country’s judiciary and wants to improve the business environment. Some believe that another win for Radev, who first took office in

2017, may bring about a level of political stability. The election, combined with the general vote last weekend, is likely to play a key role in the way Bulgarian society will tackle corruption which one of the toughest challenges facing the EU member. “This vote is a clash between two visions: the soft tolerance of endemic corruption and the firm opposition to a model of governance that uses public power for private purposes,” political science professor Antoniy Todorov from the New Bulgarian University wrote in a blog post. **ANI**



Royal Oman Police

NOTICE

The Royal Oman Police, represented by the Directorate General of Customs, announces to the commercial community and the relevant parties, that as part of the updates required to develop the Bayan system, the system will be suspended starting from 10:00 pm on Thursday, 02 December 2021 to 12:00 pm on Friday, 03 December 2021. The Directorate General of Customs calls on the commercial community to take advantage of the pre-clearance service to ensure smooth movement of goods during the update period.

For inquiries, please contact the Customs Call Center number 24349000.

With best wishes,



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Oman team heads to 2021 World table tennis tournament in Houston

The selection of Oman's players came after their attendance in the 25th edition of Asian Table Tennis Championship in Qatar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman national table tennis team will register their third successive presence in 2021 ITTF World Table Tennis championship taking place in Houston, US from November 23 to 29.

Oman's delegation, headed by Abdullah Bamakhalf Chairman of Oman Table Tennis Association



(OTTA), headed to USA on Monday.

Oman's paddlers Asad Al Raisi and Muhannad Al Balushi will represent the Sultanate of Oman team at the globe TT event. The Omani duo will compete in the doubles category in the top event. The selection of Oman's players came after their participation in

the 25th edition of Asian Table Tennis Championship in Qatar in October and improving their world ranking.

Oman national TT team made their debut at the ITTF World Table Tennis championship in 2017 in Dusseldorf city, Germany. The second participation was in 2019

ITTF World Table Tennis championship in Hungary. Asad and his teammate Muhannad will be looking for different show in third participation and registering better results in different fixtures.

Oman's newly appointed head coach, Omid Shamas Sharababki, supervised the internal training sessions of the national duo paddlers including Asad Al Raisi and Muhannad Al Balushi. An intensive training plan took place during the previous weeks. The Iranian coach worked to develop paddler's physical and technical performance ahead of the top table tennis event. Attendance of the national players in the world championship will assist in boosting players world ranking.

On the other hand, OTTA chief Abdullah Bamakhalf, will be among the candidates for the ITTF board members list for 2021-2025 term. Bamakhalf was elected as board member in the last Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) congress which was held in Doha in October. Sajad Mohammed Baqir was elected as ATTU's treasurer.

CRICKET ROUND-UP

All-round display by Awais Mohammed helps PDO RC outplay Oct Seeb

Times News Service

MUSCAT: PDO RC got the better of Oct Seeb by 5 wickets in the B Division match of the Oman Cricket League here on Friday, thanks to an all-round display by Awais Mohammed for PDO RC, starring both with the ball and the bat.

Batting first after winning the toss, Oct Seeb inched their way to 162 all out in 29.3 overs, thanks mainly to Samir Othman's sedate 54 run innings, studded with eight boundaries. Awais Mohammed was the pick of the bowlers, scalping three wickets for 42.

Replying to the target, PDO RC knocked off the runs in 24.5 overs for the loss of five wickets. Awais Mohammed starred again with the bat, scoring 46 runs, with four hits to the fence. Issa Al Balushi was the sole bowler who made an impact from Oct Seeb, picking up two wickets for 28 runs.

Oct Alamerat won the toss and elected to bat first and could muster only 112 for the loss of six wickets in the allotted 20 overs, thanks mainly to Rafeeq Mohammed Siyad's innings of 38. No other batsman could make any impact. Shahid Hassan knocked off two wickets for 19 runs for Nibrass Tech.

In reply, Nibrass Tech blazed their way to the target in 14.2 overs, powered by Tarun Bhaskaran's 54 off 41 deliveries. He was ably supported by Baig Saud, who scored 48 runs off 40 balls. Moosa Albalushi took the sole wicket to fall.

In another closely fought D Division match, Ideal Technology beat Pitspot by two wickets in the last over. Put into bat after losing the toss, Pitspot scored a respectable 157 for the loss of nine wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Mohazin Moosa top scored with 41 runs off 35 balls, while Arun Kumar Ganeshan picked up two for 24 for Ideal Technology.



In reply, Ideal Technology got off a decent start with most of the top order batsman contributing. It was left to middle order batsman Jeyakumar Esakkiappam to lead the team to the target, with his quickfire 30 off 22 balls, studded with four boundaries. Monty Navani was the pick of the bowlers for Pitstop, picking up three for 29.

In another high-scoring match of the D Division, Danmark CC outsmarted Oct Al Mabela by nine wickets, thanks to a brilliant, swashbuckling century by Sankaral Sasidharan.

Electing to bat after winning the toss, Oct Al Mabela breezed their way to 189 for the loss of two wickets in 20 overs, ably led by openers Zafarullah Al Balushi, who scored 65 off 40 balls, studded with seven boundaries and three sixes.

He was ably supported by his opening partner Salim Albalushi who scored 47 off 40 runs. Sankaral Sasidharan took one for 28 for Danmark.

Sankaral Sasidharan started Danmark's reply on the right note, blazing his way to an explosive century, scoring 120 off just 57 balls, studded with 15 boundaries and five massive sixes. He was ably supported by Muhammed Basheer, who scored 47 off 24. Nabeel Mohd Boota picked up the only wicket to fall.

FOOTBALL

Good luck, my friend! You deserve it: Ronaldo to Solksjaer

MANCHESTER: Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo shared his emotions after Ole Gunnar Solksjaer left his role as the manager of the Red Devils on Sunday.

This decision came after Manchester United suffered a 1-4 defeat at the hands of Watford in the Premier League on Saturday.

Taking to Twitter, the Portugal captain wrote, "He's been

my striker when I first came to Old Trafford and he's been my coach since I came back to Man. United. But most of all, Ole is an outstanding human being. I wish him the best in whatever his life has reserved for him. Good luck, my friend! You deserve it!" Earlier, Manchester United stated in an official statement, "Ole will always be a legend at Manchester United and it is with regret that

we have reached this difficult decision. While the past few weeks have been disappointing, they should not obscure all the work he has done over the past three years to rebuild the foundations for long-term success."

"Ole leaves with our sincerest thanks for his tireless efforts as Manager and our very best wishes for the future. His place in the club's history will always

be secure, not just for his story as a player, but as a great man and a Manager who gave us many great moments. He will forever be welcome back at Old Trafford as part of the Manchester United family," it added.

Michael Carrick will now take charge of the team for forthcoming games, while the club looks to appoint an interim manager to the end of the season. **ANI**

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Campaign Period: Up to 30th December 2021. Benefits are applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in lieu of Insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses Insurance (as applicable), he/she will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. Cash Gift in lieu of insurance can also be used as part of down payment. *Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only, excluding diesel grades) on 19YM / 19PLT: Camry 3.5 & Camry HEV, 20YM / 19PLT: Yaris HB, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, Supra, Avanza, Fortuner & Hilux 4x2, 20YM / 20 PLT: Yaris HB, Yaris SD, Corolla 1.8, Corolla 2.0, Corolla HEV, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, Avanza, Fortuner, Highlander HEV & Hilux 4x2, 21YM / 20 PLT: Corolla 2.0, C-HR, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4, 21YM / 21 PLT: Yaris SD, Corolla 1.8, Corolla 2.0, Corolla Cross, Camry 2.5, Camry 3.5, Camry HEV, C-HR, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4, 22YM / 21 PLT: Camry 2.5, Fortuner, Hilux 4x2 & Hilux 4x4. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per Insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. **2 Years / 20,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 2 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on all Toyota models excluding Corolla 1.8 HEV, Avalon (excluding 21YM / 20 PLT), Supra, Fortuner, Highlander HEV, LC WGN, Hiace, Granvia and Coaster. **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions (Excluding DSL grades) on models upto 21YM LC WGN (LC200) 4.6L & 5.7L. **8 Years / 80,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 8 services at 10,000 Kms service interval for Petrol models based on normal operating conditions on all models of 20 YM Corolla 1.8 HEV models. \$ Walk-in & Win Raffle: Raffle of 4 units of iPhone 13 128 GB. All individual prospects who walk-in for an enquiry of any Toyota vehicle in any Toyota Showroom in the Sultanate within the campaign period are eligible for the raffle. Raffle will be conducted at Toyota showroom Walthayah, as per the following dates 15.11.2021, 30.11.2021, 15.12.2021 and 02.01.2022. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

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INDIA'S SENSEX TANKS

Stock markets witnessed a bloodbath since the opening on Monday, with the benchmark index continuing the downside move throughout the day and crashing by almost 2 per cent at the closing bell. **> B2**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,061.36 points, down 0.10 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.37 per cent at 547.13 points. Renaissance Services was the top gainer, up by 2.33 per cent, while Oman United Insurance, down 7.19 per cent, was the top loser. **> B2**

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

Changes to rules regarding crowdfunding in Oman announced

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In the implementation of the Oman Vision 2040 and in response to the requirements of the capital market participants and entrepreneurs, the Executive President of the Capital Market Authority (CMA), His Excellency Abdullah Salim Al Salmi, announced that the new rules for Crowdfunding Platforms is ready and operational for those who wish to practice the business in the Sultanate of Oman and they are available on the CMA's electronic media, adding that the regulation for such type of funding is very flexible with adequate facilities.

Under the recent amendments to the Executive Regulation of the Capital Market Law (ERCML) published in the Official Gazette

Issue No. 1417, the companies intending to practice the business will be exempted from the licencing fees of OMR155,000 in total until January 1, 2023.

The move to exempt the fees comes within the endeavours of the government to ease the commercial business, to stimulate the economic recovery, to encourage the creation of the largest possible number of various types of crowdfunding platforms and to attract both local and foreign investors into the Sultanate of Oman for the purpose of supporting the entrepreneurs and to transform the results of research and development and innovations into small and medium enterprises (SMEs) able to achieve growth to enhance the gross domestic product (GDP).

His Excellency added that the



preparation of the regulation was made in consultation with the community and all stakeholders, taking into account best international and regional practices in this field and the nature of the small, medium and micro enterprises in the Sultanate of Oman,

as well as the needs of the national economy in view of the transformation into a productive economy.

Al Salmi added that the rules for Crowdfunding Platforms are adequately flexible and contribute to supporting SMEs.

The regulation states that the

capital of the company intending to carry out the activity must not be less than OMR25,000 which is an opportunity for Omani companies to launch or use such funding platforms to finance the investment initiatives in any economic or productive sector.

Al Salmi emphasised that availing such funding platforms for the entrepreneurs and SMEs addresses one of the key challenges facing companies in obtaining funding due to the inherent risks and lack of adequate guarantees as required by financial institutions.

On the key features of the Crowdfunding regulation, the Executive President of the Capital Market Authority said the directives allow the operator of the platform to provide funding through four (4) ways - (1) Donation Crowdfunding, (2)

Reward Crowdfunding, (3) Equity Crowdfunding, and (4) Peer to Peer Crowdfunding. Obtaining funding through the platforms will be restricted to companies and enterprises, not individuals.

The directives to limit the risk of investors with low solvency and lack of investment experience, placed limits to the funds that can be invested, based on the type of funding provided by the platform.

The directives allow the operator of the platform to attract investors and donors inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman and may provide funding to any company or enterprise in the Sultanate of Oman or abroad in accordance with the specific terms and conditions.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/business

Oman receives enthusiastic WTO trade policy review

WTO members welcomed the launch of Oman Vision 2040 and the long-term goals included in the 10th Five-Year Plan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman successfully concluded its third World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Policy Review in Geneva on Friday.

Conducted in the presence of representatives from 26 countries, the event provided an opportunity for Oman to outline its investment and trade policies as well as showcase economic development as, under the guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, it progresses towards the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and builds a sustainable and diversified economy equipped to meet

the challenges and harness the opportunities of the 21st century.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation to the Geneva WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR) was led by Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion who expressed great satisfaction with the reception and commendation Oman received from WTO members for its overall trade and investment regime. The Minister added: "Oman diligently implements trade policies consistent with its WTO obligations, maintaining an open, free and transparent economy, fully conforming to the basic principles and rules of the multilateral trading system. It is within this framework that we as a nation move forward with purpose in the international trading arena, enhancing and extending our competitive offer, growing a network of export markets and creating a pro-enterprise environment that is ever more attractive to international investors."

Al Yousef reported that WTO members welcomed the launch of Oman Vision 2040 and the long-term goals included in the 10th Five-Year Plan along with the continued prioritisation of diversification from hydrocarbons.

WTO members complimented



Qais Al Yousef. — Supplied picture

Oman on its generally low tariffs and minimal non-tariff barriers to trade. Also receiving praise was the 10 per cent growth in Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) in the first half of 2021.

Members acknowledged the double challenge arising from low oil prices and the COVID-19 pandemic that Oman has faced during the trade review period, and were pleased with the measures taken by government to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, particularly on the most vulnerable in society.

In advance of last week's meetings in Geneva, Oman received over 240 comments and questions from countries that included Chi-

na, India, the USA, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Brazil, Singapore and Iceland, an indication of the keen interest taken by the international community in Oman's continued growth and progress.

Members commended Oman for its strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and its active WTO participation, including its engagement in the negotiations on fishery subsidies and its track-record of submitting notifications.

Oman was also congratulated for ratifying the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and for having officially implemented 100 percent of its commitments under the Agreement since 2020. At the same time, Members encouraged Oman to join Joint Statement Initiatives, notably on e-commerce and domestic services regulation, and to become party to the Government Procurement Agreement.

Discussions on foreign investment featured prominently during Wednesday and Friday's sessions in Geneva. Members applauded Oman for its improvements towards a stable investment environment. In particular, highlighting the adoption of the Commercial Companies Law and the Foreign Capital Investment

Law enacted in 2020, and specifically for the abolition of foreign ownership limits.

Improvements to Invest Easy, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion's one-stop-shop portal for registering new businesses were covered by Minister Al Yousef in his TPR address to WTO members on Wednesday afternoon.

Via Invest Easy, investors can now obtain approval for more than 1,500 economic activities - issuing one single document that includes all necessary licenses from ten leading authorities.

Minister Al Yousef reported to WTO members that since the launch of the new Invest Easy licensing service in April 2021, nearly 54,000 applicants had already received approvals.

WTO members also noted that reforms related to foreign capital investment, privatization, public-private partnerships and bankruptcy had improved Oman's business environment and led to higher inflows of investment. Minister Al Yousef pointed out that FDI in Oman at the end of 2021 second quarter had climbed to \$42.3 billion up from \$39 billion for the same period in 2020.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/business

AT EXPO 2020

Opaz presents land selection e-service

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) presented its experience of the land selection e-service provided for investors in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad).

The service, launched at the beginning of last October, was demonstrated at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Introducing the new service reflects Opaz efforts to facilitate and expedite procedures for investors in the Sezad, reduce the time and effort, and ensure transparency and fairness for all investors in the Zone. Opaz plans to extend this service during the coming period to include other free zones.

Ahmed bin Suleiman Al Fazari, from Opaz, pointed out that this service marks a remarkable addition to the package of other services provided to investors.

"The service allows investors to select the plot of land in interactive maps for more than 800 different economic activities. It also brings other features, including: the possibility of measuring the distance between the selected land and the key landmarks in Sezad," he further added.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/business

AT OQ HEADQUARTERS

OQ, KOGAS-Tech ink pact for Hydrogen related opportunities



MUSCAT: OQ Group on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with KOGAS-Tech aiming at exploring potentials of cooperation between the two sides in Hydrogen-related opportunities.

The signing ceremony of the MoU, which was held at OQ headquarters in Muscat, was signed by Talal Hamid Al Oufi, CEO of OQ and Yong-Don, CEO of KOGAS-Tech.

Myungsoo Kim, Vice Mayor of Daejeon Metropolitan City said, "By strengthening cooperation with OQ, we hope to achieve our joint goal of establishing a green hydrogen economy. Daejeon Metropolitan City plans to maximise positive synergies by connecting Daejeon Metropolitan City's advanced hydrogen research

and developing capabilities and Oman's strong position to produce green hydrogen. At Daejeon Metropolitan City, we are committed to further strengthening our cooperation with the Sultanate of Oman."

Talal Al Oufi, CEO of OQ said, "In the Sultanate of Oman, we are blessed with an abundance of wind and solar energy. In line with global trends, Oman is witnessing a major shift towards production of green hydrogen and ammonia, and OQ is proud to be leading the efforts to harness green energy in Oman. This MoU with KOGAS-Tech is a step towards expanding the knowledge, technological and research pool on green hydrogen and we are confident that this cooperation will lead to innovative solutions in this field." — **ONA**

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Renaissance Services was the top gainer, up by 2.33%, while Oman United Insurance, down 7.19%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,061.36 points, down 0.10 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.37 per cent at 547.13 points. Renaissance Services was the top gainer, up by 2.33 per cent, while Oman United Insurance, down 7.19 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Vision Insurance were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while that of OIFC were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 553 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.98 million, with more than 20.88 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 11 advanced, 14 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers

for OMR35,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR22,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR13,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,441.18 points, down 0.47 per cent. Vision Insurance, Bank Dhofar, and Bank Dhofar were up by 2.25 per cent, 1.50 per cent, and 0.40 per cent respectively. Oman United Insurance, Al Shar-qiya Investments, HSBC Bank Oman, Al Madina Takaful, and United Finance were down 7.19 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 2.15 per cent, 2.06 per cent, and 1.85 per cent. Industrial Index closed at 6,114.11 points, up 0.09 per cent. National Aluminium Products, Oman Cement, and Raysut Cement were up by 1.50 per cent, 0.42 per cent, and 0.40 per cent respectively. – United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,075.21	4,061.36	4,061.36	4,065.60	-4.24	-0.10	
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,478.68	6,441.18	6,441.18	6,471.77	-30.59	-0.47	
Industry Index	6,116.52	6,108.42	6,114.11	6,108.42	5.69	0.09	
Services Index	1,622.21	1,616.16	1,617.65	1,616.20	1.44	0.09	
MSX Shariah Index	548.61	546.82	547.13	549.17	-2.04	-0.37	
MSX TR INDEX	4,900.51	4,883.85	4,883.85	4,888.95	-5.10	-0.10	

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
20,884,989	2,976,201	553	22,084,117,197	11	14	18	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER	60,000	26,400	9	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.430	0.010	2.326	0.440	0.420	0.440	0.100	104,020,400
OM0000000220 VISION INSURANCE	6,990,008	633,393	93	0.089	0.093	0.089	0.091	0.089	0.002	2.247	0.092	0.092	0.095	0.100	9,100,000
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN.	5,930,763	810,592	99	0.136	0.138	0.136	0.137	0.136	0.001	0.735	0.138	0.123	0.140	0.100	32,469,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	60,100	14,332	9	0.238	0.239	0.237	0.238	0.237	0.001	0.422	0.237	0.220	0.237	0.100	78,747,705
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	61,000	15,204	5	0.248	0.250	0.248	0.249	0.248	0.001	0.403	0.249	0.225	0.249	0.100	49,800,000
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	204,446	102,189	16	0.496	0.500	0.496	0.500	0.498	0.002	0.402	0.500	0.500	0.506	0.100	1,787,237,396
OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,597	2,046	2	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.000	0.000	0.788	0.788	0.800	0.100	124,110,000
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR	63	63	1	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.040	1.040	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.980	1.000	0.100	93,288,000
OM0000001722 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	197,796	18,535	16	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.091	0.095	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	71,900	28,003	9	0.390	0.394	0.388	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.394	0.100	85,800,000
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,650	548	2	0.336	0.336	0.330	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.362	0.100	20,809,453
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	231,869	171,703	18	0.740	0.744	0.740	0.740	0.740	0.000	0.000	0.740	0.740	0.740	0.100	355,000,000
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT BANK	346,325	36,732	6	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	316,946,603
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	117,358	36,532	10	0.314	0.314	0.310	0.312	0.314	-0.002	-0.637	0.310	0.310	0.316	0.100	252,024,967
OM0000002077 AL OMANIYA FIN.	166,131	19,836	4	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.120	0.110	0.119	0.100	34,740,285
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	180,050	19,859	4	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.111	-0.001	-0.901	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	214,462,321
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	182,879	66,244	15	0.362	0.364	0.360	0.362	0.368	-0.006	-1.630	0.364	0.364	0.366	0.100	235,641,811
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	80,000	4,500	8	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.053	0.056	0.100	17,200,194
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV	25,000	2,155	3	0.086	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.088	-0.002	-2.273	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	7,740,000
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSUR.	2,003,000	620,930	6	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.334	-0.024	-7.186	0.310	0.310	0.366	0.100	31,000,000
Total	20	16,913,525	2,630,397	335											
Parallel Market															
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	197,000	10,285	13	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	86,597	11,702	11	0.133	0.136	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.136	0.135	0.140	0.100	4,532,146
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	288,817	38,910	5	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.135	0.132	0.135	0.100	404,507,444
OM00000008447 OMAN RET FUND	33,210	2,989	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	58,928,305
OM0000001152 OMAN NAT ENGI	291,000	27,063	6	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.287	0.093	0.090	0.093	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	4,424	726	3	0.166	0.166	0.164	0.166	0.166	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.162	0.166	0.100	4,980,000
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	42,000	8,148	4	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.000	0.000	0.194	0.189	0.194	0.100	315,433,593
OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	3,000	305	3	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.058	0.061	0.100	7,875,000
OM0000003291 TAJEREE FINANCE	187,843	13,611	14	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.100	18,558,490
OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEER	226,421	16,982	16	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	15,223,983
OM0000003661 VOLITAMP ENERGY	3,914	457	6	0.118	0.120	0.115	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.115	0.123	0.100	9,605,525
OM0000003711 SOHAR POWER	10,894	448	6	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.100	18,504,410
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	492,075	47,731	16	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004925 ALBATAINAH POWER	300,900	15,345	20	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.052	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000003983 PHOENIX POWER	258,000	12,650	22	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	195,013	13,261	13	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	5,287,500
OM0000003125 GLOBAL INV H	47,500	2,925	3	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.587	0.061	0.061	0.063	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	30,000	1,590	3	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.054	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.050	0.054	0.100	18,504,654
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	878,710	83,331	25	0.096	0.096	0.094	0.095	0.097	-0.002	-2.062	0.094	0.095	0.096	0.100	16,623,000
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	280,675	25,647	9	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.091	0.093	-0.002	-2.151	0.091	0.091	0.093	0.100	182,028,464
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	79,428	5,720	6	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.074	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.072	0.068	0.072	0.100	16,001,280
OM0000007084 MCT DESALINATE	29,003	2,707	12	0.097	0.097	0.093	0.093	0.096	-0.003	-3.125	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	14,466,187
Total	22	3,968,394	342,794	217											

STOCK MARKETS

India's Sensex tanks 1,170 points

MUMBAI: Stock markets witnessed a bloodbath since the opening on Monday, with the benchmark index continuing the downside move throughout the day and crashing by almost 2 per cent at the closing bell. At the closing bell, the BSE S&P Sensex was down by 1170.12 points or 1.96 per cent at 58465.89, while the Nifty 50 dropped by 348.30 points or 1.96 per cent at 17416.50. In BSE Sensex, the sectors which plummeted the most were the energy sector with a decline of 3.99 per cent, consumer durables with 3.22 per cent, the auto sector with 3.07 per cent, and oil and gas with 3.00 per cent. The only sectors that gained were Telecom by 2.92 per cent and metal by 0.07 per cent. Among stocks, the top gainer was Bharti Airtel which surged

3.90 per cent to Rs 742.05 per share, followed by Asian Paints up by 1.14 per cent to Rs 3,263 per share, and Power Grid Corp up by 0.99 per cent to Rs 194.25 per share. Meanwhile, Bajaj Finance cracked by 5.74 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv down by 4.69 per cent, Reliance down by 4.42 per cent and NTPC down by 3.73 per cent. – ANI

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM

Meta does not plan to roll out end-to-end encryption

WASHINGTON: Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp's parent company – Meta, does not plan to roll out end-to-end encryption (E2EE) by default on Messenger and Instagram until 2023. The company merged Messenger and Instagram chats last year, as a part of its plan to create a unified messaging system across all of its platforms. As per The Verge, while messages sent through Messenger and Instagram can be E2EE, that option isn't turned on by default and likely won't be until sometime in 2023. WhatsApp already supports E2EE by default. Antigone Davis, Meta's head of safety, attributed the delay to concerns about user safety. Since E2EE means only the sender and recipient will see their conversations, he said Meta wants to ensure that this doesn't interfere with the platform's ability to help stop criminal activity. Once E2EE does become available by default, Davis noted that the company will "use a combination of non-encrypted data across our apps, account information and reports from users" to help keep them safe, all while "assisting public safety efforts."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOGISTIC

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

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANAGER

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

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

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

MEDICAL

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

PURCHASE

Indian male, 17 yrs exp in commercial/Warehouse/inventory & procurement field seeks suitable position. Having D/L. Contact 98531104

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

Indian male, 17 yrs exp in commercial/Warehouse/inventory & procurement field seeks suitable position. Having D/L. Contact 98531104

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

PROJECT ENGINEER

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

Contact 91731694

HR / Finance

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

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

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER

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

Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

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

Contact # 94953826 / 92824146

Mechanical Engineer

Indian,30, (B.E Mechanical) with 6 years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

ENGINEER (IT)

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

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

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2. Up to date Construction Market Intelligence.
3. Large Network in Private and Government Clientele in Civil, Industrial, Infrastructure, O&G and Solar.
4. Very Good relationship with Major to Small Local and International Engineering Consultants.
5. MBA (Int. Marketing) with Omani DL with NOC.

+968 79645179, bdomanconstruction@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

Indian holding MBA with 7 years of experience in Sales and Marketing in Oman with valid D/L. Looking for suitable job opportunity. Contact +968 7902 4220
Indian male, BBA, 26 years, having 3 and half year experience in Sales and Marketing, D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 96550844 Email: arshaqrajan000@gmail.com

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

Fresh Indian NIT Chemical Engineer on resident visa with Oman D/L seeks placement in reputed companies: 96087321/93972362

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

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



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Strategies for ‘picky eaters’ to deal with food aversions

A new study has found that adults who struggled with picky eating habits as children have benefited more from positive and encouraging strategies their parents used than forceful or coercive approaches. The findings of the study were published in the journal *‘International Journal of Eating Disorders’*. The research, led by a team at Duke Health, was conducted among a generation of people who struggled with food avoidance before it was identified in 2013 as a psychiatric condition called Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID).

The researchers said their findings provide guidance for both families and behavioural health professionals for developing best practices to deal with extreme food aversions. When picky eating is severe, it is diagnosed as ARFID. The condition is characterised by health problems such as weight loss and nutritional deficiencies and it can also lead to social and emotional problems when mealtimes become a source of shame, friction and/or conflict.

“It’s not surprising that positive approaches were favoured, but it is surprising how overwhelming that position was among this group of adults,” said Nancy Zucker, PhD, professor in the Duke’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Zucker was co-senior author on the study with Guillermo Sapiro, PhD, professor of electrical and computer engineering at Duke’s Pratt School of Engineering.

Zucker, director of the Duke Center for Eating Disorders, said the broad consensus is validation for the current treatment approach that emphasises positive interactions. “It is robust confirmation for what has been out there in the literature and reinforces the concept that children feeling forced or pressured to eat is not helpful,” Zucker said.

The study was launched more than a decade ago as severe food avoidance was gaining attention and research into the disorder was limited. The online survey was aimed at adults who self-identified as current picky eaters to help understand their perceptions and experiences. More than 19,200 people were included in the survey; 75 percent were female and 25 percent were male, and 89 percent were white.

Respondents were asked to describe food presentation strategies used by their parents or caregivers that they found to be helpful or not helpful in increasing food variety. Survey participants were subsequently classified as either likely having an ARFID diagnosis or not, based on their degree of impairment from food avoidance.

Those who reported that eating problems led to significant weight loss, nutritional deficiency, interference with job functioning and/or interference with social relationships were categorised as likely having

ARFID. Interpreting the narrative responses from the huge cohort of participants created a logistical challenge, which was solved with the application of sophisticated artificial intelligence tools.

Using a computational tool to characterise the perceived helpfulness of parent feeding strategies, the researchers applied an algorithm to interpret the meaning and/or sentiment of survey responses to characterise them as helpful or not helpful. “From a technical perspective, this study used an AI application that understands language, not just words and sentences, but concepts of paragraphs, which was imperative here,” said J. Matias Di Martino, PhD, co-lead author with doctoral student Young Kyung Kim.

Both are in Duke’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. “By getting the positive and negative emotions, it enables us to analyse the comprehensive memories of nearly 20,000 people,” Martino added.

The researchers found that 39 percent of the themes regarding helpful strategies mention a positive emotional context, such as using food to teach cultural or nutritional lessons, being flexible about the approach to food, providing plenty of safe foods, helping with food preparation, or presenting foods from specific food groups.

Forty percent of the helpful comments noted the importance of structure around eating. Clearly defined expectations around eating were deemed to be helpful in the context of distinguishing between feeling “forced” vs being asked to do something.

While positive and encouraging strategies were perceived as helpful in improving attitudes towards food and minimising social discomfort around eating, many adults still struggled with a degree of avoidance/restriction.

The researchers noted that parents are perceived as having a positive impact despite their children’s food avoidance persisting into adulthood. The researchers said survey participants clearly found some foods aversive, not merely unpleasant. This likely intensified their feeling of being trapped and made to do something disgusting if they were asked to eat that food.

“To our knowledge, there is no published research that identifies effective feeding strategies for those with ARFID,” Zucker said. “Figuring out the best way to feed a child with severe food avoidance can be exhausting and stressful for parents, so providing guidance is essential to improve the social and emotional eating environment for their children and reduce the distress that both parents and children have at mealtimes,” Zucker added.

In addition to Zucker, Sapiro, Di Martino and Kim, study authors include Julia Nicholas, Alannah Rivera-Cancel, Jennifer E Wildes and Marsha D Marcus. - ANI



ROUND-UP

Lexus GX with exclusive benefits

A dual-purpose luxury vehicle, GX 460 can go from a short work commute in the city, to a long family vacation deep in the Rocky Mountains



MUSCAT: Own and experience exceptional journeys in the Lexus GX with exclusive benefits. They include Free Service 3 Years / 30,000 Kms (Whichever is earlier) and 1 Year Free Registration. The campaign is valid up to 30th December, 2021. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

A dual-purpose luxury vehicle, GX 460 can go from a short work commute in the city, to a long family vacation deep in the Rocky Mountains. The engine is a 292-horsepower 4.6-litre V8 producing 44.7 Kg.M of peak torque. Combine that with a 2500 kg towing capacity, and you've got an ideal boat hauler. Towing is aided with

Trailer Sway Control, a function of the Vehicle Stability Control that enhances straight-line tracking. Utilising the technology of the Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (KDSS), the GX 460 enhances handling and ride comfort by helping to keep the vehicle level in both on and off-road conditions. When the GX encounters an uneven

surface, one compressed cylinder causes fluid to flow to the other cylinder, helping the vehicle to keep all four wheels on the ground. The system works without any action needed by the driver. Thanks to an Off-Road Package featuring Multi-Terrain Select, tackling tough terrain is equally as easy. Adding extra peace of mind

is GX's Lexus Safety System+, completing Lexus' milestone of equipping models with active safety equipment. A TORSSEN® torque-sensing limited slip centre differential distributes power under most driving conditions and changes the ratio as needed based on wheel slip. The four-wheel drive system offers a low

range for slow speed off-road driving. With Downhill Assist Control (DAC), Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), Active Traction Control (A-TRAC), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and available Crawl Control, the GX can roam unpaved roads, trails, and steep inclines with confidence. Multi-Terrain Select allows you to choose from multiple surfaces such as loose rocks, mud and sand, moguls, and more to optimise drivability. Activated with the press of a button, the available Crawl Control system is designed to automatically maintain an optimal slow and steady pace over demanding landscapes. Bolstering this mission is the Lexus Safety System+ suite of technologies that includes Pre-Collision System, Lane Departure Alert, Intelligent High Beams and High-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

Sohar Islamic mobile banking app goes live

MUSCAT: Continuing to innovate for providing better customer service, Sohar Islamic has announced its new Mobile Banking App, offering the Bank's account holders increased convenience and an enhanced digital banking experience. The Sohar Islamic new mobile banking App is available on both, Android and iOS devices, and features the very latest in mobile banking technology with advanced security capabilities. The app also features a modern, streamlined look that caters ease of navigation, allowing customers to do banking on the go with facilities to view account balances, transfer funds, pay utility bills, credit card payments and much more. Revealing the new Mobile Banking App, Abdulwahid Al Murshidi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer of Sohar International said, "With the focus on our digitalisation strategy, the new Sohar Islamic Mobile Banking App brings alive the Bank's premium brand identity, and customer-centric vision. We have incorporated the very latest digital developments, while



maintaining a firm focus on usability and an easy-to-use cross-platform interface. Also, the new app has been designed with an aim to offer customers an advanced, yet easy to use, online banking experience. Sohar Islamic is proud to launch the new mobile banking App and complement the Islamic banking landscape in Oman. Such innovations reiterate the Bank's commitment to enable people to become winners through the Bank's customised products and services." On downloading the mobile

application from Google Play or Apple App Store, Sohar Islamic customers can easily monitor transactions in their accounts with real-time account balance information and mini statements. In addition, users will also be able to transfer funds between accounts within the Bank as well as within the country instantly. The App also allows users to pay their utility bill payments and credit card payments. For added convenience, the App also allows users to place requests for the Bank's other services such as requesting of cheque

books and demand drafts. Furthermore, using the very latest in technology and security features, the app ensures users the highest levels of data privacy and security at all times. "Our new mobile banking App is simple, secure and efficient, and offers our customers on-the-go banking access anywhere and anytime; effortlessly integrating their everyday banking with other daily tasks. Although it already offers a comprehensive list of services, we will continue to develop the app and our e-channels, and look forward to bringing additional solutions to our customers in the future," added Abdulwahid Al Murshidi. Sohar Islamic accords top priority to generating value for customers, offering a banking experience that helps achieve their goals without compromising on their ethics. The bank continues to invest significantly in digitalisation, providing structured and customised array of relevant technologies and digital capabilities to ensure it is fully geared for the future.

SOUQ AL MADINA



Flora D'Lite announces upcoming launch of its third retail store

MUSCAT: Well loved floral boutique and e-commerce provider, Flora D'Lite, has revealed that a third outlet will soon be added to the family within Muscat, Oman. The location was announced as being a premium spot in Souq Al Madina. Souq Al Madina is a new mall that opened it's doors to the public earlier this year and is located in a prime place in Madinat Sultan Qaboos. The mall look and interiors is modeled on an Arabian Souq and many outlets have already opened their doors to the public. Flora D'Lite is located exactly opposite the Spinneys entrance, an area which receives a large amount of footfall in the mall. The interiors are well designed to display the fresh and artificial flowers the brand houses plus a variety of accessories, indoor plants, chocolates and more. The signature cold room which is the heart of the floral operations had to be planned to suit the aesthetics of the store keeping in line the high standards that the brand adheres to on storage of its fresh products. The outlet will host an array of flowers in demand and exotic varieties from around the world with expert floral artists



on hand specially recruited to create that perfect arrangement to suit the occasion. "Choosing strategic locations is a very important part of our growth plan. We have identified this location in Souq Al Madina as the next place to be easily available to our patrons in Oman", said a spokesperson for Flora D'Lite, Oman. "We are confident that the positivity with which the brand has already been received in the market will be reflected in the added success of this new location. The store will add something different to the area which keeping to our benchmark standards of fresh offerings, varieties and customer service," he added.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

bima.om offers free life insurance policy

MUSCAT: Bima Insurance Platform-bima.om recently, celebrated its first anniversary as the Oman's first online insurance portal that provides services of 13 insurance companies in various insurance including Motor insurance service, travel insurance, domestic insurance and credit life insurance. On this festive occasion, Bima Insurance Platform-bima.om offers a free life insurance policy to every customer who insures his / her vehicle at the platform of Bima Insurance Platform-bima.om till the end of the year. The customer of bima.om, the largest online insurance portal in Oman also can utilise the advantages of Bima's Golden Package, which includes roadside as-



sistance and coverage for family members of the car's passengers in the event of accidents, whether the insurance is comprehensive or a third party insurance, in addition to the super-fast reliable service of the insurance renewal electronically through bima.om in few minutes, in order to provide its customer with complete com-

fort, without bearing the trouble of moving for getting insurance service. Said bin Salem Al-Rashidi, CEO and founder of Bima, expressed his extreme pleasure with the great success that the platform has achieved since its inception until today, and with the great response that Bima has received from its

wide base of customers. Al-Rashidi also expressed his admiration for the spirit of cooperation and teamwork environment enjoyed by Bima's employees, stressing that, the Omani youth who work hard until twelve o'clock midnight and on weekends are the main pillar of Bima's great success. Arwa Al-Mandhari at Bima insurance platform, emphasised that, the success of the bima.om in providing 400,000 electronic services since its launch and insured about 5 per cent of the Sultanate's private cars in the first year of its inception, is because of the portal's easy insurance procedures and its competitive prices, while the customer can get various insurance services in one place and in few minutes.

NETWORKING EVENT

Oman American Business Centre hosts Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

MUSCAT: The Oman American Business Centre (OABC) hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner under the stars at the beautiful gardens of the Grand Hyatt Muscat on Tuesday evening, November 16th. The event kicked off with lively business networking, then remarks from OABC Executive Director Rebecca Olson, who thanked the OABC's 175 member companies for their commitment to the mission of OABC. Olson then highlighted several positive moments from the past 2 years of OABC events and programming throughout the pandemic, including the online "Doing Business with the US Military" event, regional LinkedIn networking group for US Chambers of Commerce affiliate members in the GCC, and OABC's new virtual card created for its members.



The guest of honour, Jay Munir, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy Muscat, then shared about his experience of Thanksgiving, growing up in the United States as well as celebrating around the world as a US diplomat in many different countries and diverse cultures. Some of OABC's member companies sponsored raffles, including

Al Maamari Tours, Talabat, The Grand Hyatt Muscat, DusitD2, and Muscat Pharmacy. "Without making light of what we've all experienced, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, it's good to remember that while there were challenges and completely unexpected moments, months of working from home with kids or pets - some very sad times for many of us



- there were also some incredibly bright moments during 2020 and 2021," Olson stated. "Our team and OABC's Board of Directors are so looking forward to the next year of service and connection on behalf of each of our members, and we thank every one of you for being a part of it all," he added further. As the official affiliate of the US

Chamber of Commerce in Oman (AmCham Oman), the OABC promotes understanding, partnerships & other matters of mutual economic interest between business communities in Oman and the United States. Formed in 2003, the OABC's mission is to foster the development of commercial activity between Oman and the United



States. With over 30 events annually and 175 member companies, OABC is Oman's most active business council and networking group. The Oman American Business Centre (OABC) is best known for hosting high-level professional networking events and informational sessions for professionals across the Sultanate.

ROUND-UP

ahlibank receives JP Morgan Chase Elite Quality Recognition Award 2021

This recognition is a validation of ahlibank's commitment to ensure absolute accuracy and efficiency while handling electronic fund transactions and commercial payments

MUSCAT: Ahlibank has been awarded JP Morgan Chase 'Elite Quality Recognition Award 2021' for maintaining an outstanding 99.9 per cent modification-free rate for the Bank's remittance in USD. The award was received by Mohammed Abdul Qadir Al Balushi, AGM- Head of Treasury, ahlibank; at a ceremony held at the Bank's head office.

This prestigious recognition is

a validation of ahlibank's commitment to ensure absolute accuracy and efficiency while handling electronic fund transactions and commercial payments.

Commenting on winning the award, Mohammed Abdul Qadir Al Balushi, said, "We are honoured and privileged to receive this recognition from JP Morgan Chase Bank. It is an acknowledgement of our constant endeavor to excel;



it highlights the innovative measures we adopt to push the envelope when it comes to serving our clients and associates. Such recognition, from a top banking and financial institution, will further leverage our prospects in the local and regional market and bolster our drive

to reach newer success paradigms."

JP Morgan Chase Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of JP Morgan Chase and Company, a global financial services provider that offers investment banking, asset management, treasury and other services. It has been honoring

institutions and corporate entities with quality recognition awards; through its STP initiative award, it recognizes correspondent banks that have achieved operational excellence in electronic fund transfers and commercial payments.

Congratulating ahlibank on its new achievement, Nawaf Y. Humood, Executive Director, Public Sector Coverage - MENA & Treasury Services, at JP Morgan, stated: "ahlibank's 99.9 per cent modification-free rate in dollar denominated fund transfers is a proof of its excellence in electronic transactions. At JP Morgan Chase, we maintain uncompromising standards of quality to ensure accuracy in fund transfers, and ahlibank met every criterion and even exceeded the set parameters to qualify for the award. Their expertise in ensuring absolute zero error for remittances is a proof of

their commitment to meet global standards of quality."

ahlibank has enhanced its electronic fund transfer operations to ensure thorough professionalism in handling financial transactions. Its customer centric approach to every banking operation continues to define its vision and mission.

Innovative products and services have spearheaded its drive to attain digital transformation and establish an enviable platform for customers to enjoy technologically advanced services.

JP Morgan has, since 1997, been presenting awards to recognise operational excellence of high-performing clients and employees and reward their outstanding efforts in achieving the best Straight-Through Processing system.

STP is a mechanism that automates the end-to-end processing of financial transactions.

MARKETING SECTOR

Vodafone invests in Oman's marketing future with Ogilvy and Alamah pact

MUSCAT: Vodafone, the leading technology communications company, on Monday signed a partnership with creative communications powerhouse Memac Ogilvy and Muscat-based specialised marketing communications agency Alamah Marketing to bring world-class marketing excellence to Oman. The agreement will see Memac Ogilvy and Alamah Marketing work shoulder to shoulder to launch and build the Vodafone brand in the Sultanate while simultaneously advancing the skills of Omanis working in the marketing sector.

The agreement underlines Vodafone's belief in the strength of Oman's network of small and medium sized enterprises (SME), and the telecommunications leaders' commitment to investing in and adding value to the nation.

"Vodafone has a long history of connecting global with local to provide our customers with world-class services that are hyper-relevant to them," commented Bader al Zidi, CEO of Vodafone Oman. "Our partnership with Alamah Marketing and Memac



Ogilvy takes this to new heights as we bring a global marketing leader and an expert local agency together for the good of our brand and the country's communications sector. This partnership will undoubtedly open doors for Oman's youth to pursue a rewarding career in a thriving industry."

Hashar Al Mandhari, Alamah Marketing CEO, commented: "We are proud of our partnership with a global brand as Vodafone and our contribution to the company's efforts to develop the skills of Omani talent so they can pursue opportunities outside of the Sultanate. The communications and information technology sector is dynamic, and marketing

plays a vital role in understanding and connecting with a culture. As a proud Omani company, Alamah Marketing is perfectly placed to help develop global marketing strategies that remain connected to local roots, backed by our new partner Memac Ogilvy and the expertise they bring."

David Fox, Memac Ogilvy's Chief Executive Officer, MENA, added: "Growing the influence of a major brand such as Vodafone is what we get out of bed for, but this partnership with Vodafone and Alamah Marketing is something special. It is a privilege to apply our expertise not only to help launch a company in a new territory, but also to support the

development of young communications talent alongside a local agency partner. We look forward to seeing both Vodafone and Alamah Marketing flourish in Oman over the years to come."

Cementing Vodafone's commitment to the market and support for society, the Vodafone Academy aims to qualify and employ more than 140 Omanis, placing them on a path to becoming future leaders of the Sultanate's communications sector. After the success of the first training programmes in Care and Retail, Vodafone will set up a new training programme in Marketing to equip young local talent with specialist, industry-leading expertise.

Vodafone International is one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world, providing services in 22 countries alongside a network of partnerships reaching 48 countries. In the Sultanate, Vodafone has welcomed the Oman Future Telecom Company onto its global partnerships programme, supporting the Omani business with access to specialised services for growth.

TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 5

Leading companies announce partnership with OER Business Summit 2021

MUSCAT: The 12th edition of OER Business Summit, a flagship event by the Sultanate's premium business magazine, with a special HR focus on Energy, Banking, Finance and Insurance and Manufacturing sector, will take place at Sheraton Oman Hotel on December 5.

Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Madayn, Mizah for Marketing and Business Development Company and Oman Manufacturers Association (OMFA) are the endorsement partners of the Summit, which is organised by UMS Events. Ooredoo Business is the Telecom Partner, GBM is the Technology Partner and Muscat Eye Laser Center is the Support Partner.

has made digitisation of Human Resource a necessity and there is a scramble across the globe for an ideal and cost-effective HR digitisation strategy.

Digitised HR

The accelerated need for a digitised HR also becomes very relevant due to the following new methods of working which has come into force post the new normal - Work from Home, Virtual Teams, Gig workers, geographically distributed teams, project based reporting and teams, artificial intelligence and its application in HR solutions and cloud based easily scalable and cost effective solutions.

This edition will bring to the forum highly relevant keynote speeches, case studies, information sharing and round table discussions.

The following awards will be presented at the event: OER Business Excellence Awards: Based on nomination and chosen by a Jury, OER Special Award for exemplary performance during the Covid-19 pandemic:

The Summit

The Summit under the theme- 'Build back better - Redefining Leadership in a post pandemic world,' will train the spotlight on the following- Ascendant Oman: Undeterred by the pandemic led slowdown, the Sultanate has initiated policy reforms, fiscal changes and socially relevant measures such as Oman Vision 2040; Medium term Fiscal plan; Ease of doing business initiatives; Omanisation and job creation efforts; geographical and economic diversification of Oman's economy. CEO's and industry leaders will share a case study on negotiating the pandemic successfully.

The OER Business Summit will look at how companies can transform their brick and mortar model to a technologically savvy alternative; resilience and self-renewal: How organisations can build an inherently resilient model helping them to withstand the next crisis.

The event will bring together Business leaders, Senior Government officials and International experts to deliberate on the roadmap to a better future.

The Summit will also have a HR Segment, which will focus on Digitising Human Resources - Opportunities and Challenges- Pertaining to Energy, Banking and Manufacturing sector.

Digitisation of Human Resource has been the most spoken about but least implemented HR activity. The new normal, which came into place post COVID-19,

Chosen by a Jury

Based on nomination and chosen by a Jury, Lifetime achievement award for HR Veterans - to be decided based on a selection and recommendation of a Committee to be constituted, Best HR digitisation organisation of the year Award - to be decided based on nominations submitted by corporates based in Oman by a special jury to be constituted, Best corporate initiative on managing COVID-19 and promoting health and wellness of Employees - to be decided based on nominations submitted by corporates based in Oman by a special jury to be constituted.

A workshop on 'Developing people through Competency Frameworks and Assessment centres,' will be held during the Summit. The workshop will cover topics such as assessment centers and competency frameworks a key component in talent development; fundamentals of competency development; using competency frameworks for talent development and working with assessment centres.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE LIVE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Omani organisations awarded for their exceptional CX achievements

MUSCAT: Customer Experience (CX) is a top priority for businesses in 2022 and is fast becoming a key differentiator for the top brands. While making consumer choices, customer experience will take over price and product as a key brand differentiator. The Customer Experience Live Intelligence Report for 2022, launched on the sidelines of the Customer Experience Live Show Middle East, cites an increased investment in digital CX.

Some of the leading organisations in the region that have invested in CX and digitisation thereby achieving high customer experience success were recognised at the Customer Experience Live Awards held on the first day of the Customer Experience Live Show Middle East.

Omani brands recognised for their exceptional CX achievements at the event were Bank Dhofar winning 3 different



awards for Best Change Management, Best Customer Journey Mapping & Best CX Transformation Project- BFSI; Ooredoo Oman, Best Customer Experience - Telecoms; and Al Mouj Muscat for Best Customer Journey Mapping - Real Estate and Hospitality as well as Best VOC awards.

As per Talal Said Al Mamari, CEO, Omantel: "As far as privatisation is concerned, customer experience sits at the core of what we do. Some of the opportunities lie in accelerated digitisation of customer experience as customers have moved faster towards Omnichannel." Omantel received VOC (Voice of Customer) and Best Change Management- Telecom awards.

Providing key insights to the regional CX industry, the report states that 60 per cent of companies in the region are looking to invest in solutions that will strengthen their data framework. 51 per cent of companies show an increased drive towards digital transformation implementation or expanding AI, chatbots, analytics, and cloud capabilities. Furthermore, 57 per cent of companies will be re-evaluating customer journey mapping platforms in 2022 while 43 per cent will be

investing in Intelligent Chatbots in 2022 to enhance omnichannel CX.

Customer Experience Live Show Middle East held last week in Dubai was a first-of-its-kind event dedicated to the regional CX industry.

Organised by Customer Experience Live, a unique platform in the Middle East enabling organisations to create seamless interactions that reflect and enhance the value of a brand at every touchpoint, the show brought together leading global and regional corporations.

Ayusha Tyagi, Managing Director, Customer Experience Live, said, "The experiences that a brand provides throughout the customer journey will either help build a lasting relationship with the customer or tarnish one."

To download the report and to know more about Customer Experience Live, kindly check <https://www.customer-experience.live/>

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