

CHAD PRESIDENT KILLED DURING TROOPS' INSPECTION

Chad's President Idriss Deby has died while visiting troops on the front lines of a fight against northern rebels, an army spokesman said on Tuesday. Deby's death comes just one day after he was declared the winner of a sixth term in office, marking over 30 years in power. **>A6**



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PACT SIGNED TO TRACK FISHING BOATS AND SHIPS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources on Tuesday signed an agreement with Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation to carry out a project to develop an electronic system of tracking and monitoring fishing boats and ships in the Sultanate. **>A5**



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TRADE LIBERALISATION

His Majesty the Sultan issues two Royal Decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has issued two Royal Decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. (37/ 2021) ratifying the Sultanate of Oman's joining the Arab Framework Agreement on Service Trade Liberalisation among Arab Countries.

And after presenting the same before Majlis Al Shura

Article (1) ratifies the Sultanate of Oman's joining the Arab Framework Agreement on Service Trade Liberalisation among Arab Countries as per the version

attached to this decree without prejudice to the reservation stated in Article (6) of the agreement.

Article (2) instructs the departments concerned to deposit the document of joining the above-mentioned agreement in accordance with its provisions without prejudice to the aforementioned reservation.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (38/ 2021) on

ratification of agreement between government of the Sultanate of Oman and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on mutual waiving of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports signed in Riyadh on 31 March 2021.

Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. **-OMA**



New dam at Al Hamra almost ready **A3**

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

No more advance salary payment for regular leave

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance has issued a circular No. 2/2021 addressed to all ministries and government units for cancellation of the advance payment of salary when proceeding for regular leave.

The circular refers to the Financial Law, promulgated by Royal Decree No. 47/98 and Financial Circular No. 20/2020 on handling of salaries electronically.

The circular comes within activation and execution of the mechanism for electronic transfer of salaries aimed to facilitate

transactions related to salaries, allowances and other dues.

The circular has drawn the attention of all ministries and government units to completely cease the procedures of advance leave payments for regular leave of employees.

The Ministry of Finance urged all ministries, government units and public establishments to observe the content of this circular in the interest of the public.

The circular also stated that the internal audit units shall follow with implementation of the circular. **-OMA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN 1,263 more cases of COVID-19 in Oman

As many as 1,263 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in Oman, in addition to 19 new COVID-19-related death cases.

This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 182,693 in the Sultanate. The total number of COVID-19-related death cases reached 1909, the Ministry of Health said. **>A5**

SPORTS

Tottenham appoint interim head coach

Tottenham Hotspur appointed Ryan Mason as interim head coach for the rest of 2020-21 season after sacking manager Jose Mourinho following a string of poor results. Chris Powell and Nigel Gibbs will be Interim Assistant Head Coaches and Michel Vorm Interim Goalkeeping Coach. **>A8**

MARKET

Treasury Bills worth OMR35mn issued

A tender of Government Treasury Bills, issue number 116, worth OMR35 million was announced this week. Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. **>B1**

FRUITS, VEGETABLES CHEAPER IN OMAN

Apart from fruits and vegetables, fish and seafood prices have also registered a significant decline

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Prices of vegetables in Oman decreased by 11.6 per cent between March 2021 and March 2020, according to figures released by the government.

Prices of other staples, such as fruits (2.95 per cent), dairy and eggs (0.8 per cent), and fish and seafood (5.13 per cent) also fell over the past 12 months, reveals data published by National Centre for Statistics and Information.

However, the costs of other goods listed on the consumer price index rose slightly. Small increase was reported in the amount customers have to pay for bread and cereals (1.07 per cent), meat (0.91 per cent), and oils and fats (1.85 per cent).

Non-alcoholic beverages are about 5.7 per cent more expensive, compared to last year. Overall, the cost of groceries has fallen by 1.09 per cent.

Basic groceries aside, there has been a small drop in the prices of



clothing and footwear (1.17 per cent), home furnishings and appliances (0.23 per cent), and transportation (0.47 per cent).

"A lot of shops these days are sourcing their goods from suppliers willing to provide their vegetables and fruits at cheaper rates, and this helps customers buy them at a better price as well," said Shakir Dadarkar, operations manager for Rafeeq.om, an online supermarket in the country.

"There are, of course, some who

continue to provide it at the same rates they used to previously, and they have some vegetables that others don't."

He added, "Where possible, we give our customers good prices on fruits and vegetables. For many shops, including ours, these represent about 35 percent of grocery sales: a big portion of our takings. Customers today want the best value for money, so we try to provide them that where we can."

>A3

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CHANGE

Rules for Indian fliers travelling to Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passengers travelling from India to Oman will only be allowed on board Air India Express flights if they follow new rules that have been announced by the airline.

India's national carrier has issued a number of guidelines for passengers, to prevent further spread of the coronavirus infection. "All passengers, excluding those in the age group of 15 years and below, will have to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test at the Indian departure at the Indian departure airport," said the airline advisory. Only valid, certified tests conducted 72 hours before the scheduled time of arrival in Oman, from labs approved by the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) will be accepted. Children under 15 are exempt.

Non-Omanis flying to the Oman must have international health insurance covering the cost of treatment for COVID-19 for up to a month, unless they have free healthcare. Furthermore, all passengers must carry proof of a confirmed hotel booking, made through www.covid19.emushrif.om, for a stay lasting at least seven nights – the duration of the man-

datory quarantine period.

A number of exemptions to the above rules are permitted: Omani nationals can spend their quarantine period at home, as can family members of expatriates who are travelling with children aged under 18. Diplomats – both those visiting the Sultanate, and those employed at missions accredited by the country – and their families are also exempt from the regulations. The rule does not also apply to passengers aged 18 and under, and above 60. Aircrew on board planes are also exempt from the quarantine procedures.

Sick passengers whose conditions require them to seek special attention, as well as those accompanying them (up to two companions for women, and one for men) are excluded from these regulations. While it is mandatory for non-Omanis who fall outside the above criteria to quarantine in hotels, passengers who have reservations at other isolation centres pre-approved by the Ministry of Social Development can quarantine there instead. Merchant navy crews that dock at Oman's ports must also book hotel reservations through their shipping agent, for the duration of their stay. Same booking rules apply for aircrew.

New dam in Al Hamra to mitigate water crisis

The dam will protect the people of the region from the impact of recurrent droughts

Times News Service

AL HAMRA: Construction works of the Wadi Dofia Dam Project are in the final stages and expected to be completed in a few months, according to officials tasked with supervising the project.

The Wadi Dofia Dam Project at Jabal Shams in the wilayat of Al Hamra, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate is one of the key water projects in the wilayat of Al Hamra.

Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Abri, member of the committee supervising construction of the project said in a statement that the construction of the dam started in February 2019.

The dam is 70 metres in length



VITAL NEED: The project will provide the wilayat of Al Hamra and other adjacent wilayats with water and also help recharge the Aflajs and wells.

and a height of 12 metres.

The construction phase of the project included some works such as rock cutting at the mountain road leading to the site of the dam and preparation works for concrete foundations of the dam, he added.

The project aimed to provide the wilayat of Al Hamra and other adjacent wilayats with water besides recharging the Aflajs and wells with underground water.

Drought

The importance of the dam stems from the fact that the wilayat of Al Hamra undergo drought con-

ditions from time to time which affect the level of underground water.

The civil committee supervising on the project has announced that the construction works of the dam were at final stages and expected to complete during the upcoming few months. —ONA



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ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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36,406 REACH

In a significant decision to check the surge in COVID-19 cases, the government of India on Monday announced that everyone above the age of 18 will be eligible to take the vaccine from May 1.





Story on India easing COVID-19 vaccination norms

A story on India easing COVID-19 vaccination norms reached 36,406 people and had 1,602 engagements on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

8,800 VIEWS





Fighting COVID episode

The Fighting COVID episode got 8,800 views and reached 29,500 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,454 VIEWS





The Maghrib Minute news

The Maghrib Minute news wrap video had 1,454 views and 47 likes on Instagram.

COST OF LIVING

< FROM A1 Shops switched to cheaper suppliers

A manager at another supermarket chain in the country said a lot of shops had switched to more affordable suppliers, as they attempt to cut costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Shipping costs are expensive right now, particularly with unexpected delays due to the pandemic, so supermarkets will look for more reliable suppliers that are located closer to them," he said. "Where possible, of course, we will try to buy local, but that is not possible for many fruits and vegetables.

Shipping expenses

"The shipping expenses for tomatoes from Europe, for example, are higher than the ones from, say, Jordan, and of course, if you buy them locally, then they are often the cheapest," he added. Customers visiting supermarkets also said many vegetables were priced at less than 200bzs a kilo, making it more affordable to them.

"Most of my essential vegetables, such as potatoes, tomatoes, onions, pumpkins and many others are now being sold really cheap," said Simon Mendonca, an expatriate in the country.

"Times are challenging now, so these low prices make it easier for us to buy food for our families."

According to the data, costs of staples in Muscat are a bit higher than they were in the rest of the country, but still lower than what they were last year.

Vegetable prices have decreased by 6.26 per cent, the cost of fruit has dipped by 0.69 per cent, and fish and seafood are 5.19 per cent cheaper. Grocery prices in the capital have, overall, decreased by 0.23 per cent.

In the capital, the costs of bread and cereals (2.23 per cent), eggs and dairy (0.52 per cent), meat (0.89 per cent), and oils and fats (0.81 per cent) have all risen.

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RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS

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Dhuhr	12.11pm
Asr	3.38pm
Maghrib	6.35pm
Isha	7.49pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4.21am

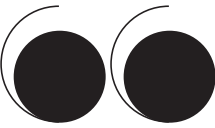
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► IFTAR TIMING

6:35 pm

► RAMADAN WORDS



O my Lord! make me one who establishes regular Prayer, and also (raise such) among my offspring, O our Lord! and accept Thou my Prayer.



► HEALTH TIP

Take adequate rest whenever you find time. People who fast should be regular in their lifestyle and avoid the sudden change in waking up and sleep time.

► RECIPE OF THE DAY



Easy mince kebabs

- INGREDIENTS
- 250g minced meat
 - 3 bread slices (squeezed in water)
 - 2 tbsp vinegar
 - 2 tbsp coriander powder
 - 1/2 tsp garam masala
 - 1/2 tsp chilli powder
 - 1/2 tsp chaat masala
 - 1/2 tsp dry mango powder
 - Grind to fine paste
 - 1 onion
 - 1/2 tsp ginger, garlic, green chilli paste
 - 2 tbsp coriander leaves
 - 1 tbsp mint leaves
 - Oil for deep frying
- PREPARATION
- In a mixing bowl, combine mince meat, vinegar and bread slices.
 - Add the spices and the ground paste.
 - Let this rest for 2 hours to marinate.
 - Heat oil in a pan. Form rolls from the marinated meat mix.
 - Drop the rolls into hot oil and deep fry till golden brown on both sides.
 - Serve hot with chutney or sauce.

Recipe: Oneza Tabish

► GOOD DEED

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

“Whoever brings a good deed shall have ten times the like thereof to his credit, and whoever brings an evil deed shall have only the recompense of the like thereof, and they will not be wronged” (Quran, 6:160)

As the world battles COVID-19, it is natural to be filled with fear or a sense of helplessness. But amidst all the despair, let us keep our faith unwavered. It’s with that faith countless acts of goodness, kindness, and courage are taking place in the world.

The Holy Month of Ramadan is the time to gain great rewards by doing good deeds and praying is one of the best things to do. During this month special prayers called taraweeh are done after every evening’s last daily prayer, and the start of Fajr prayer marks the beginning of the obligatory daily fasting. Let’s pray for the world to heal in these difficult times.





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Pact signed to track fishing boats and ships

The overall aim is to augment the contribution of the fisheries sector to the Gross Domestic Product through a set of investments targeting income-generating small surface fish and tuna

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources on Tuesday signed an agreement with Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation to carry out a project to develop an electronic system of tracking and monitoring fishing boats and ships in the Sultanate.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Umesh Chauhan, Managing Director,



DEAL INKED: The agreement was signed by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Umesh Chauhan, Managing Director, Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation. - OMA

Middle East Scientific Equipment Corporation.

The project seeks to develop the current tracking system, set up in 2000, by establishing electronic connection with satellites and earth stations. This will provide high definition accuracy of global specifications that enables the Sultanate fishing flotilla, consisting of 25,201 units, to operate smoothly.

The project also keeps pace with the Ministry's plans and programmes executed within the context of Oman Vision 2040. The programmes include ex-

pansion in using the Sultanate's fishery stocks in regional and international waters along the Indian Ocean. The overall aim is to augment the contribution of the fisheries sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through a set of investments targeting income-generating small surface fish and tuna. The annual produce is expected to stand at 1.4 million tons by 2025.

The signing ceremony was attended by Eng. Yaqoub Khalfan Al-Busaidi, Ministry's Under-Secretary for Fisheries. -OMA

1,263 COVID cases recorded

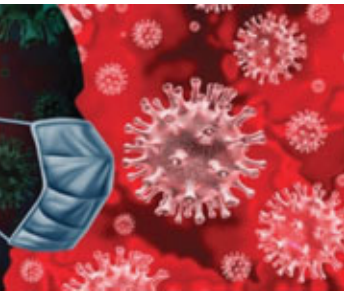
MUSCAT: As many as 1,263 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered yesterday in Oman, in addition to 19 new COVID-19-related death cases.

This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 182,693 in the Sultanate.

The total number of COVID-19-related death cases reached 1,909, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry also pointed out that 986 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number to 162,656 recoveries.

The Ministry also pointed out that 92 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours, adding that the total number of current hospitalised COVID-19-infected patients stands at 805, of them 263 are in intensive care units. -OMA





Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations – announces a public auction to sell cancelled ROP vehicles by sealed envelopes (each vehicle separately).

Vehicles can be inspected at the auction yard at the Directorate General of Transport during the period from 25/04/2021 to 06/05/2021 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. during official working hours. Bids shall be sent in sealed envelopes to the Directorate General of Logistics and Supplies during the period from 09/05/2021 to 12/05/2021.

The auction will be held according to the following terms:

- The buyer must pay the vehicle's value by e-payment.
- The buyer must move the purchased vehicles within a period of 3 days from the selling date; otherwise they shall pay a fine of RO 5/- per each day of delay.

Meeting discusses measures taken to control COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Health (MoH), took part in the high-level meeting of the Helsinki Policy Forum, headed by Krista Kiuru, Minister of Family Affairs and Social services in Finland via video conference.

The meeting discussed measures to be taken to control the COVID-19 pandemic and additional preparations needed to thwart future waves.

The Sultanate was represented by Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health. A number of ministers of health from the European, Gulf and Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO) attended the meeting.



Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi. - File picture

Unprecedented crisis

In his speech, Al Saidi stressed that the world is facing an unprecedented health crisis and this pandemic can only be curbed with foolproof preparations. There should be no distinction between private and public sector healthcare facilities during any pandemic, he added.

In addition, the Minister of Health added that we should have

a well-established and dynamic global response plan based on the engagement of all stakeholders. It should clearly designate the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance, the health minister added.

Dr Al Saidi assured the need to delink public health from politics by prioritising transparency. Countries should share epidemiological risks and assessment data timely, and share information on contact tracing, he added.

Moreover, Al Saidi indicated that rich countries should support poor nations for universal health to ensure equitable access to the vaccine.



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CORONAVIRUS

Bangladesh extends lockdown till April 28 amid COVID spike

DHAKA: Bangladesh has extended the ongoing nationwide lockdown by another week till April 28 in view of the current surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths in the country.

The strict restrictions on public movement and gathering imposed last week will remain in force during the extended period, Dhaka Tribune reported citing a gazette

notification issued on Tuesday. The move to extend the ongoing lockdown comes a day after an inter-ministerial meeting on the issue. On Sunday, the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on COVID-19 had recommended extending the lockdown for at least two weeks in light of the resurgence in infections and deaths since March.

On April 14, the Bangladesh government enforced a fresh lockdown with harsher measures. The ongoing lockdown was imposed after a 'loose' nationwide lockdown for one week as part of its move to contain the spike in both coronavirus infections and fatalities.

The announcement of the extension of the lockdown comes

on the day Bangladesh has logged another 91 deaths and 4,559 new infections.

With the latest development, the death toll in the country mounted to 10,588 and the total number of infections stands at 727,780.

Under the lockdown, all kinds of public gatherings (social, political, religious and others) have been restricted. **ANI**



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ONE DAY AFTER WINNING ELECTIONS

Chad President killed during inspection of frontline troops



N'DJAMENA: Chad's President Idriss Deby has died while visiting troops on the frontlines of a fight against northern rebels, an army spokesman said on Tuesday. Deby's death comes just one day after he was declared the winner of a sixth term in office, marking over 30 years in power.

On Monday, his campaign said he was headed to the northern part of the country to join troops in fighting "terrorists." Rebels based in Libya had attacked a border post on Monday, and advanced hundreds of kilometres south across the desert, towards the capital N'Djamena. Following the clashes, Chad's army

said it had killed 300 rebels and quashed the offensive.

Army spokesman Azem Bermendao Agouna announced Deby's death on state television and radio, surrounded by military officers he referred to as the National Council of Transition.

"A call to dialogue and peace is launched to all Chadians in the country and abroad in order to continue to build Chad together," said Agouna. "The National Council of Transition reassures the Chadian people that all measures have been taken to guarantee peace, security and the republican order."

The circumstances of Deby's death could not immediately be

independently confirmed due to the remote location of the battlefield.

Deby, 68, began his 30-year rule of the country in 1990, and is one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.

On April 11, Deby won over 79% of the vote. His long rule in the region's harsh political sphere has made him a strong figure in the French-led campaign against jihadist insurgents in the Sahel.

Last August, the National Assembly named Deby the first field marshal in Chad's history, after he led an offensive against jihadists in the west of the country. **AP**



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ONE TERM VP

Former US Vice President Walter ‘Fritz’ Mondale dies at 93

WASHINGTON: Walter ‘Fritz’ Mondale, who served as vice president under President Jimmy Carter, has died at the age of 93.

Family spokesperson Kathy Tunheim confirmed his death. Mondale died at home in downtown Minneapolis, Tunheim said, surrounded by family, reported CNN. Mondale served as Carter’s No. 2 between 1977 and 1981, but his time as vice president came to an end when Ronald Reagan and his running mate, George H. W. Bush, defeated Carter and Mondale in 1980 -- a loss that Democrats wouldn’t recover from until 1992, when Bill Clinton helped the party win back control of the White House.

“Today I mourn the passing of



my dear friend Mondale, who I consider the best vice president in our country’s history. During our administration, Fritz used his political skill and personal integrity to transform the vice presidency into a dynamic, policy-driving force that had never been seen before and still exists today.

He was an invaluable partner and an able servant of the people of Minnesota, the United States, and the world,” said Jimmy Carter, former US President on the passing of Mondale. “Fritz Mondale provided us all with a model of public service and private behaviour. Rosalynn and I join all Americans in giving thanks for his exemplary life, and we extend our deepest condolences

es to his family,” added Carter.

Mondale also won his Democratic presidential nomination in 1984, and made history by naming a woman, US Rep Geraldine A Ferraro of New York, as his running mate before ultimately falling short to Reagan.

He also served as both the US ambassador to Japan and the envoy to Indonesia under Clinton, reported CNN. His last race was in 2002, when he served as Minnesota’s DFL Senate candidate, filling the ballot position of the late Sen Paul Wellstone, who had died shortly before the election in October of that year. Mondale was defeated in the race by Republican Norm Coleman.

“Power has now peacefully

changed hands and we are so blessed to be Americans when that happens,” he said in 2002 after his election loss.

“We kept the faith, we stayed the course, we fought the good fight, and every one of us should feel good about that.”

Following the loss, he returned to practicing law and teaching at the University of Minnesota. Mondale had faced a few significant health issues in recent years. In 2014, he underwent a successful heart surgery in his home state of Minnesota, and the following year, he was admitted to the hospital with influenza, reported CNN. He’s preceded in death by his wife, Joan Mondale, who died in 2014. **rw**

Use lockdown as last resort, PM Modi tells states

The PM said he understands the pain of people who have lost their relatives and friends due to the disease



NEW DELHI: Noting that the surge in COVID-19 cases has led to sharp increase in the demand for oxygen in different parts of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said work to increase oxygen production is taking place at several levels and steps have also been taken to ramp up availability of hospital beds.

In his address to the nation, PM Modi said the work is being made with sensitivity and speed to meet the increased demand for medical oxygen due to second wave of the pandemic. He also said the government has now allowed vaccination for every adult starting May 1.

“The demand for oxygen has seen sharp increase in many parts of the country due to corona crisis. The Centre, state governments, private sector are trying to

make oxygen available to all those who are in need of it. Many steps are being taken in this direction,” he said.

“Work is on to increase the number of beds in hospitals. In some cities, large COVID-19 dedicated hospitals are being built,” he added.

PM Modi requested state governments to urge workers where they are. “I request State governments to urge the workers to stay where they are. This trust given by the states to the workers will help them, and that they will be vaccinated in the city where they are,” he said.

“I urge the States to consider lockdowns only as the last option and focus creating on micro containment zones,” he added.

The Prime Minister said he understands the pain of people who have lost their relatives and

friends due to the disease.

“I understand the pain you are going through and express my sympathies to the families who have lost their loved ones due to COVID-19.”

He said the challenge before the country is big but “we have to overcome it with our resolve, courage and preparation”.

The Prime Minister said India with two ‘made in India’ vaccines started the world’s largest vaccination programme. “Till now, more than 12 crore vaccine doses have been administered. From May 1, those above the age of 18 years can be vaccinated.”

The Prime Minister had earlier in the day interacted with vaccine manufacturers in the country via video conferencing and urged them to continuously scale up the production capacity to vaccinate people in the shortest possible time. **ANI**

IFTAR PROGRAM

The Prophet (ﷺ) said,
"He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization has the pleasure of announcing the start of this year's Ramadan Iftar Program. We kindly seek your participation for the sake of the needy families in Oman during this holy month. All are requested to join in such a humanitarian and benevolent cause by sending your donation through,

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CLIMATE CHANGE

UN chief calls for real action to fight climate change

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for specific commitments and real action to fight climate change after speaking out about the severity of the climatic disruptions that have raged the planet.

“We must agree to a common direction of travel,” the UN chief said at the joint hybrid press conference with Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization Petteri Taalas to launch the State of the Global Climate in 2020 Report.

“The United Nations is building a global coalition committed to net zero emissions -- to cover all countries, cities, regions, businesses and financial institutions,” said the top UN official, stressing that the next 10 years “need to be a decade of transformation.”

“Countries need to submit ambitious new NDCs -- the nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement -- which are their climate plans for the next 10 years,” he added.

“We need those commitments and plans to be backed up with concrete immediate action,” said the secretary-general.

Referring to the report, Guterres said that “it needs to be read by all leaders and decision-

makers in the world” as this report shows that 2020 “was also another unprecedented year of extreme weather and climate disasters.”

He said the cause is clear because climate disruption is “caused by human activities, human decisions and human folly.”

“The effects are disastrous,” he said, adding that 2020 was 1.2 degrees Celsius hotter than pre-industrial times.

“We are getting dangerously close to the 1.5 degree Celsius limit set by the scientific community,” he warned.

“We are on the verge of the abyss,” he continued.

“The six years since 2015 have been the hottest on record,” said the secretary-general.

The Paris Agreement on climate change promised to limit temperature rise to as close to 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible.

On specific data, Guterres said that concentrations of the major greenhouse gases continued to climb. Carbon dioxide concentrations rose to a new high -- 410.5 parts per million, which is a 148 percent increase above pre-industrial levels. The number of tropical cyclones globally was above average in 2020. There were 98 named tropical storms, said the secretary-general. **Xinhua**

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FIFA President ‘strongly disapproves’ creation of European Super League

His comments come after a group of 12 European clubs on Monday confirmed their plans to launch a new European Super League

MONTREUX: FIFA President Gianni Infantino “strongly disapproved” the formation of the European Super League and has alerted the 12 teams involved in the showpiece event to be ready for “consequences”. His comments come after a group of 12 European clubs on Monday confirmed their plans to launch a new European Super League. Among these 12, six belong to the Premier League -- Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, and Chelsea.



“At FIFA, we can only strongly disapprove the creation of a Super League which is a closed shop, which is a breakaway from the current institutions, from the leagues, from the associations, from UEFA, and from FIFA,” goal.com quoted Infantino as saying at the UEFA Congress. Infantino said the game of football might lose a lot in a bid for “short-term financial gain” for

some people. “There is a lot to throw away for maybe a short-term financial gain of some. People need to think very carefully. They need to reflect and they need to assume responsibility,” said the FIFA President. “If some elect to go their own way, then they must live with the consequences of their choice. They are responsible for their choice. Concretely, this means either you are in or you are out. You

cannot be half in or half out,” he added. The European Super League has been met with severe backlash ever since reports started doing rounds in the media. Despite this fact, the 12 clubs have now confirmed the formation and format for the new competition. On Monday, FIFA had expressed its disapproval for the proposed league. “In view of several media requests and as already stated several times, FIFA wishes to clarify that it stands firm in favour of solidarity in football and an equitable redistribution model which can help develop football as a sport, particularly at global level, since the development of global football is the primary mission of FIFA,” FIFA had said in an official statement. “Moreover, the governing bodies of football should employ all lawful, sporting and diplomatic means to ensure this remains the case. Against this background, FIFA can only express its disapproval to a “closed European breakaway league” outside of the international football structures and not respecting the aforementioned principles,” it had added. **ANI**

Law protects us, we won’t be banned from UCL semis: Real Madrid chief

MADRID: Real Madrid President Florentino Perez has brushed aside threats from UEFA President Alexander Ceferin who had said that the players participating in the European Super League will be banned from the World Cup and Euros. A group of 12 European clubs on Monday confirmed their plans to launch a new European Super League. Among these 12, six belong to the Premier League -- Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, and Chelsea. UEFA President Ceferin was also left fuming and he launched a scathing attack on all the 12 clubs involved and he made his intentions clear on what might be the fate of the players if they play the European Super League. “Every player can be calm because that’s not going to happen. They won’t be banned if they join the Super League,” Real Madrid President Perez told El Chiringuito, as reported by Goal.com. UEFA’s Executive Committee member Jesper Moller on Monday also said that Real Madrid, Chelsea, and Manchester City could be thrown out of this season’s Champions League due to their involvement in the Super League.



“Real Madrid, Manchester City, and Chelsea will not be banned from the Champions League or domestic leagues. Impossible, I can assure you of that. 100 per cent, it won’t happen, the law protects us. This is impossible,” said Perez. UEFA President Ceferin had also slammed Manchester United and Juventus chiefs Ed Woodward and Andrea Agnelli and he went on to call them “snakes” after they led proposals for the Super League. “President Ceferin insulted Andrea Agnelli today, it is not possible. It’s crazy to discuss a president of a world club like Juventus. This is something unacceptable, UEFA must change, we don’t want a president who insults other presidents,” said Perez. **ANI**

Will stay Liverpool manager as long as people let me do that: Klopp

LONDON: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has insisted that he would not be walking away from the club despite his reservations over its involvement in the controversial European Super League. A group of 12 European clubs on Monday confirmed their plans to launch a new European Super League. Among these 12, six belong to the Premier League -- Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, and Chelsea. Liverpool, who played out a 1-1 draw in the Premier League against Leeds United on Monday were subjected to boos by the fans ahead of this particular fixture. “I don’t think that, I don’t feel

that. I am 20 years in football, and a lot of times owners made decisions without asking me, and I deal with it. I don’t want to be involved in these things, I don’t understand them. I’m a football person. It’s not about letting me down. I’m here as a football coach and manager, and I will do that as long as people let me do that. I heard today that I

will resign or whatever,” Goal.com quoted Klopp as saying. “If times get even tougher, that makes me even more sticky that I will stay here. I feel responsible for the team, responsible for the club, and for the relationship we have with our fans. It’s a very tough time, but I will try to help to sort it somehow,” he added.

Further talking about remaining with the club, Klopp said: “I am at the club six years, around about. I know our owners, they are serious people, reasonable people. They care about us. But they never had to explain these kinds of decisions to me or ask me for permission. That’s the situation. I speak a lot to them, but I was not involved at all

in the process. I got the information yesterday.” “The English system is like this, there is pretty much one voice in the club and that’s the manager. It’s different from Germany. But there will be a moment for sure when our owners say what they have to say. Definitely, I’m sure,” he added. **ANI**



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2021 reaching \$65.92, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 95 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$64.97. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 3,696.63 points, up 0.81 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.40 per cent at 525.99 points. Al Madina Investment, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer today while Sohar Power, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & INVESTMENT PROMOTION

The Business Year inks pact with ministry on Oman's economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Business Year, a global media group that has been providing investors, businesses, and governments with first-hand insights into the world's most dynamic markets for over a decade, has signed a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) for the creation of TBY's eighth annual publication on the Omani economy.

The MoU was signed in Muscat, between Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and TBY's Regional Director for Oman, Elena Barreiro.

The agreement lays the foundations for the preparation of The Business Year: Oman 2021, which

will include insights from leading political and business figures to deliver accurate information, objective analysis and strategic advice on the main economic trends in the Sultanate.

Commenting on the MoU signing, Qaisbin Mohammed Al Yousef said, "With insightful information on the pillars of Oman's Vision 2040 - launched by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in January - The Business Year: Oman 2021 covers topics of importance to the Sultanate's sustainable growth including the recently announced Economic Stimulus Plan, Oman's Industrial Strategy, new streamlined government e-services such as Invest Easy, as well as the Invest in Oman portal, the ministry's primary digital platform for the promotion and attraction



MOU: The MoU was signed between Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and TBY's Regional Director for Oman, Elena Barreiro. - **Supplied picture**

tion of investment. Indeed, this informative publication is a valuable guide for investors interested in exploring the wealth of possibilities in Oman's fast-developing business environment and industrial landscape."

Throughout TBY's months-long research, its team will conduct more than 150 interviews and cover all major sectors of the economy, including, finance, energy, agriculture, industry, logistics, ICT, health and education, tourism, and others. TBY plans to promote Oman as an important player in the region and a solid investment destination, showcasing the investment opportunities the country has to offer. Furthermore, TBY plans to highlight the steps Oman is taking toward a more sustainable future and on the path to Oman Vision 2040.

Elena Barreiro, Regional Director for Oman, emphasized the degree of interest that the Omani economy is garnering within the global investor community, stating: "The Business Year as a global media organisation has been present in Oman for eight years. We are fully committed to covering Oman's economy and promoting investment opportunities to facilitate

business. This year, Andrea Tsiachtsiri is heading up our research team, which will delve into issues surrounding Oman's Vision 2040."

Exclusive interviews will be the pillar of TBY's research, and up-to-date articles and analysis will provide readers with all the relevant facts and information related to recent projects, investments and specific opportunities in the Sultanate. The edition will reach a targeted global audience through its print edition and will be available on a range of digital platforms, including Bloomberg Terminal, Dow Jones Factiva, FactSet and RefinitivEikon, not to mention PressReader and Google Books, as well as on the TBY Reader app, available on iOS. The next edition The Business Year: Oman will be published by Q4 2021.

CBO raises OMR35mn through treasury bills

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from April 21, Wednesday until May 19, 2021

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR35 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, starting from April 21 until May 19, 2021.

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

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT: Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licenced commercial banks an opportunity to invest their surplus funds. - **ONA**

ments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and

repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills pro-

mote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates.

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

APMC

PDO signs pact to plant 500,000 trees in desert

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has signed an agreement with the Agriculture Production and Marketing Company (APMC) to plant crops and 500,000 trees in the desert over the next 10 years.

The Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) focuses on a 35km² tract of land at Rahab in the south of PDO's concession area.

New scheme

The new scheme contributes to the need for a "green and circular economy that addresses national

needs and moves consistently with the global trends" outlined in the Oman Vision 2040 that serves national environmental, food security and In-Country Value (ICV) objectives.

It is also part of the initiative launched by the Environment Authority and PDO on Oman Environment Day in January 2020 to plant 10 million indigenous trees by 2030 to rejuvenate pastures and grazing lands and help offset the country's carbon footprint.

Under the terms of the latest agreement, PDO will lease the site to the APMC, which will provide and operate the necessary infrastructure, related facilities and services for tenants, market and buy their goods, as well as promote the area to farmers and investors.

Half a million trees and a variety of edible and non-edible crops will be grown, creating jobs in the agricultural sector, supporting Omani SMEs and potentially supplying fresh food to Oman. It is envisaged that the location could become a tourist attraction as well as serve as a research and development test-bed for new technologies in areas such as irrigation and clean energy.

The MOC was signed by PDO Managing Director Raoul Restucci and APMC Chairman Adnan Al

Alawi at a virtual ceremony.

Restucci said, "This project is fully aligned with the Oman Vision 2040 in that it will deliver significant environmental and economic benefits for the nation and be an exemplar of sustainable development. It will boost biodiversity, reduce the need for imported agricultural products and create job and investment opportunities for Omanis. There is a good supply of water at the location and plenty of potential to grow food for our operations and beyond, while supporting the drive to "green" the desert embodied in the nearby plot for the One Million Date Palm Trees project"

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Zubair SEC participates in conference to support entrepreneurship



OBJECTIVE: The objective of the conference is to foster an innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial climate while engaging the community in the same activities. - **Supplied picture**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) participated in the second GCC conference to support innovation, industrial intelligence, technology and entrepreneurship system. The virtual conference was held under the patronage of Dr Abdullah Issa Al Salman, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait.

The objective of the conference was to foster an innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial climate while engaging the community in the same activities. It also aimed to support the sustainability of smart growth through technology, collaboration, education, and other strategies. It looked at implementing strategies to accelerate the social and economic impacts of

innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship at all levels. It sought to exchange experiences with effective partnerships in innovation, artificial intelligence and entrepreneurship. It tried to identify challenges and opportunities in the same topics.

The points of discussions at the conference were best practices of the 'entrepreneurial', 'innovation' and 'artificial intelligent' ecosystem. It deliberated on strengthening traditional and virtual services for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship initiatives, and programmes. The conference reflected on effective tools and strategies for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship programmes. It also mulled over innovative approaches to teaching entrepreneurship and creativity.

The three-day conference was organised by Ecosystem Consultants and the GCC Intellectual Property Training Centre, Sultan Qaboos University, Women Institution of Development and Peace and Arab Planning Institute.

The conference was attended by excellencies, dignitaries, high-level executives and representatives of the public and private sectors from across GCC countries. A number of leading personalities and heads of centres and institutions from the field of entrepreneurship and technology also participated in the conference.

Zubair SEC's participation came as a direct invitation from organisers to represent the role of the private sector in the innovation and entrepreneurship system in Oman. Ali Shaker, Adviser, Business

Development and Strategic Partnerships, Zubair SEC presented a working paper. He referred to the successful experience and expertise of Zubair SEC in the innovation and entrepreneurship system.

Ali Shaker said, "Support for innovation will enhance entrepreneurship development, which will, in turn, accelerate economic growth. Zubair SEC's model and methodology play an important role in complementing the efforts of governments in the Gulf countries in terms of public and private partnership in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the region. We hope to see these models in all countries of the region."

He added, "Zubair SEC is always keen to participate in these purposeful events at the international and Gulf level."

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Madina Investment, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer, while Sohar Power, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 3,696.63 points, up 0.81 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up 0.40 per cent at 525.99 points. Al Madina Investment, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer, while Sohar Power, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of National Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,284 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.76 million, with more than 34 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded stocks, 22 advanced, 5 declined and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, Local investors were net buyers for OMR552,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR393,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR160,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 5,713.44 points, up by 0.83 per cent. Al Madina Investment, Oman & Emirates Holding, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment and Ominvest were up 9.52 per cent, 9.52 per cent, 3.75 per cent, 3.49 per cent and 2.65 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,018.52 points, up 1.15 per cent. National Aluminium Product, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Product, Oman Cables Industry and Voltamp Energy were up 6.48 per cent, 4.08 per cent, 4.00 per cent, 3.39 per cent and 2.94 per cent respectively.

Services index was up by 0.71 per cent before closing at 1,555.49 points. Oman Investment & Financials, Oman Telecommunication, Ooredoo, National Gas and Oman National Engineering were up 6.98 per cent, 1.62 per cent, 1.60 per cent, 1.48 per cent and 1.19 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	3,697.00	3,666.95	3,696.63	3,666.95	29.68	0.81
FINANCIAL INDEX	5,713.44	5,666.60	5,713.44	5,666.60	46.84	0.83
Industry Index	5,020.27	4,973.74	5,018.52	4,961.53	56.99	1.15
Services Index	1,557.93	1,546.33	1,555.49	1,544.48	11.02	0.71
MSX Shariah Index	526.00	524.44	526.00	523.91	2.09	0.40
MSX TR INDEX	4,437.42	4,401.35	4,436.98	4,401.35	35.62	0.81

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
34,045,081	4,765,381	1,284	20,641,363,235	22	5	25	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 20

REGULAR MARKET

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN	5,673,976	521,812	196	0.089	0.094	0.089	0.092	0.086	0.006	6.977	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	21,804,000
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	2,570,433	733,934	154	0.282	0.280	0.282	0.286	0.275	0.011	4.000	0.287	0.287	0.289	0.100	35,720,817
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV.	2,193,918	181,785	112	0.080	0.088	0.079	0.083	0.080	0.003	3.750	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.100	7,470,000
OM0000001172 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,723,710	330,973	129	0.088	0.090	0.087	0.089	0.086	0.003	3.488	0.087	0.088	0.088	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	600,000	185,930	20	0.306	0.310	0.306	0.310	0.302	0.008	2.649	0.308	0.304	0.308	0.100	250,409,422
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	196,742	147,993	23	0.768	0.788	0.752	0.782	0.740	0.012	1.622	0.752	0.744	0.760	0.100	564,000,000
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	159,059	80,294	22	0.378	0.384	0.378	0.380	0.374	0.006	1.904	0.384	0.382	0.386	0.100	247,358,807
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	206,864	55,777	30	0.269	0.272	0.269	0.270	0.266	0.004	1.504	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	54,000,000
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	37,921	5,183	9	0.139	0.139	0.135	0.137	0.135	0.002	1.481	0.135	0.135	0.138	0.100	11,645,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.	319,681	123,023	18	0.384	0.390	0.380	0.384	0.380	0.004	1.053	0.380	0.388	0.388	0.100	90,781,440
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	78,581	21,377	20	0.278	0.278	0.271	0.272	0.271	0.001	0.369	0.273	0.272	0.275	0.100	14,960,000
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSUR.	135,000	51,300	5	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.378	0.380	0.100	38,000,000
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	200,880	8,503	11	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.100	12,500,146
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	2,294,678	894,947	100	0.390	0.392	0.384	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.390	0.400	0.100	158,045,169
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT. BANK	45,000	4,050	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	219,105,606
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	200,633	46,242	18	0.231	0.233	0.230	0.230	0.233	-0.003	-1.288	0.230	0.227	0.230	0.100	78,100,723
Total	18,636,986	3,373,011	872												

Parallel Market

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	372,260	17,124	7	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.042	0.004	9.524	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	5,606,250
OM0000001962 AL MADINA INV.	135,000	3,105	4	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.002	9.524	0.023	0.021	0.023	0.100	4,764,882
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,359,624	156,425	94	0.113	0.117	0.113	0.115	0.108	0.007	6.481	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	3,860,717
OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEER.	5,974,601	306,419	178	0.049	0.053	0.049	0.051	0.049	0.002	4.082	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100	14,789,012
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR	104,470	76,303	20	0.732	0.740	0.716	0.732	0.708	0.024	3.390	0.732	0.720	0.732	0.100	65,660,400
OM0000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	35,800	5,003	9	0.136	0.140	0.136	0.140	0.136	0.004	2.941	0.140	0.132	0.140	0.100	11,396,385
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	190,308	19,792	3	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.102	0.002	1.961	0.104	0.104	0.109	0.100	311,620,549
OM0000001152 OMAN NAT. ENG.	8,503	723	2	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	11,050,000
OM0000004788 MADINA TAKAFUL	153,868	13,533	22	0.089	0.089	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001301 DHOFAR CATTLE	20,000	1,820	2	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	7,357,350
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	21,052	2,000	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.094	0.097	0.100	142,500,000
OM0000001178 MUSCAT GASES	100	19	1	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.175	0.187	0.100	5,610,000
OM0000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	21,344	14,514	2	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.680	0.720	0.100	107,100,000
OM0000001426 OMAN REFRESHMENT	88	116	1	1.320	1.320	1.320	1.320	1.320	0.000	0.000	1.320	1.320	0.000	0.100	66,000,000
OM0000001926 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,033	464	1	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.154	0.154	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.152	0.153	0.100	250,355,739
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	110,230	11,243	4	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000001596 OMAN FISHERIES	27,174	2,335	4	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001608 OMAN PACKAGING	41	12	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.314	0.314	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	10,184,860
OM0000001822 UNITED POWER	68	61	1	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.812	0.812	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.892	0.000	1.000	649,600
OM0000001889 SALALAH MILLS	3,000	1,520	1	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	27,479,685
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	50,000	16,424	2	0.326	0.330	0.326	0.328	0.328	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.326	0.330	0.100	97,158,088
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	2,000	210	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.099	0.105	0.100	198,865,082
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,280	428	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.306	0.330	0.100	76,365,756
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	800	34	1	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.045	0.100	15,013,210
OM0000003000 AI MAHA MARKTING	20,000	11,400	1	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.000	0.000	0.570	0.550	0.570	0.100	39,330,000
OM0000004735 SEMDIP SALALAH	5,000	200	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	16,973,325
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	2,000	114	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.100	38,468,584
OM0000004833 AHLI BANK	18,000	1,008	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.060	0.100	40,008,755
OM0000007084 MCT SUWADI	201	29	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	76,365,756
OM0000007290 ARABIA FALCON INS.	257	23	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	9,918,959
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	5,780	920	2	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.000	0.000	0.159	0.156	0.159	0.100	35,338,160
OM0000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	1,595	437	1	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.000	0.000	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.100	62,202,000
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	671,500	31,055	26	0.046	0.048	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	0.048	0.046	0.048	0.100	67,279,667
OM0000002848 NATIONAL FINANCE	6,048,018	685,522	2	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.120	-0.005	-4.167	0.115	0.090	0.115	0.100	62,241,502
OM0000002586 AL BATINAH DEV.	31,422	1,571	6	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.055	-0.005	-9.091	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	1,500,000
OM0000003711 SOHAR POWER	6,330	287	4	0.050	0.050	0.045	0.045	0.050	-0.005	-10.000	0.045	0.045	0.050	0.100	9,945,450
Total	36	15,408,095	1,392,371	412											

REPORT

Global chip shortage now hitting more tech players

HONG KONG: The heavy toll that chip shortages have inflicted on the global auto industry is now broadening to other sectors, S&P Global Ratings said in a report released.

“The chip shortage may cap the revenue growth of some PC and smartphone makers, and impede their ability to capitalise on surging consumption,” said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Clifford Kurz.

Chip vendors also need to manage rising costs as fabs increase prices amid a surge in demand for their services. They should be able to largely pass on these higher costs to customers. Original equipment manufacturers that are unable to procure sufficient components to meet orders for their products will feel more pain.

The report said the supply issue

is most severe in the auto industry. Many carmakers have announced factory shutdowns and prioritised production based on an entity's ability to procure critical parts.

Other sectors now also being squeezed include some smartphone manufacturers. Even some home appliance producers in China are reporting production issues related to chip shortages. — **ANI**

Dubai Aerospace orders 15 Boeing 737 MAX aeroplanes worth \$1.8 billion

DUBAI: Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) on Tuesday announced that it had agreed to acquire 15 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft. The order is valued at approximately US\$1.8 billion at list prices.

Firoz Tarapore, Chief Executive Officer of DAE, said, “We are delighted to deepen our already strong relationship with Boeing. Including this order, we own and manage 162 Boeing aircraft. An increasing number of global aviation regulators are returning the MAX to the skies. We are confident in the success of these aircraft as domestic and regional air travel is seeing strong signs of recovery.”

DAE, a long-term Boeing partner, has 162 Boeing aircraft in its fleet. The 737 MAX 8 is a member of the 737 MAX family designed to offer more fuel efficiency, reliability, and flexibility in the single-aisle aeroplane market. DAE recently announced an agreement

With new, more fuel-efficient engines and improved aerodynamics, the 737-8 will use 16 per cent less fuel and significantly reduce emissions per seat compared to aeroplanes it replaces

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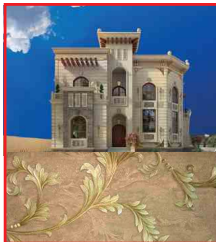
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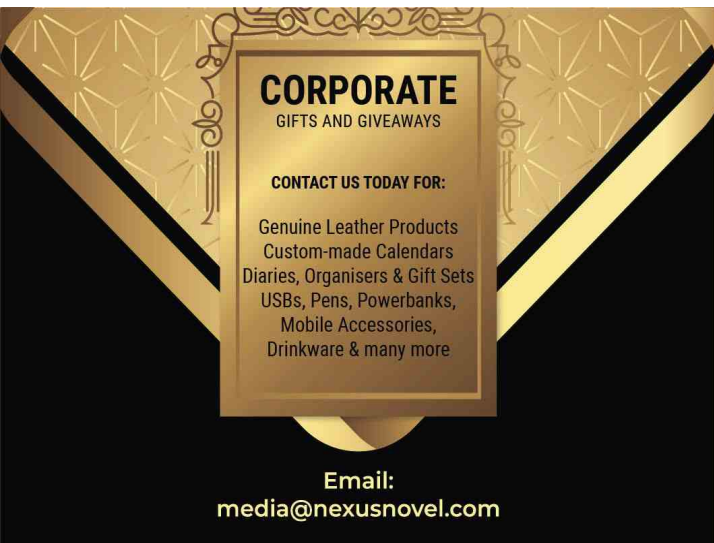


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AutoCAD / Revit (2d/3d), MEP freelancer, shop drawing works. Contact: 99857800 / 79037728 (WA)

DRIVER

15 years experienced light duty Indian driver. Contact 98993526

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Looking for a driving job. # 79798556

Looking for driving job. Contact 93539260

Looking for driving job. # 96224920

Looking for driving job. # 99141165

10 yrs experience in driving (Oman) looking job. # 93770264

Looking for driving job with car, 4 yrs experience. Contact 97379365

HOSPITALITY

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

IT

B. Tech computer engineer with 6 years of Oman experience looking for job in IT industry and bearing GCC license GSM No : 78240202

Indian Male, MBA (IT&SYSTEMS) 14 Years of experience as Business Analyst in Oman. Experience in supply chain management/logistics& warehouse management/E-commerce operations. Contact:96256759

Omani citizen is looking for vacancy in the field of computer. Perfect of use SQL & SQL Server. Having diploma certificate & 3 yrs experience in this field. Contact 96977368
 Email talalom1@yahoo.com

LOGISTIC

Logistic officer with 15 yrs experience in oman seeking for immediate placement.NOC/local release available. Contact 95271413

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

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

MANAGER

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

Operations Manager (Electrical), 10 years experience in primary and distribution substations and overhead line, D/L available. Contact 95357073

Expert in oil and gas supply chain, operation and commercial management 18 years of Oman experience as mid level executive looking for immediate placement. # 95148237

Project Civil engineer 18 yrs experience, 11 yrs in Oman Projects execution commercial, residential & governmental project. Looking for job. Contact 99470854, 97832844

Accounts/Finance Manager well experienced (29 Years), expert in cashflow & Credit management, arranging loans, monthly MIS, budgeting, Internal and external auditing etc. Contact 98803439

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Safety officer looking for job with Nebosh Certification. Contact 71961786

HSE adviser IOSH certified with 4 years experience. Contact 71721926.
mubashirosman89@gmail.com

FOC Splicing Network Supervisor. Indian, Male. Exp10 yrs in GCC, seeking from India. Contact +91 87787 26083.
 Email: leninkumar34@gmail.com.

Indian 2.6 yrs experience in fiber telecommunication as field technician, monthly salary 400. Oman license. Contact 79172708
 Email greeshgk@gmail.com

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

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 Email: tahaspm@gmail.com

Indian male 29, exp: 03yr-09 months as ticketing reservation executive seeks job.NOC available. Contact 97322323/94478168.
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Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774
Wts - 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Logistics and Operations

Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.

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Sr. Sales HVAC/MEP/Industrial Products

With 10 + years of experience in Sales and Business development of HVAC / Mechanical / Industrial products in Oman market. Hold DL and available immediately.

Contact: 93843068;
mabcoman@yahoo.com

ENGINEER / DEPUTE PM

BE 15 yrs Exp Seeking job roles of Engineer - Sr.planning/Sr.cost control/Dep.PM in Building Construction/Infrastructure Utilities Projects/Consulting Firms of a growth oriented organization.

Contact 97464768

Administration

Pakistani Female with 13 years of experience in Academic Administration with excellent communication skills, on family visa. Part time also willing.

Contact 79285929

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

31 years Experienced Civil Engineer in which 20 years in Oman with valid driving license and NOC looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 95538353
Mail: camudhan38@gmail.com

Sales & Marketing

Indian male, professional in media ad sales and marketing, experienced in business development and planning and rolling out offline & online product promotion campaigns, organising product launch events & other BTL programs, looking for a suitable opportunity.

Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.

aminol2424@gmail.com
79417515

HR / Admin

Indian Female looking for job opportunities in HR/Admin or similar field. MBA with 7 yrs of experience in Oman, UAE and India in HR, Admin, Payroll n others. Experience in all HR functions. Available to start immediately.

Contact 99653715

Omani Information Technology Field

Omani looking for a job, Bachelor degree in IT from the United States of America, 1 year experience in IT.

Contact: 71771213
Email: Hafes707@hotmail.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.

Contact: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

Facility Manager / Project Manager (Civil)

B.E. (Civil) with 24 years expertise in Facilities Management, Civil Construction Management, Project Management, Maintenance Management, Site Inspection & Audit, Process & Documentation, Contracts & vendor management, Budgeting & cash flow. Available to join immediately. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: +968-96180303 shiv60769@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

WANTED PART TIME OR CONTRACT BASIS ACCOUNTING JOB UPTO FINALISATION.

CONTACT: 91720776

Mechanical Engineer

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

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.

Call 97015841
Email: khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

ASST. FINANCE MANAGER

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, ODDO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

Accounts & Audit

Accounts & Audit field with 13 years experience till finalization of accounts. Finance Ministry taxation procedures and Value added Tax procedures. Qualified in M Com, MBA , M.A. English. Also does online immigration works in various ministries.

Whatsapp: 98190314
E-mail: richy348@rediffmail.com

Senior Real Estate Manager

Well experienced in management accounting, reporting, marketing, planning and budgeting. Also has experience in the construction and fitout field. really quick learner for any other fields. Looking for a good opportunity with an international or national corporation. Omani DL & NOC is available.

Contact: 71519695
ahmedelsaba87@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Omani Mechanical engineer with 4 years experience in projects and sales, Bachelor's degree and MBA. PMP certified. GSM: 95851970

BE Civil Engineer, having 8 yrs of Oman experience in all types of building constructions & having Oman D/L & NOC available. Ready to join immediately. Contact 71267309, 96742402 (whatsapp). Email vmanand92@gmail.com

BE Civil Engineer with PMP having experience more than 21 years looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 95899628, prakashrathi7707 @gmail.com

MEP QS, Indian Male. BE(EEE) Construction Exp.11yrs (7GCC+4India). Seeking from India. Contact: 9344206100, Email: erndeva@gmail.com

MEP Engineer, Indian Male DEEE. Exp 18yrs(12GCC+6India) Building Construction. Visa Transferable. With D/L. GSM:79305045. Email:renga4582@gmail.com

Mechanical project engineer, BE Mechanical ,India,have almost 5 yrs experience with 2+ yrs experiencein Oman.Currently working as Mechanical engineer & have HVAC designing.Knowledge also,seeking relevant placement. Contact 97865430. Email mdn.razvi@gmail.com

BE Mechanical Engineer, with 3 years of experience in hvac design and supervision is seeking suitable position, Contact 78002650. afreedpc5779@gmail.com

Indian male, 29yrs, BE Mechanical, 6+ yrs. UAE experienced QA QC in Oil and Gas with valid D/L on visit in Oman. Looking for suitable opportunities in QA QC / project/ process. Contact 92057664 e-mail: hafisashraf14@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 10 years in Muscat, Client Meeting, AutoCAD, Quotation, Tender, High-rise Com/Res, Villas Maintenance. Having D/L and NOC. Contact 97431611

Indian Male, Diploma in Computer Engineering, 3 years' experience Worked as a System administrator & Support Engineer looking for a suitable job. Presently on visit. Contact 94243856/93894634 rashadmuhammed20@gmail.com

Site Engineer (DCE), 9 yrs experience in building construction (execution of site works, BBS, BOQ preparation) Oman D/L. Local transfer/NOC available. Contact 94334402. Email nishath.ind91@gmail.com

Indian male 23 yrs, B.Tech (EEE) is looking for suitable job,presently on visit. Contact 95055966

24, Mechanical Engineer, currently in Oman Looking to work as back-office Sales/Purchase coordinator in any field. Contact 79121923 / 78043052

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Inventory, Accounting, Purchase & Sales: Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in MNC with F&B, Customer relations and various other skills.NOC available. Contact: 96219904, Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

Indian male procurement, purchase officer having Bachelor degree in Mechanical engineering, 5 yrs experience in UAE in Electrical & Construction company & having UAE D/L. Looking for suitable job. Contact 98227904 Email nrangra@rediffmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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Inventory, Sales & Accounting, Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in MNC with F&B, Customer relations and various other skills. NOC available. Contact: 96219904. Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

14 yrs of Sales experience in FMCG, valid D/L. Looking for Supervisory / Management position. Contact 71554818. Email: mohammedsultan1977@gmail.com

MBA marketing having 12 years of experience in sales of various B2B products.Experience in making and implementing marketing plans. Capable to market any good product. Call 91690869

26, Indian male with 3 yrs of experience having valid D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales/market-field. Contact 95858181

Indian Male 32, 5+ yrs Exp in Oman, Property Asst Manager, In Real Estate, VLD D/L, Looking for suitable opening. Contact 92686168

BM, with 26 yrs fmcg exp, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. Contact 90925520

Having 14 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing field. Having valid Dubai D/L, looking for a suitable position. Contact 94720995

Indian Male, having over 20 years experience in sales support and Arabic English translation in Automotive industry seeks suitable placement. Contact 968 99776201. Email ajmal.aleem@gmail.com

Indian male (30) MBA with oman Experience (FMCG and other) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on Visit. Contact +968 7975 5795

MBA with Engineering (Indian female) working in a reputable company in Oman, with 3 years of experience in Content writing, Digital marketing, Vendor & Budgeting. management, Contact 98945207

Indian male with 10 years GCC experience in Luxury Watches & Jewellery currently in Oman with valid driving license looking for a job in Sales/Marketing. Contact: 91901852

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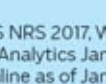
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ROUND-UP

Enjoy extraordinary experiences in Avalon



Complementing the Avalon's stunning looks is a thrilling drive personality imbued by a 3.5-litre V6 engine, which produces a maximum output of 298 HP and 36.3 Kg-m of torque

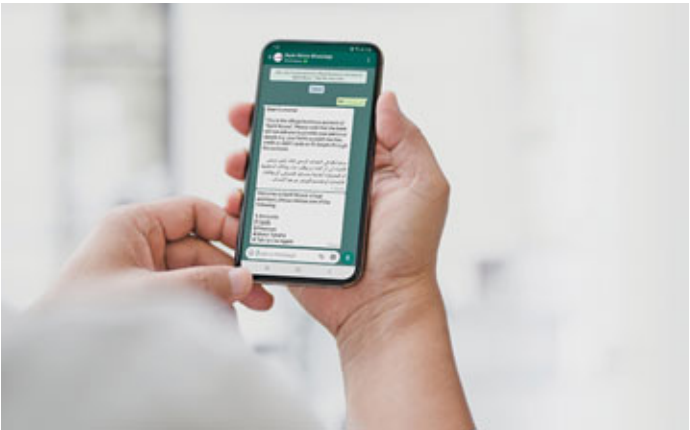
MUSCAT: The Toyota Avalon with its design, comfort and luxury is a popular choice for customers. Complementing the Avalon's stunning looks is a thrilling drive personality imbued by a 3.5-litre V6 engine, which produces a maximum output of 298 HP and 36.3 Kg-m of torque and is equipped

with a Direct Injection 4-Stroke Gasoline Engine Superior Version (D-4S) and Variable Valve Timing-intelligent Wide (VVT-iW) systems to achieve top-notch power performance, environmental performance, and fuel efficiency. The engine is paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission that

merges smooth, precise gear selection throughout the RPM range with alacrity for fuel efficiency and on-demand power. Striking a smooth connection between a stylish design, exquisite luxury, and greater convenience and comfort, the Avalon's cabin is accentuated with a range of advanced features, including an enhanced In-vehicle 9-inch Navigation System, a Head-Up Display (HUD), Wireless Charging System For Smartphones, Ambient Illumination, Automatic Air Conditioning System, 14-speaker JBL Sound System, Multi-Adjustable Power And Ventilated Front Seats, As well as 60:40 Split Folding Rear Seats. As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the Avalon. The vehicle's safety system is complemented with Toyota Safety Sense, an advanced

safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Lane Change Assist, Lane Departure Alert and Automatic High Beam. In addition, the car features a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as 10 SRS Airbags, Vehicle Stability Control, Traction Control, Anti-lock Braking System, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, Brake Assist, Electric Parking Brake with Brake Hold function, Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Cross-Traffic Alert, and Hill-start Assist (HSA), among many others. In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality. No wonder that today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

BANKING SERVICE



Bank Nizwa launches WhatsApp banking for its customers

MUSCAT: Continuing to enhance customer experience and providing digitally advanced solutions to its account holders, Bank Nizwa, Oman's leading and most trusted Islamic bank has launched its WhatsApp banking service, to cater to its existing and potential customers round the clock, and across the globe. Commenting on the occasion, Arif Maqbool Al Zaabi, Assistant General Manager Retail Banking, Bank Nizwa, said, "In today's rapidly evolving banking environment, digitalisation and financial technology are the key enablers of product and service innovation. At Bank Nizwa too, developing the IT infrastructure is one of our most important strategic goals for the short and long term. "The bank continues to invest in innovation to offer compelling customer experiences, to stand out amid increasing competition and to position the business for future growth. Innovation is continuous within the bank and is based on partnerships that enhance customer-facing applications as well as back-end processes and systems. "The launch of our WhatsApp banking service exemplifies this approach and is a step towards becoming the 'digital bank of choice' in the Sultanate." To use the bank's new WhatsApp banking service, a customer needs to add the WhatsApp banking number, +968 24 655 555, from his/ her registered mobile number to get started. Once added to the contact database, the customer can start a chat to get an immediate response. The new service supports making queries related to Bank Nizwa products and services 24*7, and from anywhere in Oman or abroad. The service also provides FAQs for all products, including bank account, credit/debit card, loans & financing, and vehicle takaful, among others. Being the first Islamic bank, Bank Nizwa has successfully pioneered and redefined the banking experience in Oman. This is evident today in the bank's efforts of integrating technology with Islamic banking, which enables customers to bank from the comfort of their homes. Bank Nizwa's commitment is anchored on preserving robust customer relationships by cultivating trust, relevance and convenience through every banking channel. These channels are guarded by robust security features and ensure all confidential information remains protected.



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ROUND-UP

OAB promotes three LEAD graduates to senior positions

The LEAD

programme is one of the most significant development programmes designed by the bank to enhance local talents



MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced the promotions of three of its Omani employees who are graduates of the 'Leadership Enhancement and Development' (LEAD) talent programme.

Each of them will be taking on high responsibilities, within the hierarchy of the bank's top management. Mohammed Ahmad Al-Asfour, Manager of Banking Applications was promoted to Head of Banking Applications, Mohammed Al-Qassabi, IT Support Manager was promoted to Acting Head Support and Operations Services and Arif Yaqoob Al Balushi, Assistant Head of System Control and

Quality Assurance was promoted to Head of IT Governance and Quality Assurance. Each of these promotions is within the framework of the bank's human resources strategy, focused on talent management and career advancement.

Commenting on the new appointments, Rashad Al Musafir, CEO of OAB, said, "The LEAD programme is one of the most significant development programmes designed by the bank to enhance local talents. The programme is catered to building leaders from the second and third line employees, over a period of six months, enabling them to take on higher responsibilities after graduation. Mohammed Al-Asfour, from the

third edition of LEAD, Arif Al Balushi, from the second edition of LEAD, and Mohammed Al Qassabi, from the first edition of LEAD, have each proven their capabilities and are well-qualified to take on these positions. This way they can further contribute towards efforts at achieving the strategic objectives of the bank during the coming period.

Dynamic management

"At OAB, we are committed to developing national talents and upskilling to build robust and dynamic management and operational team, at both the banking level and within the banking sector as well. We believe that this is an integral

part of our role as a leading local banking institution, with a rich history of nearly four decades in the Sultanate" he added.

Mohammed Al-Asfour holds a Bachelor's degree in Internet and Computer Applications from the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom. In his new position, he is now responsible for the management of technical support and the enhancement of related banking support systems. He has also proven his capabilities and dedication in supporting the business needs in the field of centralised solutions systems, companies, monitoring compliances, transactions and other support services while maintaining the security of

the information systems.

Mohammed Al Qassabi holds a bachelor's degree in Management Information System from Coventry University in the United Kingdom. He will now be responsible for overseeing and ensuring the provision of IT services. This includes first-line support and end-user services at the help desks, managing IT operations, providing the necessary advice and supporting the operations of the ATM and POS system unit.

Arif Yaqoob Al Balushi holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom. In his new role, he will be in charge of leading, directing and monitoring the mechanism of information technology governance and quality assurance. This includes guaranteeing that the procedures and services of the Information Technology Department are designed to ensure the achievement of added value for all departments at OAB, taking into consideration risk and quality-related aspects, so as to achieve OAB's strategies and objectives.

"On behalf of the board of directors and the executive management of OAB, I would like to congratulate each of the three employees who have proven their capabilities and commitment. By achieving the objectives of

the LEAD programme, they have been chosen accordingly to occupy these managerial positions. I am truly proud to bear witness to the presence of LEAD graduates in senior positions at Oman Arab Bank. Moreover, I wish them all the best and look forward to their success in their new positions." Rashad concluded.

The 'LEAD' programme has been designed in cooperation with Inspirational Development Group (IDG) and is facilitated by a team from IDG, globally renowned leadership and management performance consultancy. The company has channelled its long history of experience delivering high-quality and intensive work programmes to some of the most prestigious organisations in the world.

Closely affiliated with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, IDG has worked with some of the most important public and private sector companies in the region from its Middle East office based in Muscat.

Oman Arab Bank has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in the Sultanate. Today, the bank operates a nationwide network of 54 branches and representative offices with 160 ATMs spread across Oman. OAB provides a complete range of financial products and services through its OAB Online App.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Ahli Islamic picks one lucky winner of first Qitaf quarterly draw

MUSCAT: Encouraging individuals to chase their dreams by saving more to win more, Ahli Islamic has announced one lucky winner of its first quarterly draw under the bank's Sharia-compliant 2021 Qitaf programme.

The Ahli Islamic accountholder walked away with generous prize money of OMR100,000. The draw was held by Al Wisal FM live stream.

Yousuf bin Salim Al Rawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of Ahli Islamic said, "Qitaf reflects our efforts towards providing unique savings opportunities that suit the needs of our customers and instil a culture of savings among them. The Sharia-compliant prize draw scheme rewards their commitment through quarterly, monthly, the weekly and special event draws. As a progressive step in this direction, the bank has added new categories in its new 2021 Qitaf programme, to provide maximized chances of winning for its customers. Ahli Islamic will continue to offer innovative and attractive programmes to reward its customers while encouraging them to adopt positive financial practices to achieve their goals in the long-term."

Qitaf prize scheme not only sup-



ports and encourages a culture of savings among the people of the Sultanate but also helps them to invest their capital in profitable assets, in accordance with the bank's criteria that is based on the Islamic Mudaraba principles.

Rawahi further added, "Ahli Islamic is on a consistent path of growth, delivering an innovative portfolio of products and services, that meet the needs of its customers and benefits them in multiple ways - providing them with a finan-

cially sound living, securing their future, and enabling their aspirations. On behalf of Ahli Islamic, I would like to congratulate the lucky winner of the first quarterly Qitaf draw, Abdul Wahid Al Murshidi. We hope this prize will help him achieve his dreams. We also invite our customers to continue saving to have greater opportunities to win."

Qitaf account holders are eligible to participate in the draws if they maintain an average minimum balance of RO 50 for chil-

dren dedicated draws and RO 100 for monthly and weekly draws. However, the minimum eligibility criterion for the quarterly draw is RO 1,000. The Qitaf cash prize is decided through a draw system, subject to criteria set by the bank.

The 2021 Qitaf scheme will reward an increased number of customers with prizes totalling more than RO 1,250,000, across its branches in the Sultanate. Qitaf accountholders automatically enter the main categories of draws. A dedicated children's weekly prize draw has three (3) winners from each branch rewarded with OMR 50 each, and another two (2) general category winners from each branch winning OMR 250 each on a weekly basis.

In addition to the grand quarterly prize draw in March, June, September and December, in which the bank rewards four lucky winners with a total prize of RO 400,000, the bank also conducts monthly draws within eight months of the year and offers cash prizes totalling RO 160,000, distributed equally among eight winners (RO 20,000 each). The bank announces all details of the Qitaf prize scheme on its website and social media pages.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Polyglot Institute holds graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: Polyglot Institute held a graduation ceremony for 15 trainees who had completed their on-the-job training with the institute in different departments of the group including customer service, human resources, finance and procurement.

The Polyglot Internship Programme is one of the most prominent initiatives of the institute through which it seeks to raise the performance level of graduates and job seekers by qualifying them, refining their skills and preparing them to enter the labour market.

The ceremony was held at

Polyglot Institute - Al Khoudh, in the presence of a number of the staff who supervised the training of graduates directly. Polyglot group' Chief Executive Sheikh / Al Qassim bin Mohamed Al Harthy, delivered a speech of encouragement to the graduates and urged them to continue learning and progress and to continue searching for opportunities that would raise their skills and qualify them for the job market. On the other hand, trainees expressed their appreciations and gratitude to Polyglot Institute and the staff supporting them throughout their training period.

HOLY MONTH

INFINITI Oman extends greetings to its customers for Ramadan



MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has extended its warm wishes to its customers and members of the community on the special occasion of Ramadan.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman, said, "May this Holy Month of Ramadan be a month full of blessings for all of you. We wish you and your family peace, harmony, happiness,

good health and prosperity. We hope this holy month brings with it an abundance of benevolence, harmony and kindness. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to our customers for their brand loyalty over the years."

He added, "We also urge upon everyone to observe the month following the COVID-19 protocols

to enable this occasion to augur health and happiness. Closely following the guidelines and recommendations of the Supreme Committee which supervises developments arising from the Coronavirus, INFINITI Oman continues to implement important measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19."

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