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HM SENDS GREETINGS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Bidhya Devi Bhandari of Nepal on her country's Constitution Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan wished the president good health and happiness and her country's people further progress and prosperity. —**ONA**



HIS MAJESTY PRAISES STEPS TAKEN BY GOVT TO STOP COVID-19 SPREAD

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik presided over a meeting of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at Bait Al Ma'amourah in Salalah on Thursday. **>A4**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Genetic sequence of COVID-19 decoded

1 A Ministry of Health-Nizwa University joint study to discover the full genome sequence of the SARS CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 could be used to help create medicines and vaccines to fight the disease. **>A3**

SPORTS IAAF ex-president convicted for graft

2 Lamine Diack, the previous president of what's now called World Athletics, but was known during his tenure as the IAAF, has been found guilty of corruption for his role in a scheme that allowed Russian athletes to compete while doping. **>A8**

MARKET Inbound tourism spending rises

3 Inbound tourism spending in the Sultanate recorded successive annual growth over the past years amid the increase in the number of tourists, and average night stay. **>B1**

SAFETY TOP PRIORITY AS AIRPORTS SET TO REOPEN



An evaluation of the protocols will be carried out at Duqm Airport today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Airlines from Oman airports may be allowed to operate two flights a week to their existing destinations initially.

The move is a part of the steps being taken to limit the spread

of COVID-19 in the country, as airports prepare to reopen on October 1, 2020.

An official from Oman Airports told *Times of Oman*, "The Sultanate has allowed for two flights to Oman every week, and for this reason, other airlines from other

countries will operate accordingly. Similarly, Oman has been allowed to operate two flights to other countries. Flight operations from Oman to other countries will be shared between Oman Air and SalamAir."

Captain Mohammed Ahmed, the CEO of SalamAir, said this was only a short-term measure put in place to initially limit the number of passengers at airports, thereby reducing the potential risk of the spread of infection of COVID-19.

"This is a temporary measure that will be put into place from

October 1," he said.

"The plan is to reopen the airport in a few stages. This is not confirmed, but it was just a suggestion. I think it will stay this way for two weeks, and after that it will be increased to three flights, and from the first of November, we can expect the full reopening of the airport."

Precautionary measures

As part of the reopening of airports, the country's Civil Aviation Authority is conducting inspections on the airports in the country to ensure they are fit to

resume operations, and can accommodate the new precautionary measures required during the pandemic.

"In the context of assessing the level of implementation of the health, safety and aviation protocols for COVID-19 at the Sultanate's airports, the authority will carry out on Sunday, September 20, an evaluation of the protocols at Duqm Airport.

"The aviation authority will soon announce the operating controls for limited air transport for scheduled flights from October 1, 2020."

SALALAH

Sultan Qaboos Hospital foundation stone laid

Times News Service

SALALAH: The new Sultan Qaboos Hospital in Salalah, which is being built at a cost of OMR129 million, had its foundation stone laid on September 19, under the patronage of Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar, in the presence of Dr

Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi, the Minister of Health and a number of officials.

High-priority project

The construction of the hospital is a high-priority project, aimed at bringing better healthcare to the people of the Dhofar Governorate, according to the Oman News Agency (ONA). The hospi-

tal is expected to be completed in four years.

Work began at the site in the beginning of 2020, and when complete, the hospital will cover a total area of 200,000 square metres, in addition to six more floors spanning an area of a further 94,000 square metres. The hospital layout was designed keeping in mind the needs of patients of the area.

The new Sultan Qaboos Hospital in Salalah will have beds for 700 male and female patients.

As part of the project, the new hospital will have a radiology department consisting of three x-ray machines, two CT machines, and an MRI machine, in addition to other ultrasound devices. A pharmacy and medical lab will also be present on the premises.



The Power of 50

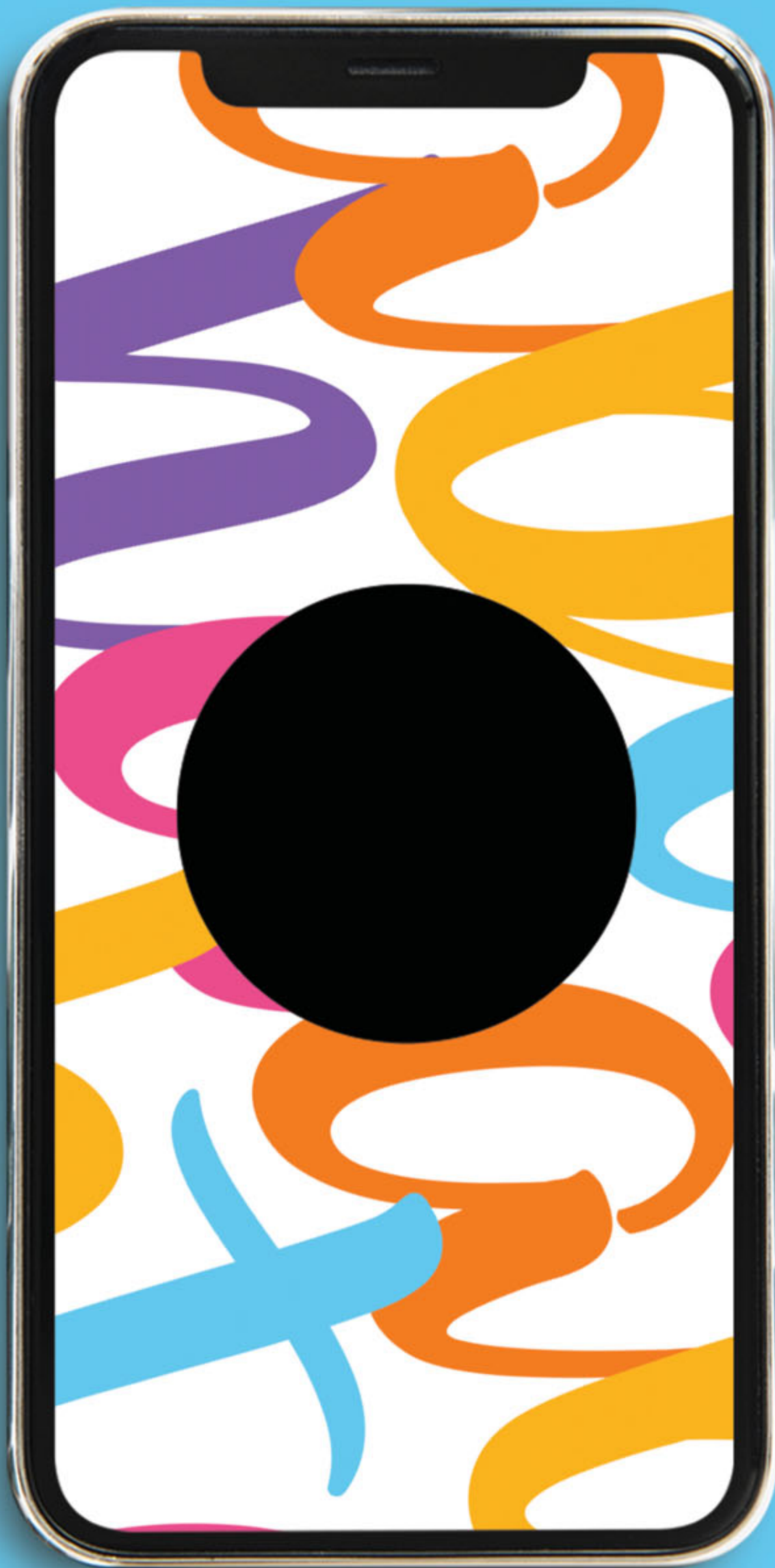
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TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:05pm

Asr.....3:31pm

Maghrib.....6:11pm

Isha.....7:21pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:40am

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10 Years

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 Times of Oman

1d

The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque was illuminated in orange.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM

Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque lit up in orange

A statement issued online by the Ministry of Health (MOH) said



Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque illuminated
A news story on the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque gathered 6,598 post clicks and reached 79,081 people on Facebook.

 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

7,400 VIEWS





Maghrib Minute video in Hindi
The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi received 7,400 views and reached 33,200 people on Facebook.

 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,692 VIEWS





The Maghrib Minute video
The Maghrib Minute video news wrap got 1,692 views and 77 likes on Instagram

Structure of COVID-19 virus decoded in Oman

JOINT STUDY: The joint study featured researchers from the Central Public Health Laboratories, and the Epidemiological Surveillance Department of the Directorate General of Disease Control and Surveillance of the Ministry of Health, and the Natural and Medical Sciences Centre at Nizwa University. -Supplied photos

Results of joint study by Ministry of Health and Nizwa University to help create medicines and vaccines to fight the global pandemic

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A study conducted by the Ministry of Health and Nizwa University to discover the full genome sequence of the SARS CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 could be used to help create medicines and vaccines to fight the disease. The project aimed at understanding the relationship among the prevalent strains in the Sultanate and connecting them with the epidemiological data identified by the MOH's Epidemiological Surveillance teams during the pandemic, in addition to monitoring the possibility of genotyping conversion in virus strains and their effect on the change of the virus' behaviour and intensity. Moreover, identifying the prevalent strains in the Sultanate and detecting mutations would facilitate the process of selecting the appropriate vaccine and antiretroviral drugs, in addition to allowing the use of computational biology to search for appropriate drugs and their compatibility with the targeted link points in the virus.

The study included 94 samples from registered cases of COVID-19 in the Sultanate, from different places that experienced prevalence of the disease, taking into consideration many variables related to age group, nationality, the severity of illness, infection date, and the places of travel and residence, among others. This has contributed in submitting enriching findings and concluding a clear abstract. The joint study featured researchers from the ministry's Central Public Health Laboratories, and the Epidemiological Surveillance Department of the Directorate General of Disease Control

and Surveillance, and the Natural and Medical Sciences Centre at Nizwa University. The research team had read and analysed the genome sequencing of the samples, utilising state-of-art techniques available at the genome lab at Nizwa University. The full-genome sequencing of the study's samples were deposited in the global database (GISAID), which was set up to provide open access to COVID developments for researchers worldwide, and help them understand how the virus evolves and spreads in the community, helping them confirm the various sources of infection. The project observed considerable compatibility between the virus' genome sequencing and the epidemiological data of prevalent cases. The study found that the GR strain, which is currently the most widespread strain in the world, is also the widespread strain in the Sultanate. The team also observed that along with the GR strain, there are other strains with a lower prevalence rate (such as GH, O, and V). The research findings proved that this widespread strain had been modified, with a D614G mutation level of more than 90 percent. Studies have shown that this mutation is responsible

for accelerating disease spread and infection. **Academic evaluation** These findings will be published in a detailed scientific paper in a scientific journal after academic evaluation. Funding for the project came from Nizwa University. Headed by Dr Saif Salim Al Abri, the team of researchers from the Ministry of Health (MOH) Central Public Health Laboratories and the Epidemiological Surveillance Centre of the Directorate General of Diseases Control and Surveillance included Dr Samira Hamad Al Mahrooqi, Dr Amina Khalfan Al Jardani, Dr Samiha Rashid Al Kharousi, Dr Hanan Salim Al Kindi, and Dr Adil Saeed Al Wahaibi. Headed by Prof Ahmed Al Harasi, the research team from the University of Nizwa consists of Dr Abdul Latif Khan, Dr Sajad Asef, Dr Majed Al Salmani, and Ahmed Al Rawahi. Oman deposited 203 full genome sequence samples of the SARS CoV-2 virus samples in the global database (GISAID), which reflects the research potential of qualified Omanis working in their capacity, as well as the availability in the Sultanate of the most advanced techniques in gene sequencing.

HERITAGE

EDUCATION

Citizen converts home into museum to help relive Sultanate's rich history

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Navigational charts, archaeological samples and historical works are among the exhibits available to visitors to the home of Omani national Badr bin Said Al Senani, which was recently converted into a museum. Al Senani, who is himself a researcher, has nearly 5,000 exhibits at his museum, with some of the items on display dating back to 1874. Speaking to *Times of Oman*, he said that his museum first took root because of his fondness for collecting rare and historical antiques that spoke of his country's past. "I started my collection about 12 years ago, and began collecting rare pieces that include old documents and navigational charts," said Al Senani, who hails from Sur in the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah. "There are about 150 very old navigational maps in this exhibition. "My museum includes a number of rooms where different classes of exhibits are placed," he added. "These include the museum library, the hall of documents, manuscripts and nautical charts, a space for old copies of the Holy Quran, and an antique section. The exhibition features around 80 manuscripts." The Ministry of Heritage and

HIGHLIGHTING HISTORY: Badr bin Said Al Senani's museum has nearly 5,000 exhibits.

Tourism has also paid a visit to Al Senani's collection – an event that made him very happy – although interest in his museum has naturally waned this year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The goal of my museum is to create a fixed location, where people can learn about history," he said. "I hope for my museum to be

a mirror into our past and our future. This exhibition will be larger in the future, and I am doing my best to ensure it receives very good feedback, in the form of the historical collection visitors can see here. I will strive to get additional pieces into the museum, so that I can help serve as large a segment as possible, of the local and regional community.

Badr Al Senani has also been attending archaeological conferences both at home and abroad, enabling him to spread awareness about his collection, so that more will know about his efforts to preserve Oman's heritage, which he hopes will lead to more citizens, residents and tourists coming to his museum to gain extensive knowledge about the Sultanate's history.

Academic manual for Indian schools in Oman released

STREAMLINING: The manual will provide guidance to all Indian schools in the Sultanate.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman has released an academic manual for all Indian schools in the Sultanate, during its meeting held on September 7, 2020. The academic manual has been drafted by a specially-created team of eminent teachers from different Indian Schools, with inputs from the principals of Indian schools as well as Academic Advisory Committee that included academicians and experts from various sectors and organisations in Oman. The manual is intended to be the common framework that offers guidance to all Indian

schools in Oman on matters pertaining to the academic administrative works of the schools. "The academic manual, developed under the aegis of the Board of Directors, is the fruit of the labour of a committee of academicians – subject experts from within and outside of our schooling system. **Modern curriculum** "This manual will be a guiding light for our schools and will facilitate in streamlining of our processes as we strive to pursue a modern curriculum and offer holistic education," said Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel, Chairman, Board of Directors of Indian Schools Oman.

HIS MAJESTY PRAISES STEPS TAKEN BY GOVT TO STOP SPREAD OF COVID

His Majesty the Sultan also studied the epidemiological situation of the Sultanate and tremendous efforts exerted by the health sector to contain it

SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik presided over a meeting of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at Bait Al Ma'amourah in Salalah on Thursday.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his great satisfaction with the government's handling of the pandemic and its numerous impacts on various sectors. He reaffirmed that government efforts in this regard aim primarily at protecting citizens and residents from this serious disease.

The government efforts, he added, also seek to ensure that institutions of the State continue to render their services and support the national economy by all means that ensure the sustainability of private sector's activities and performance.

His Majesty the Sultan was briefed about developments of the pandemic—the increase in cases of infection at the local and global levels, as well as scientific breakthroughs aimed at developing a vaccine to prevent infection with the virus.

His Majesty the Sultan also studied the epidemiological situation of the Sultanate and tremendous efforts exerted by the health sector to contain it. In this context, he pledged “more support to this sector so that it could shoulder the noble roles entrusted to it.”

His Majesty the Sultan also commanded that all public and private establishments have to follow novel, innovative styles to strike a balance between health necessities and sustainability of services and activities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty Sultan Haitham voiced his thanks and appreciation for all establishments that address coronavirus pandemic in the Sultanate. He reiterated that the government of the Sultanate will continue to combat the pandemic in full force.

His Majesty the Sultan prayed to the Almighty Allah to grant quick recovery to all patients infected with this disease and to spare all mankind its perils “so that it (humanity) would resume its progress towards wider horizons of development and prosperity.”



- Mohammed Mustafa/ONA

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GREETING CONVEYED

Tunisian President receives credentials of Omani envoy

TUNIS: President Kais Saied of the Republic of Tunisia received at Carthage Palace on Thursday credentials of Yahya bin Mossa Al Bakri, the ambassador of the Sultanate to Tunisia in the presence of Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad.

During the meeting, the Sultanate's ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik along with

best wishes of good health and wellbeing to President Saied, and the Tunisian people permanent progress and prosperity.

Boost ties
The Sultanate's ambassador expressed his pride to present his credentials to President Saied. He stressed to exert his utmost efforts to promote the relations between the Sultanate and the Republic of Tunisia in various

spheres to serve the joint interests of the two countries' brotherly peoples.

On his turn, President Saied asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty and the Omani people continuous progress and growth. President Saied affirmed to the ambassador to receive all support from him and the Tunisian Government to facilitate his work. -**ONA**

LOW-COST CARRIER

SalamAir has managed the COVID-19 crisis well: CEO

MUSCAT: Mohammed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir, the Sultanate's low-cost carrier, has said that his company, like other firms in the airline sector, has been gravely affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic conditions. However, since SalamAir is a small company, it has been easier to manage the crisis, compared to major airlines in the region.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Mohammed Ahmed explained that SalamAir returned 30 percent of its fleet and kept only six aircraft considered among the best in the region.

Over the past few months, SalamAir was able to operate 651 casual flights to 60 destinations to which the company carried more than 67,000 passengers. The flights eased, relatively, the losses of the company caused by lockdown on air travel locally and internationally in late March 2020.

Mohammed Ahmed welcomed the decision of the Supreme COVID-19 Control Committee on the partial opening of Muscat International Airport. He described the decision as "a good initiative that will help activate travel and



Mohammed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir. - **ONA**

tourism in the Sultanate".

He pointed out that the Civil Aviation Authority has given permission for the first phase of operations, giving airlines an opportunity to operate two flights a week to some destinations. SalamAir will operate flights to all its former destinations, if accessible, he added.

Asked which destinations are likely to be of great interest to SalamAir passengers, Moham-

med Ahmed mentioned Istanbul of Turkey, Shiraz of Iran and some GCC destinations like Dubai due to the deferment of the new school year to November 2020.

He explained that the Sultanate is expected to see an influx of tourists from the GCC, even as the weather is turning moderate in Oman where tourism facilities are usually abuzz with GCC families during the cool season.

Mohammed Ahmed promised that his company will be highly dedicated to customer safety, which tops the list of its priorities. Fortunately, the company's new planes are fitted with hi-tech ventilation systems, the latest of its kind in the world, said Mohammed Ahmed.

"Not only that, SalamAir signed contracts with some of the most specialised international firms to keep its aircraft free from virus, microbes and germs. Any passenger who steps onboard will be confident that he is entering a highly hygienic aircraft," said Mohammed Ahmed, who advised his passengers to stick to health instructions and maintain social distance when in airports. -**ONA**



Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority



Al Hashar & Co. LLC

Recall for Peugeot Traveller & Expert Vehicle's



Start date : 20/9/2020

Type of recall : Safety

Product description : Peugeot Traveller & Expert

Model Year	Product Name	Number of recall cars
2019	Peugeot	60

Description : Over time due to the relative movement between the left and right rear brake hoses and holding clips the rear brake hoses may get damaged , which leads to failure of the brakes .

Procedure : The left and right hoses will be replaced and relative movement is prevented by adding a new holding clip .

Chassis number :
VF3VEAH000K2001925, VF3VEAH000K2001955, VF3VEAH000K2001956, VF3VEAH000K2001961, VF3VEAH000K2002132, VF3VEAH000K2002133, VF3VEAH000K2002134, VF3VEAH000K2002135, VF3VEAH000K2002265, VF3VEAH000K2002268, VF3VEAH000K2002271, VF3VEAH000K2002368, VF3VEAH000K2002426, VF3VEAH000K2002429, VF3VEAH000K2002430, VF3VEAH000K2005716, VF3VEAH000K2005717, VF3VEAH000K2005718, VF3VEAH000K2005719, VF3VEAH000K2005720, VF3VEAH000K2006331, VF3VEAH000K2006332, VF3VEAH000K2006333, VF3VEAH000K2006378, VF3VEAH000K200679, VF3VEAH000K2006795, VF3VEAH000K2006771, VF3VEAH000K2006772, VF3VEAH000K2006773, VF3VEAH000K2006924, VF3VEAH000K2006943, VF3VEAH000K2006944, VF3VEAH000K2001035, VF3VEAH000K2001100, VF3VEAH000K2001101, VF3VEAH000K2001102, VF3VEAH000K2001103, VF3VEAH000K2001104, VF3VEAH000K2001653, VF3VEAH000K2001717, VF3VEAH000K2001869, VF3VEAH000K2001718, VF3VEAH000K2001663, VF3VEAH000K2001512, VF3VEAH000K2001655, VF3VEAH000K2001719, VF3VEAH000K2001513, VF3VEAH000K2001916, VF3VEAH000K2001522, VF3VEAH000K2001495, VF3VEAH000K2001870, VF3VEAH000K2001884, VF3VEAH000K2001853, VF3VEAH000K2002058, VF3VEAH000K2002065, VF3VEAH000K2002097, VF3VEAH000K2002098, VF3VEAH000K2002294, VF3VEAH000K2001846, VF3VEAH000K2001847.

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DATA

199,827 pensioners by end of June

MUSCAT: The total number of pensioners at the end of June 2020 included 116,287 males and 83,540 females, according to the latest data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSD). Among them the Omani youth are the driving force of the country's growth momentum, with those between the age group of 35 and 39 years topping the list reaching 54,070 pensioners.

The second highest at 44,541 pensioners were those aged between 30 and 34 years, followed by those between 40 and 44 years, and 45 and 49 years with their numbers being 40,683 and 20,928, respectively. Those aged between 15 and 19 years were the lowest, with their numbers being only three.

According to the category of wages subject to contribution,

the highest number of pensioners was in the wage category from OMR1,000 to less than OMR2,000, reaching 61,274 pensioners. This was followed by the category from OMR700 to less than OMR800, reaching 37,838.

The number of pensioners with wages from OMR800 to less than OMR900 was 30,188 and those with wages from OMR600 to less than OMR700 was 19,865. -**ONA**

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ASSETS	31.12.2019	31.12.2018	LIABILITIES	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
1. Cash in hand	716	820	1. Capital & Reserves	1,006	1,066
2. Deposits with Central Bank of Oman	100	100	2. Borrowings from Banks	92	84
3. Precious Metals	-	-	3. Balances due to Branches	-	-
4. Balances due from Banks and Money Changers	133	156	4. Balances due to banks and Money changers	143	253
5. Balances due from Branches	-	-	5. Loans and Advances payable	-	-
6. Cheques and drafts purchased	-	-	6. Cheques and Drafts issued & outstanding	-	-
7. Loans and Advances	-	-	7. Other Liabilities	237	237
8. Investments	-	-			
9. Fixed Assets	53	71			
10. Other Assets	476	493			
TOTAL	1,478	1,640	TOTAL	1,478	1,640



MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning – Directorate General of Housing and Urban Planning at North Al Sharqiyah Governorate (Administrative and Financial Affairs Department) invites the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Last date of buying	Last date submission	Date Of Open(T)	Date Of Open(F)	Grade	Tender Price R.O.
74/2020/M OHu/ DGHNS-3 (11610)	Maintenance of central air conditioning units in the building of the Directorate General of Housing and Urban Planning at North Al Sharqiyah Governorate	11/10/2020	01/11/2020	02/11/2020	08/11/2020	Excellent	25/=
74/2020/M OHu/ DGHNS-2 (11604)	Cleaning works for the Department of Housing and Urban Planning in Al Mudhahbi	11/10/2020	01/11/2020	02/11/2020	08/11/2020	All Grades	25/=

Interested companies specialized in the above-mentioned works and registered with the Tender Board may obtain the tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> . Bids must be submitted online on the given website. Bidders have to enclose with their bids a scanned copy of a bank guarantee issued by any bank operating in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value valid for (30) days from the date of bid submission, and addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee. The bank guarantee has to be submitted online.

*For technical support, please call (24166670) from 8 am to 4 pm – from Sunday to Thursday.
* The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid.

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Insurance (Oman & UAE) & Registration (Private yellow plate). Periodic service package is for 2 years/30,000 Kms, whichever comes earlier. Price will vary based on Model/Variant/Model year/Year of manufacture. Sales to Government Institutions & Ministries, Rent-a-Car, Taxi, Driving Schools are excluded from the scheme.

Vehicles shown are for illustrative purpose only.



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FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS: Picture taken on September 18, 2020 shows the entrance to a voting location of in-person early voting for US president in Alexandria, Virginia, the United States. — Xinhua

In-person early voting for US President begins

Residents have the option of either vote in-person or by mail before Election Day on November 3. For those who are not willing or unable to cast in-person ballots, absentee ballots will be sent to them on request

WASHINGTON: In-person early voting for the US President kicked off on Friday in the US state of Virginia and will run through October 31. Residents have the option of either voting in-person or by mail before Election Day on November 3. For those who are not willing or unable to cast in-person ballots, absentee ballots will

be sent to them upon request. Voters who opt for voting by mail will have to request a mail-in ballot by October 23. Hours and numbers of locations for in-person early voting vary by places, with areas including Alexandria planning to expand voting locations and hours so as to avoid large gatherings of voters that add to the possibility

of transmitting the coronavirus. “Plan out your vote. Plan out when you want to come, when you think it’s going to be a low turnout,” Alexandria City Councilman John Chapman was quoted as saying by NBC4, an NBC affiliate that provides news service in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland. “The reason we’re expanding voting times and opportunities is to make sure people aren’t waiting in line.” Virginia Governor Ralph Northam tried on Tuesday to reassure residents that mail-in voting is safe, stressing a range of measures the state has taken to prioritise “free and fair elections.” Those steps included using drop boxes for early voting and putting barcodes on absentee ballot envelopes to track when they are delivered. Northam said so far 790,000 people have requested absentee ballots. He said that in the 2016 presidential election, there were a

total of 566,000 votes cast absentee. President Donald Trump has long been attacking mail-in voting, a method he claimed, without evidence, will lead to voting fraud. The president, however, encouraged voters to cast absentee ballots, tweeting on Thursday, “Want to register to vote? Request an Absentee Ballot or vote early.” A US federal judge issued a decision to block until Election Day the adoption of wide-ranging operational overhauls to the US Postal Service led by US Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, measures Democrats and other critics said would cause a delay in mail delivery, consequently sabotaging the results. In his court opinion, Judge Stanley Bastian of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Washington mandated that all election mail, regardless of postage, must be treated as first-class mail. — Xinhua



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DRIVING THE UPRISING

Women drive the fight for change in Lebanon

BEIRUT: While traffic seethed elsewhere in the city, crowds of angry people moved through central Beirut in protest at a government blamed for the devastating August 4 blast. By the following weekend, security forces submerged the city centre in tear gas. At Beirut’s Martyrs’ Square, people fled from violent clashes with police and retreated amid the turmoil. Cries of “We are oppressed in our own country,” came from the crowd. Their voices were female.

Everybody in Lebanon knows the slogan refers to foreign influence and a corrupt, typically male, ruling class. But for women it takes on an added layer of meaning.

Lebanon was already suffering from an array of distress: an economic crisis, long-standing protests against corruption and a sectarian system of patronage — then came the devastating explosion at Beirut’s port last month.

The high number of women involved in the struggle against those challenges is striking. The women among the protest movement show particular courage and strength and are often at the forefront of demonstrations.

Almost half of the protesters at Martyrs’ Square following the blast were female. Driving the uprising forward, many of the

younger ones arrived in tight jeans and short tops.

“The revolution was, and is, female,” said 60-year-old Laila Zahed, grinning. She has been to almost every demonstration since protests began on October 17 last year. On several occasions women stood between soldiers ready to fire and angry demonstrators, so that violence would not break out, she said.

Four weeks after the explosion, 42-year-old activist Melissa Fathallah stood among hundreds of onlookers in the suburb of Gemmayze, neighboring the port, with a similar self-confidence, shouting at a group of soldiers: “You can’t even find a crane? Fine, I’ll get you the crane!”

On September 3, a Chilean rescue team had detected signs of life in the rubble of a house brought down by the blast a month earlier. The whole city hoped for a miracle. But when a crane was needed to continue the search, the military wanted to suspend the operation and wait until the next day, citing safety concerns.

Fathallah saw the delay as too costly and organised a replacement crane. Within a few hours the rescue team resumed work, but in the end, it was in vain. No more survivors were found. — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

INDIA AT UNHRC

India committed to ensure water and sanitation to all

GENEVA: India is committed to ensuring access to water and sanitation in all spheres of life beyond the household, particularly in public spaces, which is an essential element of the human rights to water and sanitation, said Vimarsh Aryan, First Secretary, India’s permanent mission to United Nations’ Office at Geneva (UNOG), at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council.

Speaking in an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on ‘Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Vimarsh Aryan said, “We agree with the SR that the fulfilment of the human rights



Vimarsh Aryan. — ANI

to water and sanitation cannot be accomplished in a short time frame and is often dependent on the availability and use of resources. I would like to share

that last year Indian government undertook Jal Shakti Abhiyan, a campaign for water conservation and water security.”

He further said that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes in ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas’.

He said, “With the objective of citizen-centric governance we have accorded highest priority to ensuring access to water and sanitation for all citizens through two flagship programmes, the Swachh Bharat Mission and the Jal Jeevan Mission.” — ANI

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Power Company S.A.O.C (DPC) invites reputable consultancy firm for below said tender in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DPC/Tender/2020/093
Subject	PREPARATION OF PRICE CONTROL PROFORMA SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION (APSR)
Tender Fee	RO. 100,000 Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DPC’s office or send e-mail to below indicated mails to obtain tender documents
Pre-Qualification of Tenderer & Experience	The Consultant firm should have experience in the assisting Price Control submission related to Consultancy services for distribution electric utilities preferably in Oman. Tenderer’s Proposals which do not include such evidence or where evidence is unsatisfactory to the Owner may not be considered in the bid evaluation
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 4 th October 2020
Last date for seeking pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 7 th October 2020
Last date for providing pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 11 th October 2020
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 18 th October 2020
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554 / 92772047; lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (2% of the quoted bid price and having 150 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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It is just another opposition for us: Rohit Sharma ahead of CSK clash



Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma. — ANI

The Mumbai Indians skipper said that he enjoys playing against the Chennai-based side and will approach the game as any other fixture

ABU DHABI: The much-anticipated Indian Premier League (IPL) will commence on Saturday with the two most successful sides of the tournament — Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings — taking on each other in the opening match.

Sharing his thoughts on ElClasico of the IPL, Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said that he enjoys playing against the Chennai-based side and will approach the game as any other fixture. “Playing against CSK is always fun, we enjoy that battle. But when we play the game it is just another opposition for us and that is how we want to move forward,” Rohit said in a video posted by Mumbai Indians on their official Twitter account.

Two most loved teams

All-rounder Hardik Pandya feels it is a clash between the two most loved teams of the tournament.

“It has become a game which people look forward to. It is one of the two franchises that are most loved by the fans and that is how it becomes special. I do not know when we all will get our A-game out when we are playing against

The two teams have faced each other 28 times in the IPL with MI holding an edge over CSK as they have a 17-11 win/loss record against them.

CSK and I wish we always do that,” Pandya said.

Head coach Mahela Jayawardene said the team has to ‘lift their game’ to defeat CSK.

“To beat a team like this or compete against a team like this you

really really have to lift your game and I think naturally all the boys do that. As a franchise it is something that we thrive as well,” Mahela said.

The two teams have faced each other 28 times in the IPL with MI holding an edge over CSK as they have a 17-11 win/loss record against them. They have shared a victory each in the now-defunct Champions League T20 (a competition both franchises have won twice) as well.

In their last meeting, during the 2019 IPL final, MI beat CSK by just one run.

The match will be more special for Mahendra Singh Dhoni fans as the former wicketkeeper-batsman will return to action after more than a year. The 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand was Dhoni’s last match as he announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15 this year. — ANI

WORLD ATHLETICS

Former IAAF president Lamine Diack convicted of corruption charges

STOCKHOLM: Lamine Diack, the previous president of what’s now called World Athletics, but was known during his tenure as the IAAF, has been found guilty of corruption for his role in a scheme that allowed Russian athletes to compete while doping.

He was found guilty of accepting bribes from athletes who were suspected of doping and allowing them to continue to compete in athletics competitions, including the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Diack was also found guilty of taking bribes from Russian athletes to financially assist Macky Sall’s successful 2012 Senegalese presidential election campaign. Sall still holds the position.

Diack was sentenced to four years in prison, two of which are suspended, and a maximum fine of €500,000 (\$594,000).

Keeping sponsors happy

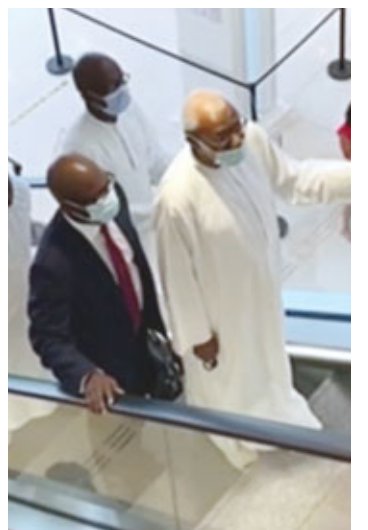
The court was previously told that Diack feared that punishing the athletes could hamper negotiations with a Russian sponsor. Prosecutors said he solicited bribes worth over €3 million from athletes suspected of taking performance-enhancing drugs. The judge said the former long jumper’s actions “undermined the value of athletics and the fight against doping.”

The judge added that the bribes Diack received were for “full protection,” allowing the athletes who should have been suspended “purely and simply to escape sanctions.”

Appeal against conviction

Diack’s lawyers said they would appeal the conviction.

Diack was the head of the IAAF (recently re-named World Athletics), owing in no small part to the scandals involving Diack and



Lamine Diack. — File picture

his successor Sebastian Coe) from 1999 to 2015.

All in the family

Diack’s son, Papa Massata Diack, was also on trial. He was tried in absentia, also on charges of corruption, money laundering and breach of trust as a former IAAF marketing consultant. Papa Diack was in Senegal during the trial.

He is wanted on an Interpol red notice, but Macky Sall’s government refused to extradite him.

The judge said \$15 million was funneled to his companies, with money creamed off contracts and sales of TV broadcast rights while his father was the IAAF head.

Papa Diack called the charges against him “the biggest lie in the history of world sport” ahead of Wednesday’s verdict. He said he earned his salary from the athletics body legally. He was sentenced to five years in prison and a fine of €1 million in his absence. The court gave guilty verdicts to three other people involved.

— DW

TO PLAY REAL SOCIEDAD

Real Madrid kick off title defence

MADRID: Defending La Liga champions Real Madrid kick off their 2020-21 league campaign with a difficult visit to play Real Sociedad on Sunday evening.

Zinedine Zidane’s side didn’t play in the first round of matches one week ago, after their game at home to Getafe was postponed in order to allow them more time to recover after their participation in last season’s Champions League in August.

Although Madrid did substitute that league game with a friendly against Getafe, which they won 6-0, that remains their only match ahead of the new season, making it hard to draw conclusions over the match fitness of Zidane’s men.

The pre-season has helped clear up some issues at Real Madrid, with Gareth Bale and Sergio Reguilon in London ahead of their planned moves to Tottenham Hotspur, while Brahim Diaz has joined AC Milan on loan.

It also looks as if last summer’s major signing Luka Jovic could be heading out on loan, with Borja Mayoral instead being given the chance to provide back-up for striker Karim Benzema. Much of the pre-match talk has been about the role Martin Odegaard could play after the Norwegian’s successful loan spell at Real Sociedad earned him a quick return to the Santiago Bernabeu. — Xinhua

Full story at timesofoman.com/sports

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OMAN'S EFFORTS HAILED
Oman's extensive efforts to double the value of petrochemicals and Sultanate's long-time quest to find higher value for petrochemical products through expanded cooperation with global firms concerned has been lauded.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



MINISTER MEETS OFFICIALS
Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, visited recently Raysut Industrial City, which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn.

Oman's inbound tourism spending rises to OMR2.3 billion in 4 years



The inbound tourism spending recorded successive annual growth over the past years amid the increase in the number of tourists, tourist's nights and average night stay



NCSI STATISTICS: The inbound tourism spending increased last year to about OMR685 million, compared to OMR364.7 million in 2015. - ONA

MUSCAT: The spending of inbound tourism increased in the last four years of the current five-year plan to OMR2.3 billion, compared to OMR2.1 billion in the previous five-year plan (2011-2015). This indicator reflects the tourism growth in the current five-year plan which started in 2016 and ends this year.

Tourism is one of the main sectors that the Sultanate focuses on in the current five-year plan. It has witnessed many positive indicators, supported by an increase in government investments in establishing infrastructure and an increase in private sector investment.

The annual statistical book recently issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that inbound tourism spending increased last year to about OMR685 million, compared to OMR364.7 million in 2015. The inbound tourism spending recorded successive annual growth over the past years amid the increase in the number of tourists, tourist's nights and average night stay.

The current five-year plan has witnessed the opening of many major tourism and infrastructure projects that support the tourism sector, most notably Muscat International Airport, which received more than 16 million passengers in 2019, on incoming and outgoing international and domestic flights, compared to 10.3 million passengers in 2015.

The current five-year plan also witnessed the opening of the Oman Convention and Exhibi-

tion Center (OCEC), which hosted many local and international conferences and exhibitions that contributed to the revitalization of conference tourism.

The tourist visa facilities provided by the Royal Oman Police (ROP) contributed to the increase in the number of tourists coming to the Sultanate. The statistical data indicate that 1.8 million inbound visitors arrived in the Sultanate in 2019, with tourist visas, compared to 1.2 million visitors in 2015 - a growth rate of 41.6 per cent.

The total number of tourists in 2019 reached 3.5 million tourists, compared to 3.2 million tourists in 2018, and 2.6 million tourists in 2015. The current five-year plan has witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of single-day visitors, whether they come to attend conferences or onboard cruise ships. The total number of single-day visitors in 2019 reached one million visitors, representing about 28.7 per cent of the total number of tourists coming to the Sultanate. In 2015 the number of single-day visitors reached about 725,000 visitors, representing 27.5 per cent of the total number of tourists during that year.

There was an increase of 47 per cent in the total number of visitors onboard cruise ships last year with 283,488 visitors, compared to 193,467 visitors in 2018. The average spending per tourist

in 2019 increased to OMR195.3, compared to OMR138.5 in 2015. The direct added value of the tourism sector in 2019 recorded an increase of 4.1 per cent, to reach OMR717.9 million, compared to OMR689.4 million in 2018. The contribution of tourism to the gross domestic product increased last year to 2.5 per cent, compared to 2.2 per cent in 2018.

The last four years witnessed a strong increase in the number of tourist nights, which jumped in 2019 to 19.9 million tourist nights, compared to 13.1 million tourist nights in 2015. The average night-stay per person rose last year to 8 nights, compared to 6.9 in 2015. In terms of the number of tourist nights, 2018 scored the best performance in the current five-year plan, with 20.3 million nights, and 8, 8 nights for the average stay. The global tourism sector was affected last year by the slowdown in global economic growth and geopolitical tensions. This year the tourism sector was affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Sultanate has a good infrastructure that encourages the tourism sector. The total number of hotel establishments at the end of 2019 reached 491 hotels, including 26 five-star hotels, compared to 318 hotel facilities in 2015 including 11 five-star hotels. The hotel revenues rose last year to OMR276.6 million, compared to



OMR226.9 million in 2015.

The Sultanate has a variety of hotel facilities that meet the needs of tourists and visitors, such as hotels from one-star to five-star categories, in addition to hotel apart-

ments, rest houses, camps, guest houses, heritage lodges and green lodges. The total number of hotel rooms in these facilities reached by the end of 2019 to more than 25,400. Hotel rooms registered

an increase of 14.5 per cent, compared to 22,200 hotel rooms at the end of 2018. It is expected that 96 new hotel facilities (with 6,942 hotel rooms) will be opened in 2020 and 2021. - ONA

RECOGNITION

Perfect 10 for OHI Leo Burnett at 2020 Transform Brand Awards

MUSCAT: OHI Leo Burnett secured 10 awards, including 2 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze and 5 'Highly Commended' awards at the 2020 Transform Brand Awards MEA held in Dubai on September 15.

The coveted awards recognised excellence in branding and attract participation from leading international and regional branding agencies active in the Middle East Africa region.

"OHI Leo Burnett was recognised across branding process disciplines - from content, strategy, project management, and also specialisation in key sectors. At a time of unprecedented challenges in the industry, this is a win that we hope will bring confidence to the industry as a whole," said Narayan Iyer, GM, OHI Leo Burnett.

OHI Leo Burnett's tally of 10 awards included a gold, bronze and a High Commendation for the Port of Duqm brand narratives, guidelines project across multiple categories; Gold and Silver for the work on the brand identity for Oman Future Skills for best use of Visual Property and Best strategic and creative development; and a host of awards for several clients including Al Ahlia, Al Bashayer, Bank Muscat and Meethaq Islamic Banking.

This is 7th year running that OHI Leo Burnett continued to make an impact, competing with other leading global and regional consultancies. This edition of



BRAND EXCELLENCE: The coveted awards recognised excellence in branding and attract participation from leading international and regional branding agencies active in the Middle East Africa region. - Supplied picture

the awards saw a huge surge in entries with an increase of 70 per cent from the previous year, making it one of the competitive wins. Amal Al Rashdi, Associate Creative Director, OHI Leo Burnett said, "We are proud to be representing Oman on the regional stage at the Transform Brand Awards every year. Knowing that we compete with the best global consulting firms pushes us hard, and delivers work that not only stands out in Oman but is truly distinctive in today's global eco-

system and digital platforms. We thank all our clients who trust us, as an Omani firm, to develop their work, and we hope to continue to win laurels to the Oman industry."

OHI Leo Burnett is Oman's leading brand communications agency with a strong 30 member team in brand strategy, digital-driven creative and media, design, and animation. The agency has a prestigious roster of clients and proudly serves Oman as a 100 per cent Omani entity owned by the OHI Group.



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MARKET

Minister meets officials at Raysut Industrial City



OFFICIAL VISIT: Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah visited Oman Pharmaceuticals Products Company, Dhofar Fisheries and Food Industries Company, and National Cable Factory. - Supplied picture

Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation discussed topics related to scientific research, innovation, and technical and vocational training

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, visited recently Raysut Industrial City, which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayan. The minister was introduced to the industries based at Raysut Industrial City and discussed topics

related to scientific research, innovation, and technical and vocational training. During the meeting, Hamad bin Hamoud Al Qasabi, Director General of Raysut Industrial City informed that Raysut Industrial City has received 23 investment applications during 2020 up to the current month, of which 12 projects have already been localised in the industrial city. He added that the total volume of investments in Raysut Industrial City has exceeded OMR438 million by the end of 2019. “The number of the workforce in the industrial city increased to 3,671 during the same year, and the number of investing projects reached 205. Of these projects, 116 are operating, 44 are under construction and 45 have been allotted with spaces,” Al Qasabi said, adding, “The total area of Raysut Industrial City reached 3,947,024 sqm during the same period. The leased area in the industrial city is divided into industrial projects (82.7 per cent), service projects (12 per cent), residential projects (4.9 per cent), in addition to commercial projects (0.4 per cent).” Speaking about the industrial projects operating in Raysut Industrial City, Al Qasabi elaborated there are 30 factories under the food sector which are specialised in fish freezing and canning, flour and pasta, frozen chicken, vegetable oils, drinking water packaging, biscuits, and potato chips. He added that there are 55 factories under the construction materials industry which manufacture cement products, gypsum products, pipes and tanks, packaging materials, marble, and industrial stones. Moreover, there are three factories at Raysut Industrial City which specialise in medical products and medicines. Other sectors present at Raysut Industrial City focus on the production of agricultural fertilisers, plastic products, paper products, recycling, dry storage, commercial projects, oil and petrochemical projects, aluminium products, animal feed, and boat and shipbuilding. During her visit to Raysut Industrial City, the minister visited Oman Pharmaceuticals Products Company, Dhofar Fisheries and Food Industries Company, and National Cable Factory.

established oils, drinking water packaging, biscuits, and potato chips. He added that there are 55 factories under the construction materials industry which manufacture cement products, gypsum products, pipes and tanks, packaging materials, marble, and industrial stones. Moreover, there are three factories at Raysut Industrial City which specialise in medical products and medicines. Other sectors present at Raysut Industrial City focus on the production of agricultural fertilisers, plastic products, paper products, recycling, dry storage, commercial projects, oil and petrochemical projects, aluminium products, animal feed, and boat and shipbuilding. During her visit to Raysut Industrial City, the minister visited Oman Pharmaceuticals Products Company, Dhofar Fisheries and Food Industries Company, and National Cable Factory.

PARTICIPATION



VIRTUAL MEETING: The Omani side in the virtual meeting was chaired by Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry. - ONA

Free flow of national goods among GCC countries discussed

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion took part in the preparatory meetings of the GCC Commerce and Industry Undersecretaries for the 59th GCC Trade Cooperation Committee and the GCC Industrial Cooperation Committee. The Omani side in the virtual meeting was chaired by Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry. The GCC undersecretaries discussed a range of issues related to the commercial and industrial sectors, promoting joint Gulf action in the post-

COVID-19 period, achieving food security in the GCC countries, standardising certificates of origin, studying the possibility of adopting the electronic certificate, and aspects related to e-commerce. They also discussed the free flow of national goods among the GCC countries, the creation of an electronic information platform for industrial projects and the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), in addition to updating the GCC Industrial Strategy. The undersecretaries also reviewed a report of the Office of the Technical Secretariat to combat harmful practices in international trade. - ONA

OILPRICE REPORT

Oman’s efforts to double value of petrochemicals hailed

LONDON: Oman’s extensive efforts to double the value of petrochemicals and Sultanate’s long-time quest to find higher value for petrochemical products through expanded cooperation with global firms concerned has been lauded. In a fresh report published in its website, world energy information research company OilPrice said that last week saw the signing of a contract between the Duqm Refinery and the Rotterdam-based LyondellBasell. The Dutch company will provide the technology for two large-scale polyolefin plants as part of Duqm petrochemical industries

complex to provide ‘Spheripol PP’ process technology for the proposed 280,000 tonnes per annum capacity polypropylene plant and a corollary high-density polyethylene process with a capacity of 480,000 tonnes per annum. This goes in line with the Sultanate’s plans to increase downstream production capacity from its current 15 million tonnes to 24 million tonnes by 2030. Commodity sales volumes will nearly double from 21 million tonnes to 40 million tonnes by the same date. The Duqm Refinery will function alongside the Liwa Plastics Project (LPP) industrial complex,



located near the Sohar refinery, with the LPP to include a nominal 900-kilo tonnes per annum ethylene cracking plant, a high-density polyethylene plant, a linear low-density polyethylene plant, a new polypropylene plant, a methyl tertiary butyl ether plant, a butene-1 plant and associated utilities and off-site facilities. It added that much of this improvement in capacity has come

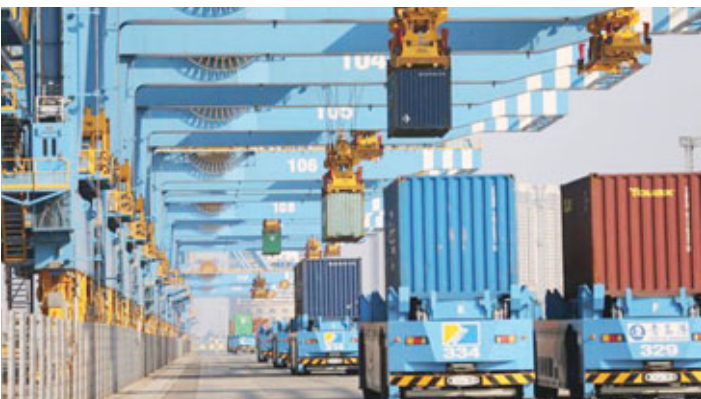
from the conclusion late last year of the US\$2.7 billion Sohar Refinery Improvement Project (SRIP). This landmark project enhanced crude processing capacity by 82,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 198,000 bpd and encompassed the construction of five new units (vacuum distillation, hydro-cracker, delayed coker, isomerisation, and bitumen blowing). This, in turn, enabled the refinery to produce the high-quality Naptha required for its aromatics plant, to improve the residue fluid catalytic cracker feed quality relating to continuous catalyst regeneration and metals, and to meet the

polymer grade propylene demand of the polypropylene plant. It also allowed it to produce sufficient bitumen for domestic requirements plus additional gasoline and diesel. The report touched on a statement made by Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, former CEO of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (Sezad), quoting him as saying, “The Port of Duqm is 100 per cent ready for commercial operations. These new port facilities should allow Oman to further monetise its beneficial geographical position, offering safe-harbouring facilitating onward export routes to both the East to Asia and the South to Africa.” - ONA

ADB REPORT

Asian economies to shrink for first time in 60 years

MANILA: The economies in Asian countries from the Pacific to the Eurasian Steppe will contract this year for the first time in nearly six decades, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released on September 15. The Philippines-based bank expects the gross domestic product (GDP) to shrink for many countries in the region with an overall fall of 0.7 per cent for the total region for 2020. Because of the unforeseen and unprecedented developments this year, the bank saw the need to issue this updated version of their “Asian Development Outlook 2020” report. As late as June, they had predicted the year ending with 0.1 per cent growth. By comparison, ADB expects the US to end the year down 5.3 per cent and the eurozone down by 8 per cent. Not surprisingly the main culprit behind the downgrades is the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown measures put into place to stop it. Besides hurting businesses, the economic downturn will unexpectedly send many people into poverty. Depending on the exact definition of poverty, it could mean an additional 78 million to 162 million people in the region living in poverty, “reversing poverty reduction achieved over the past 3-4 years,” according to the report. Nonetheless, the bank sees 2020 as an anomaly. After so many years of growth, they expect the



NEW REPORT: Due to the devastating and prolonged effects of COVID-19, Asian economies are expected to end the year in negative territory for the first time since the 1960s. - DW

region to get back on track in 2021 with 6.8 per cent growth, though that is still below pre-pandemic forecasts and measured against weak numbers for this year. **From Taipei to Timor-Leste** For its prediction, the bank looked at its 46 member countries, which it calls “developing Asia,” a list that includes nations like China, Mongolia, South Korea and Singapore to Papua New Guinea, Fiji and even Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan. The ADB also assumed that a coronavirus vaccine is critical and will not be available until next year at the earliest. “Things will not return to the way things were before COVID unless a vaccine is rolled out and produced,” Yasuyuki Sawada, the bank’s chief economist, told DW in an interview. Until this happens, there is always the possibility for more lockdowns and travel restrictions. Overall the report expects around three-fourths of these countries to post negative growth this year. China on the other hand is one of the 12 countries predicted to end up in the black, despite being at the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak. Here the bank expects to see the country end the year with 1.8 per cent growth. India though is not expected to do nearly as well. The country, which was hit later by the disease than many other nations, looks set to report an economic downturn of 9 per cent this year before bouncing back next year. The worst-hit country will be the Maldives, which is forecast to shrink by over 20 per cent, followed by Fiji with a drop of 19.8 per cent.

Of the bank’s 46 member nations, the report sees all but six in the black with positive growth for 2021. It’s not all bad news. The bank highlights low inflation because of low oil prices and “softening demand and subdued food prices.” They also point to helpful government support packages announced to the end of August that had reached \$3.6 trillion (€3.03 trillion), which amounts to about 15 per cent of regional GDP and is “fairly evenly divided between direct income support and measures to shore up liquidity and credit.” This government backing for businesses and individuals is seen by the bank as crucial to the region’s recovery. But Asia is not out of danger. Despite having recovered a lot of ground on trade, continued disputes between the US and China could put more pressure on China and have knock-on effects around the region. The bank’s Yasuyuki Sawada also sees political tension and “friction over trade and technology” as one of the biggest hurdles for economic recovery. Additionally, another big flare-up or two of COVID-19 could force the bank to have yet another revised look at the economies in the region. The Asian Development Bank itself warned that further outbreaks and lockdowns could have a disastrous impact and stop a regional recovery. Right now, controlling and containing the pandemic is the No. 1 priority for all countries. - DW

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Civil Engineer, Indian-male 49, Diploma Civil Engineer, Exp 29 years (17 years Oman). Looking suitable Job (Joining immediately) with Oman DL, Contact 96229731

HVAC Engineer/MEP Coordinator, BE Mechanical engineering having 9+ yrs of experience including 5+ yrs in Oman. Efficient in design, BOQ, project follow up, valid Omani DL. Looking for any full time/part time job. Contact 91690765

24, Indian male, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with Oman valid D/L. 1yr work experience in Oman, Can join immediately. Contact no. 79121923/99224057

B.Sc Civil engineer 30 Yrs Oman experience in Project management & structure design, looking for suitable placement in consulting/contracting. Contact 968-99349578

Civil Engineer (Structural), Comfortable with drafting, design, estimation and site supervision. Currently on visit visa. Contact 78274434. Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

8 years of experience in Health and safety. Nebosh and IOSH Certified HSE Officer looking to work. NOC and DL available. Contact 97009665

M.Sc qualified, 16 yrs experienced Quantity Surveyor, seeking employment. Contact 93973236 Email amharqs@gmail.com

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

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Looking for travel agency (IATA/ Non IATA) job ticketing & reservation. 5 yrs experience in non IATA travel agency. Contact 99545973

PURCHASE/LOGISTICS

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

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

Indian male MSc computer science 28 yrs old, 2 yrs experience Purchase&admin, employment visa, NOC, Oman valid license available. Contact 98944397, 92676197. Email tijuklr@gmail.com

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

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

Project Procurement / Supply Chain Professional with 18 years of experience (13 years in Muscat) MBA + B.Tech (Mech), PMI-ACP, Proficient in latest procurement & contract management systems and practices looking for suitable opportunities. Expat with NOC / Drv licence. Contact 79790072.

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

Indian male Purchase Assistant - documentation M.Sc Computer science 26 yrs old. experience 2 yrs Oman with valid license. NOC available. Visa status- employment. Email tijuklr@gmail.com Contact 92676197, 98944397

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Civil / MEP Draughtsman (Indian-aged 35) having 13 years of oman experience seeking a better placement. Valid oman driving licence. NOC available. Contact 98079806. Email shirshadbabu@gmail.com

Purchase engineer, Btech/MBA, NOC Available, Immediate joining, 3 years Oman experience, manufacturing. Contact/Whatsapp +96891740462. Email eliaspallathra@gmail.com

Indian Female with 18 years exp. and knowledge upto finalization with D/L seeking suitable placement. Contact 92724555

Financial Manager, CMA (USA), CFA, MBA with 13 years experience with Multi National Companies and large corporates seeks senior position. Experienced in Financial Planning & Analysis, Management Accounting, VAT and Process Management. Holds Licence and NOC. Available to join immediately. Contact: 92771782; daisonpjacob@yahoo.com

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Experience outdoor sales rep having visa& vehicle seeks suitable placement in outdoor sales in capital area till Seeb on salary or on commission basis. Contact 92892375 Email arscreeens04@gmail.com

Indian male 34 yrs, 7 yrs exp in outdoor Sales Muscat/Sohar region. FMCG/Telecom, NOC available. Transferable visa. Contact 98144874

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18+ years experienced in Pre-press and Graphic Designing with renowned commercial Printing Press and Newspaper Publisher, male expatriot looking for placement, residing in Muscat. Contact: 99663123 E-mail: deytapash@gmail.com

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

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Civil engineer 12 years experience in oman NOC available # 98047527

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accountant Indian Male 26yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com, ICWA9(Inter) PGDBM head-ed Finance, logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

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

An Experienced HR Professional (Indian) (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately. On visit expires 6th Feb. IELTS: 6.5-Bands. Phone / WhatsApp: +968 94977347. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Civil Engineer Contact 78012115

Indian Male HR /Admin - MBA, BCOM having 9 years experience in Gulf 5 yr and India 4 yr looking for suitable placement. # 97914340. Email: rahulkv30@yahoo.com

Part time Accounts/Data entry. Experienced Accountant looking for part time Accounts/Data entry job. Please contact: 98649698

Indian Male, 15 years Oman experience with valid Oman D/L looking for job in sales. NOC available. Contact 95356820

Result driven business manager seeking an opportunity where 15 years of trading and management experience can be applied to improve the sales and enhancing the company revenue. # 95124176

Indian Male 29 years B.E (Civil) having 6 yr Gulf experience as Project coordinator looking for suitable placement. Oman D/L # 99682689. fayiz.yh@gmail.com

Indian Male HR /Admin and Purchase - MBA, BCOM having 9 years experience in Gulf 5 yr and India 4 yr looking for suitable placement. Contact : 97914340. Email: binthjumatrading@gmail.com

Indian Male - Accountant MCOM, BCOM having 7 years experience in Gulf 4 yr and India 3 yr looking for suitable placement. Contact : 97432723. Email: tonythomasjohn777@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Filipino Bathr. Interior Designer / IT Specialist/Graphic Designer, 13 years Exp. Looking for a job immediately with NOC and valid Omani D/L. Contact 79042628. Email zaldy08@gmail.com

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

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

B.Com Graduate with four years of experience in Sales & Marketing in Oman with D/L. Can join immediately. Contact 93568656

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

Indian male 29 yrs having 5 yrs experience in FMCG sales & marketing in Oman with D/L. Can join immediately. Contact 78057807. Email nozi70072@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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ROUND-UP

WORLD OZONE DAY

be'ah signs pact with Omantel to promote recycling culture

MUSCAT: As part of its mission to achieve the circular economy approach and to promote recycling and waste recovery initiatives, the Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Omantel to foster the recycling culture among communities in Oman through the deployment of Reverse Vending Machines (RVMS) across Muscat.

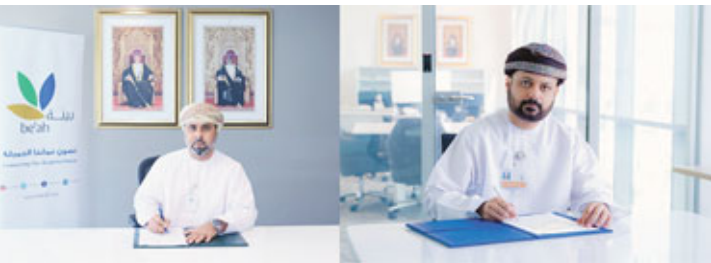
The agreement was signed by Eng. Tariq bin Ali Al Amri, CEO of be'ah, and Talal bin Said Al Maamari, CEO of Omantel.

This agreement aims at strengthening ties between be'ah and Omantel where the latter achieves its CSR goals and be'ah reaches its mission to diversify waste management approaches aligned with the 2040 strategic targets to retrieve the value from

the different waste streams

Kumayl bin Ahmed Al Lawati, Department Head of Business Development at be'ah, said, "be'ah's strategy is focused on putting the community within the bigger frame of environmental conservation and sustainability in Oman. The company reaches out to society through several initiatives to increase awareness about the best environmental practices. One of these initiatives is the Reverse Vending Machines (RVMS) which will enable us to reach out to all members of the society and reduce the amount of plastic received at landfills through recycling. This puts us on track with the 2040 Vision's environmental targets that envision a plastic-free Oman."

"The Reverse Vending Machines have hi-tech features that facilitate the collection, sorting,



and categorisation of PET plastic bottles. On the first phase of the project, be'ah will deploy around 25 machines in different areas in Muscat and another 25 on the second phase based on the agreed spots with its partners. This initiative will certainly play a pivotal role in promoting the recycling culture and eco-friendly behaviour among communities which achieve the principles of the circular economy," Al Lawati added.

Day international celebrations. Omantel's contribution to the Sultanate's continuous efforts in environmental conservation shows our company's commitment to this important cause. Omantel's strategy positions the environment as one of the main pillars that the company supports within its social responsibility function"

Al Wahaibi also said, "As a leading national telecommunications company in Oman, we always look for technological solutions that support all the efforts in preserving our environment and natural resources. In this regard, we have been part of many other initiatives with different institutions that have environmental conservation at the core of their strategies, one of which is this strategic partnership with be'ah. We truly hope that this initiative gets the

results that we aim for."

It is noteworthy that be'ah and Omantel signed an MoU in 2019 for commercial value recovery from waste. Based on the agreement, Omantel will be supplying be'ah with used Led Acid Batteries (LAB) and End-of-Life Tires (ELT) as well as Electric, Electronic Equipment Waste (WEEE), paper waste, and used lubricants generated from Omantel's vehicles.

Oman Vision 2040 focuses on transforming the national economy from a linear approach (Extract, use, dispose) to a circular one, where resources value is maintained. The circular economy approach ensures more jobs, less health and environmental issues, and low pollution rates. It will also advance the waste collection system in a way that reduces greenhouse emissions that cause climate change.

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OAB launches ‘The Power of 50’ as part of 50th National Day campaign

As part of the promotional campaign, the first 500 existing customers to refer a friend, acquaintance or family member to open an account at OAB via the OAB online app will each receive a guaranteed cash prize of OMR50

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank recently announced the launch of its new promotional campaign, which takes place from September 15 until November 18.

The campaign commemorates Oman's 50th National Day and signifies the five decades of the country's transformation journey, which began under the guidance of the founder of its modern renaissance, the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said – may his soul rest in peace, and is continued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik – may the Almighty preserve him – as he leads Oman and all its people towards further growth and prosperity.

As part of the promotional campaign, the first 500 existing customers to refer a friend, acquaintance or family member to open an account at OAB via the OAB online app will each receive a guaranteed cash prize of OMR50. The first 500 customers to open an account with OAB and transfer their salary of OMR 500 or more will receive a guaranteed cash prize of OMR 50. In November, every OAB customer will have the opportunity to be a part of a special Hasaad draw for a chance to win one of the 50 prizes of OMR 500 each.

Highlighting the importance of the campaign launch, Rashad Al Shaikh, Acting Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, “Oman's 50th National Day is a significant occasion for all its citizens



and marks an incredible milestone for the country. Therefore, we decided to make this occasion even more special and spread happiness to all our valued customers and the people of Oman. Emphasising on our slogan “The Power of 50”, we are extremely proud of all the accomplishments that have taken place throughout the last half-century, and we look forward to being a part of the vision of our wise ruler, who will lead us towards an even brighter future.”

As a part of the campaign, OAB's Retail Division introduces a new service window on the OAB online app that simplifies the new account nomination process. Existing customers can submit details of the person they are looking to nomi-

nate and the Bank will conduct a follow-up to check whether the nominees are interested in opening an account. Upon approval, the account will be opened, with a cash prize of OMR 50 deposited to the new customers account when they transfer their salary, as well as the account of the existing customer.

“Since the 50th National Day marks the golden jubilee of the renaissance of Oman, our campaign was designed to reach out to the widest segment of potential customers, by involving the efforts of our existing customer base. In this way, we can show our gratitude and appreciation to our valued customers for their continuous loyalty and trust over the years. Despite the current challenges,

OAB has achieved various milestones in 2020 and I am confident that this campaign will also add to our success, while simultaneously celebrating our nation's progress.”

OAB has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions established in the Sultanate. Today, the bank operates a nationwide network of 55 branches and representative offices with 152 ATMs spread across Oman. OAB provides a complete range of financial products and services for personal banking and corporate banking clients. On July 2020, after the completion of the merger between Oman Arab Bank and Alizz Islamic Bank, the bank has turned into a public joint stock company and its shares were listed on Muscat Securities Market.



AL MAZYONA SALARY TRANSFER

Bank Muscat rewards customers with OMR180,000 in monthly draw



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial institution in the Sultanate, in step with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’ and commitment to partnership in promoting a strong savings culture in Oman, celebrated the Al Mazyona salary transfer draw for August at the bank's head office at Airport Heights recently.

The prize draws were attended by Radhiya Hassan Al Lawatiya, Senior Regional Manager, Interior Regions, and Mohammed Al Loghani, Branch Manager, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar. They were broadcast live on the bank's social media accounts and keenly followed by customers and the general public. Fortune smiled

on 30 lucky customers who won valuable prizes worth a total of OMR180,000 during the draw. It must be noted that the Al Mazyona prize draw scheme is the largest scheme in the Sultanate with over OMR11 million worth of prizes to be given away in 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, Deputy General Manager - Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat, expressed his happiness at the continuing successes of the Al Mazyona programme, which offers great financial rewards to bring joy and happiness to the hearts of customers and help them achieve their dreams and aspirations. He pointed out

that the raffle draws are being held continuously throughout the year and that there were still many more opportunities to win exciting prizes. The prize draws are held in such a way that all customers have opportunities to win prizes.

All customers who transfer their salaries to Bank Muscat accounts are entitled to participate in the monthly draws. Fifteen winners are chosen from among customers with salaries up to OMR999 and 15 winners are chosen from account holders who have a monthly salary of OMR1,000 or more. Each of the 30 winners will get a monthly prize of OMR500 for the next year as the reward for winning this draw. Bank Muscat launched the salary

transfer draw as a means of thanking and rewarding its customers for their confidence in the banking services and facilities provided by the bank as well as encouraging them to save more for their future.

The 2020 Al Mazyona scheme offers the biggest prizes in Oman with a total of OMR11 million to be won through the year during monthly draws and draws on special occasions including National Day, Women's Day draw, Mid-year draw and the End-of-Year draw. Both the number of Al Mazyona prizes and the total prize money has been increased this year, with the total number of winners in the 2020 scheme going up by around 50 per cent to 6,677 winners.

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Natural Path Heartfulness Centre holds initiatives to celebrate International Day of Peace

MUSCAT: The past six months have been a testing time for the whole of humanity with COVID19 spread, resulting in all kinds of stress, fear, and anxiety gripping all around. Life has moved to a new normal, still seeking to heal and bounce back. At this juncture, individual peace would be a vital component to restore normalcy in everyone's life.

When we are at peace with ourselves, we radiate peace all around us. When we radiate peace all around us and express it in action, it touches all those with whom we interact, thereby benefiting them as well. There is a quantum connection. Those who are associated with us, on a mental, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual level, get connected because of this. When I am restless, people who are in resonance with me will feel the restlessness; if I feel peace, they too will feel peaceful.”

Let's shape peace together in line with the theme of United Nations International Day of Peace for the year 2020.

In this pursuit of peace, let us join Natural Path Heartfulness Centre, Oman to share heart to heart, the vibrations of compassion, kindness, and hope to the whole humanity with peace prayers, and to help ourselves to raise our consciousness, as we are one.

Natural Path Heartfulness Centre has various initiatives to the run-up to and on the International Day of Peace, mostly through on-line platforms which are as follows;

Blood donation activities on September 19. Peace Day

awareness thru corporate and community reach

Peace prayers and sharing & caring activities by school children and their parents.

Daily peace prayers from 9 to 9.15pm

International Day of Peace event on September 21 with Peace Prayers from 8.30 to 9.15pm and relay peace prayers from 9am to 6pm. All are welcomed to take part in this event. Zoom Meeting ID: 851 6990 5041 & Passcode: PEACE

Our parent organisation, Heartfulness Institute is arranging a global event spanning 150 countries and 24 languages. This would be the largest virtual gathering of humanity, a bond of hope, embracing the world, pursuing human transformation.

Imagine the impact of 40 million hearts meditating as one for peace globally. Universal peace will only dawn when each individual becomes peaceful.

Celebrate peace, 6.30pm with notable peace ambassadors including Dr Kamlesh Patel, Dr Deepak Chopra, Dr Bruce Lipton, Sr B K Shivani, Amandine Roche, Sharon Salzberg, along with world-renowned musicians Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia and Shashank Subramanyam.

Create peace, 7.30pm. Relaxation and Meditation session led by Dr Kamlesh Patel (Daaji), Global Guide, Heartfulness Institute

We are also honoured to invite you to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace by registering for the global event using the below link; <https://heartfulness.org/en/international-day-of-peace/>

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